



Development of a Sustainable High-Output Grass-Based Spring Milk Production System

Project Objectives

- To develop a sustainable 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



Farm Details Week 27/03/23	
Stocking rate on MP (LU/ha)	3.16
Farm Cover (DM/ha)	802
Growth Rate (DM/ha/day)	21
Demand (DM/ha/day)	47
Average Concentrate fed (kg/day)	8
Average DIM	38
Area Grazed (%)	70.5

Cow Details Week 27/03/23	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	31.55
Fat (%)	4.43
Protein (%)	3.13
MS (kg/day)	2.38
SCC	123
Cows calved (55/57)	55/57

Grassland Management:

As of the 27th of March, we have 70.5% of the milking platform grazed. It has been a challenging spring. February was a dry month and we got cows out to grass on the 7th of February. The rain in March has led to poor grazing conditions with cows housed for much of the month. Cows are currently out full time with the aim of starting the second round in the second week of April.

Comments:

Calving started on the 26th of January. 96% of cows (55/57) cows calved in 6 weeks with 2 cows still to calve. There were 6 sets of twins this spring which brings its own challenges on cow recovery post calving. All cows receive 2 kg concentrate and adlib silage directly post calving as well as 20 litres of an energy drink.

For more details on the High Output Systems Research Herd visit <https://www.ucd.ie/agfood/about/lyonsresearchfarm/lyonsdairyherd/>