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 03/11/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.11	LU/ha
Farm Cover	763	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	245	kg DM/day
Growth Rate	19	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	19	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	4	kg/day
Average DIM	258	days
Grass DM	15	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	17.5
Fat %	5.27
Protein %	4.28
MS (kg/cow)	1.67
SCC cells/ml	86

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 763 kg on the 3rd of November, with growth rates of 19 kg of DM/ha. The average pre-grazing cover between the 27th of October and 3rd of November was 1316 kg DM/ha. As of the 3rd of November, 73% of the grazing platform has been closed for the season.

The current diet consists of grass allocation of 6 kg DM, silage allocation of 10 kg DM and 4 kg of concentrates.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 27th of October and 3rd of November 15 mm of rain fell on the platform.

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Comments:

54 cows were BCS on the 5th of November. 5% scored 2.5, 22% scored 2.75, 46% scored 3.0, 20% scored 3.25, 4% scored 3.5 and 2% scored 3.75. We will continue to monitor BCS as lactation progresses and decide if any actions are needed for those cows falling outside of the desired range.