



# 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 24/03/2025

### Farm Details:

Area Available	17.43	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.04	LU/ha
Farm Cover	804	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	286	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	28	kg DM/ha
Demand	24	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	10	kg/day
Average DIM	39	days
Grass DM	21	%

### Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	30.75
Fat %	4.63
Protein %	3.20
MS (kg/cow)	2.38
SCC cells/ml	49
Cows Calved	54/56

### Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 804kg on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, with growth rates of 28kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted weekly. The diet consists of a grass allocation of 8kg DM, 6kg DM grass silage, and 10kg of concentrates. 2kg of the concentrate allocation will be fed with the silage allocation. Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of March, soil temperature measurements were taken, with the average recorded at 8.4°C. Between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of March 16.25mm of rain fell on the platform.

### Calving:

Calving started on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January and there are currently 54/56 of the cows calved as of the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.



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### Comments:

53 cows were BCS on the 25th of March. 2% scored 2.25, 8% scored 2.5, 36% scored 2.75, 28% scored 3.0, 11% scored 3.25 and 4% scored 3.5.