



Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes

Background: It is widely recognised that grass-based systems offer a competitive advantage and will predominate in Ireland. However, grazing systems that have been developed to utilise large quantities of grazed grass have in the main been based on low-output per cow. In this scenario, high levels of profitability are possible through avid cost control and comparatively high stocking rates for grazing systems. There are now reasons to consider the development of grazing systems that are based on high-output per cow. These reasons include (i) concerns about increasing dairy cow numbers and environmental emissions, (ii) land limited and fragmented farms, (iii) lack of available skilled labour on farms to deal with expanding animal numbers. The rationale for this research is that a high output grass-based spring milk production system can be profitable and sustainable when built on a foundation of good grassland management and meeting both milk and fertility targets and has a place in the Irish dairy industry.

For more details on the High Output Systems Research Herd visit <http://www.ucd.ie/agfood/welcomemessage/systemsresearchherd/>.

Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 08-11-2021

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.43ha
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.27 LU/ha
Cover/LU: 206kg DM/LU
Farm Cover: 675kg DM/ha
Milk platform closed: 14.55ha/17.43ha (84%)
Growth Rate: 32kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 20kg DM/ha/day
Average Concentrate Supplement: 3kg/head/day
Average DIM: 258 days



Current Daily Feed Budget: Cows are being offered 3kg/day of an 18% protein commercial concentrate until dry-off. Cows are also allocated 10kg DM of silage and 6kg DM of grass. Last week's grass DM was 16.4%.

Grazing Plan: The current AFC is 675kg DM/ha (range 75 – 1350kg DM/ha), cover/LU is 206kg DM and growth is 32kg DM/ha/day. Growth levels and ground conditions are good for this time of year due to mild weather conditions. Average soil temperature at 100mm was 8.9°C and 1mm of rainfall fell between 1st-7th November (rain data from the nearby Casement Aerodrome). The final grazing rotation began on Saturday 9th October and to date 14.55ha/17.43ha (84%) of the milking platform (MP) has been closed. Cows will be housed full-time indoors next week to maintain a closing cover of 650-700kg DM/ha on 1st December. Rotation length is set at 40 days in line with Teagasc autumn grazing targets.

Milk Production: Average production from 1st-7th November was 16.6kg/cow at 5.13% milk fat, 4.00% protein, 1.52kg MS and SCC was 83,000 based on milk recording on 4th November. Milk production from this time last year was 15.0 kg/cow at 4.66% milk fat, 4.23% protein, 1.41 kg MS and 85,000. To date, the herd has produced on average 7,081kg of milk and 564kg of milk solids. The current 305d predicted yields are 7,963kg of milk and 647kg MS per cow.