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 06/10/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	**3.11**	**LU/ha**
Farm Cover	**942**	**kg DM/ha**
Cover/LU	**303**	**kg DM/day**
Growth Rate	**33**	**kg DM/ha/day**
Demand	**37**	**kg DM/ha/day**
Average Conc.	**4**	**kg/day**
Average DIM	**230**	**days**
Grass DM	**15**	**%**

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	**21.02**
Fat %	**4.95**
Protein %	**4.07**
MS (kg/cow)	**1.90**
SCC cells/ml	**71**

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 942 kg on the 6th of October, with growth rates of 32 kg of DM/ha. The average pre-grazing cover between the 1st and 7th of October was 1685 kg DM/ha.

Last weeks' diet consisted of a grass allocation of 14 kg DM, silage allocation of 4 kg DM and 4 kg of concentrates. The impact of Storm Amy resulted in adverse weather conditions at Lyons farm on the 3rd and 4th of October. Hence, cows were housed during this time resulting in a higher allocation of silage and reduction in grass allocation. The current diet from the 6th of October consists of grass allocation of 12 kg DM, silage allocation of 4 kg DM and 4 kg of concentrates.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 1st and 7th of October 28.5 mm of rain fell on the platform.