



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 23/06/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	15.23	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.61	LU/ha
Farm Cover	661	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	183	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	58	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	58	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	6.75	kg/day
Average DIM	126	days
Grass DM	19	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	28.52
Fat %	3.60
Protein %	3.59
MS (kg/cow)	2.16
SCC cells/ml	48

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 661kg on the 23rd of June, with growth rates of 58kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted twice weekly. 2 paddocks were taken out for silage last week and yielded 2.9t. The average pre-grazing cover for the last 7 days has been 1392 Kg DM/ha with a current rotation length of 17 days.

The diet consists of a grass allocation of 16kg DM, 6kg of concentrates from parlour and on average 0.75 kg/hd/day of concentrates from greenfeed machines.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 16th and 24th of June 3mm of rain fell on the platform.



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Comment:

55 cows were BCS on the 23rd of June. 7% scored ≤ 2.5 , 25% scored 2.75, 47% scored 3.0, 15% scored 3.25 and 6% scored 3.5.

The 2nd intake run of the new research trial into investigating the effects of reducing crude protein content in concentrates started on the 24th of June.