

Teagasc Johnstown Castle

Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 24-04-2018

With warmer weather and soil conditions slowly improving, grass growth has improved dramatically on the farm over the past two weeks. There have been new developments in the beef unit with a new Clipex handling system installed which will make drafting and weighing cattle a lot easier. The shed for the handling system and crush has been extended, creating a larger area with more pen space, and a meeting room built on also.



New crush loading facility and shed extension

The grazing area of each the trial farmlets has been increased proportionately to allow for the extra stock that we are carrying now that all steers are being killed off grass during the summer months.

Animal Performance:

Older cattle

- It was hoped to have the 2 year old steers turned out last week, however ground conditions remained poor. Hopefully steers will be turned out before the end of the week.
- The steers are being fed 8.5 kg concentrates alongside straw.
- They were weighed on the 19th April, where they averaged 555 kg.
- Unfortunately, one of the steers on the medium stocking density treatment died from meningitis. Another is lame and will not be returning to grass.



	Liveweight (kg)	ADG 2 nd winter (kg/day)
High	536	0.414
Medium	579	0.574
Low	552	0.464

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Yearlings

- The yearlings that were housed on straw over the winter were turned out on the 19th April, while the yearlings on slats were turned out for the second time on the 23th of April. These were reweighed four days after turn out (24th and 26th April respectively).
- Currently the 72 yearlings on each farmlet are being grazed in two groups as ground conditions are still heavy. These groups will be joined once the weather picks up.
- Up to turnout, the yearlings were being fed 6.5kg concentrate alongside straw.
- Average weight at turnout was 330 kg with an ADG of 0.703 kg for their first winter.

	Weight at turnout (kg)	4 day reweigh (kg)	ADG 1 st winter (kg/day)
High	325	319	0.691
Medium	325	318	0.680
Low	340	325	0.740

Grass Management:

- Grass growth has increased greatly on the farm; however there is a huge surplus of grass with a lot of covers too heavy to graze. Heavy paddocks will be assigned for silage.
- Demand is still low on all farmlets as the steers have not yet been turned out.

	Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	LU/ha	Days Ahead
High	30	21	1290	2.33	61
Medium	34	20	1379	2.14	69
Low	37	18	1430	1.95	79



New Clipex weighing facility