



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 7/04/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.55	LU/ha
Farm Cover	1061	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	299	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	43	kg DM/ha
Demand	55	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	8	kg/day
Average DIM	49	days
Grass DM	23	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	31.58
Fat %	4.41
Protein %	3.26
MS (kg/cow)	2.58
SCC cells/ml	40
Cows Calved	55/56

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 1061kg on the 7th of April, with growth rates of 43kg of DM/ha. Two paddocks, totalling 2.12 ha have been selected to be reseeded. One paddock (1.09 ha) has been selected to cut for silage in order to help manage surplus grass supply. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted weekly.

The diet consists of a grass allocation of 17kg DM and 8kg of concentrates.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Soil temperature measurements were taken on the 7th and 10th of April, with the average recorded at 11.67°C. Between the 1st of April and 11th of April 0mm of rain fell on the platform.

Calving:

Calving started on the 15th of January and there are currently 55/56 of the cows calved as of the 11th of April.



Lyons Dairy Systems Research Herd Notes 2025

Comments:

55 cows were BCS on the 10th of April. 1.8% scored 2.0, 1.8% scored 2.25, 11 % scored 2.5, 29% scored 2.75, 29% scored 3.0, 24% scored 3.25 and 3.64% scored 3.5.