



## 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 24-7-17

### Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65  
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4  
Farm Cover: 649 kg DM/ha (190 kg DM/cow)  
Growth Rate: 70 kg DM/ha/day  
Demand: 57.8 kg DM/ha/day  
Supplement: Concentrate 3.6 kg/cow/day  
Average DIM: 153 (range 91-184)



### Grass Supply:

AFC on 24th of July was 649 kg DM/ha (range 104 to 1410 kg DM/ha). We are baling one paddock (1.25ha) on the MP this week to reduce cover/LU and maintain quality grass in the sward.

July rainfall has been 23.3 mm which is behind the rest of the country (60.82mm), so all that arrives will be welcomed in order to keep quality grass growing.

### Feed Budget

56 cows are now being fed 3.5 kg of concentrate with the remainder (4) on 6 kg. Grass allowance remains at 17 kg DM per day giving us an overall demand of 57.8 kg DM/ha/day. Grass DMI last week was 17 kg at 16.5% DM on average.

### Fertiliser:

210 kg/ha (170 units/acre) of Nitrogen has been spread on the MP to date. We plan to go out with the next split of N early next week.

### Milk Production:

Average production is currently 26.82 kg/cow for the week 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July, at 4.48% fat and 3.50% protein (2.13 kg MS). SCC is 96,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 4<sup>th</sup> July.

### BCS:

The average BCS on 10th July was 2.9, with a range of 2.5 to 3.5. 90% of the herd was in the range 2.75 to 3.25.

### Breeding Season 2017:

Breeding started on April 24<sup>th</sup> and finished on July 23<sup>rd</sup> (13 weeks). 58% of cows were scanned in calf after 6 weeks of breeding. The final scan will take place in mid-September and a full review of the 2017 breeding season will be provided at that stage.