



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 28/04/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	13.12	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.68	LU/ha
Farm Cover	775	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	211	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	99	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	57	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	8	kg/day
Average DIM	70	days
Grass DM	20	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	33.96
Fat %	3.73
Protein %	3.44
MS (kg/cow)	2.52
SCC cells/ml	42

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 775kg on the 28th of April, with growth rates of 99kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted weekly. 2.11ha was cut for silage on the 28th of April and yielded 23 bales.

Two paddocks (2.12 ha) were successfully sown with a Germinal Seeds reseed mix, including Aberclyde, Barwave, Aberwolf, Abergreen, and white clover. The clover component included Aberherald and Aberswan at a rate of 1.5 kg/acre (4 kg/ha), ensuring a balanced, high-quality sward aimed at improved productivity and persistence.

The diet consists of a grass allocation of 15.5kg DM and 8kg of concentrates.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Soil temperature measurements were taken on the 28th of April, with the average recorded at 12.86°C. Between the 24th of April and 1st of May 5mm of rain fell on the platform.



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Comment:

55 cows were BCS on the 2nd of May. 9% scored ≤ 2.5 , 20% scored 2.75, 38% scored 3.0, 27% scored 3.25 and 2% scored 3.5.