



Lyons Dairy Systems Research Herd Notes 2025

Project Objectives

- To develop a profitable high-output grass-based spring milk production system
- To incorporate the most recent advances in grassland management for dairy farms into a high- output system
- Use a type of dairy cow that has good genetic indices for both milk production and fertility
- Employ the best practices from nutrition research and dairy cow husbandry
- Incorporate nutritional studies into a high-output system
- To incorporate management technologies and system attributes that enhance the sustainability of dairy production



For more details on the High Output Systems Research Herd visit <https://www.ucd.ie/agfood/about/lyonsresearchfarm/lyonsdairyherd/>

Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 26/05/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	15.23	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.61	LU/ha
Farm Cover	707	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	196	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	33	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	36	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	7	kg/day
Average DIM	98	days
Grass DM	18	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	31.25
Fat %	3.77
Protein %	3.59
MS (kg/cow)	2.43
SCC cells/ml	30

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 707kg on the 26th of May, with growth rates of 33kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted twice weekly. Approximately 1.05ha was cut for silage on the 22nd of May and yielded 16 bales.

The diet consists of a grass allocation of 10kg DM, 7kg of concentrates and 5kg DM of silage.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Soil temperature measurements were taken on the 26th of May, with the average recorded at 13.32°C. Between the 21st of May and 26th of May 8.5mm of rain fell on the platform.



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Comment:

The 1st intake run of a new research trail investigating the effects of reducing crude protein content in concentrates was completed on the 23rd of May.

53 cows were BCS on the 27th of May. 9% scored ≤ 2.5 , 30% scored 2.75, 34% scored 3.0, 21% scored 3.25 and 6% scored 3.5.

Bulls used this breeding Season

Birchpark Rufus	Powerful Proper
Drumline	Towthorpe Dubai
Immanuel	BALLYDEHAB RINGO
PLAIN-KNOLL HURLEY-ET	Delta Smash