

Shinagh Farm 15/06/2022

The herd is milking 19.2 litres per day at 4.57% Butterfat and 3.51% Protein. This is 1.59kg of milk solids per cow per day. SCC is 95,000 and TBC is 7,000. The herd is getting 4kg of ration per day. The farm has produced the same litres to date as 2021, with more ration fed this year. There is a serious drought on the farm currently which is not helping our target of increased production this year.

Farm grass cover is 588kg of drymatter per hectare. The cow grazing area is currently stocked at 3.82 cows per hectare with ground still not back ready for grazing from both silage and reseeded. The cover per cow is 154kg. Growth of 68kg/day is ahead of demand at 54kg/day with the 4 kg of ration per day being fed. Grass quality is poor as the ground is very dry and grazing low covers that are stemmy, due to drought stress. If there is no rain at the weekend, silage bales will have to be fed next week.

Breeding started on the 4th of May and the submission rate in the first 3 weeks breeding was 95%. Sexed straws are being used again this year to produce the replacement heifer calves. The non return rate to date is similar at 65% to both sexed and conventional AI straws. High beef value AI sires off the Dairy Beef Index are being used on any cows that are not being bred to dairy bulls. We have identified high beef value sires with short gestation and low calving difficulty that can produce 4 star beef cross calves when crossed with the dairy cows here. 54 breeding heifers were synchronised and got fixed time AI with sexed straws on May 4th. Pedigree Angus bulls are now with these to pick up any repeats.

12 acres of silage ground was sprayed off, cut for silage and reseeded after with grass and red clover. The plan for this red clover ground is to apply just P and K fertiliser, mostly in the form of slurry and allow the red clover to provide the nitrogen for the silage crop. No bag nitrogen will be used on this ground. High clover (aprox 20% clover) paddocks are just getting 21 of K and 7 units of sulphur this round. They are getting no bag nitrogen. No clover paddocks are getting 19 units of nitrogen and 3.5 units of sulphur.