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 28/07/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	**3.17**	**LU/ha**
Farm Cover	**750**	**kg DM/ha**
Cover/LU	**237**	**kg DM/day**
Growth Rate	**62**	**kg DM/ha/day**
Demand	**54**	**kg DM/ha/day**
Average Conc.	**4**	**kg/day**
Average DIM	**160**	**days**
Grass DM	**18**	**%**

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	**24.53**
Fat %	**4.57**
Protein %	**3.53**
MS (kg/cow)	**1.99**
SCC cells/ml	**45.2**

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 750 kg on the 28th of July, with growth rates of 62 kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted twice weekly. The average pre-grazing cover between the 22nd and 28th of July was 1225 kg DM/ha.

Last weeks' diet consisted of a grass allocation of 9 kg DM, 4.75 kg of concentrates and silage allocation of 8 kg DM. As of the 28th of July, silage has been removed from the diet and parlour concentrate allocation has been reduced to 3 kg. Greenfeed machines measuring methane allocate concentrates to cows. The average concentrate intake is 1 kg/hd/day. Hence, the current diet is now a grass allocation of 17 kg DM, 3 kg concentrates from parlour and on average 1 kg/hd/day of concentrates from Greenfeed machines.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 22nd and 28th of July 12 mm of rain fell on the platform.