



## Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes

**Background:** The main aim of the **Systems Research Herd** at UCD Lyons Farm is to evaluate the feasibility (including profitability) of a higher input/output grazing system within a limited land holding scenario. The focus is on maximising milk solids output from the existing land holding which involves high output from individual cows and high stocking rates on the MP. This will occur most efficiently through maximising the use of grazed grass/home grown forage in the system and the strategic use of supplementation thereafter. Such a system might facilitate the successful expansion of the farm business without the need to buy or rent extra land, to buy stock, to acquire extra labour or to provide extra cow facilities. For the study purpose, stocking rate and concentrate inputs are fixed. For more details on the Systems Research Herd visit <http://www.ucd.ie/agfood/welcomemessage/systemsresearchherd/>.

### Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 02-10-2017

#### Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65  
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4  
Farm Cover: 1081 kg DM/ha (318 kg DM/cow)  
Growth Rate: 70 kg DM/ha/day  
Demand: 47.6 kg DM/ha/day  
Supplement: Concentrate 2.7 kg/cow/day  
Average DIM: 224 (range 162-255)



#### Grass Supply:

AFC on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October was 1081 kg DM/ha (range 234 to 2100 kg DM/ha). Cows are cleaning out paddocks very well with PGSH of 3.5-4cm being achieved. Ground conditions remain good here so we are continuing to graze heavy covers while extending out to a 40 day rotation this week. The MP has grown 12.96 t DM/ha to date.

#### Feed Budget:

Cows are being fed an average of 2.7 kg of concentrate. Fifty one cows are on 2.5kg with nine cows on 4kg as they reached 240 DIM. Grass DMI last week was 14.2 kg at 14.7% DM on average.

#### Cow Condition:

Cows were body condition scored (BCS) on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The cows are in good condition with an average BCS of 3.0. Within the group we have 4 thin cows (BCS = 2.5) and 5 fat cows (BCS = 3.5).

#### Milk Production:

Average production is currently 19.5 kg/cow at 4.9% fat and 3.93% protein (1.7 kg MS). SCC is 147,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 13<sup>th</sup> September.

#### Breeding Season 2017:

The final scan will take place in early October and a full review of the 2017 breeding season will be provided at that stage.