

Teagasc Johnstown Castle
Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 19-06-2018

There has been little rain this month; so far less than 11ml has fallen for June. This has led to a drop in grass growth, with regrowth slow on paddocks that were cut for first cut silage. Grass is tight, especially on the high and low farmlets, with cattle going into graze paddocks with low covers.

Animal Performance:

26 Month steers

- The steers are being fed 3.7 kg concentrate/head/day at grass.
- Cattle are moving quickly through paddocks due to the lower covers being grazed.

Yearlings

- The yearlings will be weighed this week, dosed for worms and given a fly/lice pour-on (Spotinor).

Calves

- The first batch of calves (95) arrived on the 8th June. Their average birth date was 15th February, making them 112 days (16 weeks) of age on arrival.
- The average liveweight of the calves was 122 kg.
- There is a 108 kg difference between the heaviest and lightest calf, which is due to birthdate variation. The calves have been graded into 3 groups by size and will graze in small groups for a number of weeks before they are randomised for the stocking density trial.
- Upon arrival, the calves received their second intramuscular IBR vaccine and an antibiotic.
- The second load of calves is due to arrive this week (~90 calves).

Grass Management:

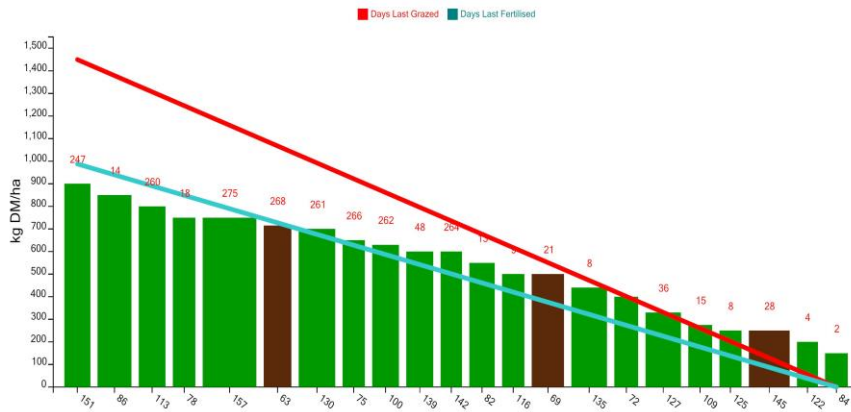
- From today's farm cover, grass growth averaged 47 kgDM/ha across the three farmlets. This has improved from the previous week's growth rate (34 kgDM/ha), possibly due to the small amount of rainfall at the end of last week.
- The grass on some paddocks is heading out and is unsuitable for grazing. These have been mowed for baled silage.
- Grass DM is 28-30%.

	Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	LU/ha	Days Ahead
High	43	40	547	4.41	14
Medium	49	31	716	3.67	23
Low	50	29	631	3.45	22

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High stocking density



Medium stocking density



Low stocking density

