

Teagasc Johnstown Castle
Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 27-07-2018

Finally some rain has come, but it will be a week or two before we see the benefit in terms of grass growth. We have reduced the demand for grass somewhat by killing 50 28/29 month steers this week, with the remaining to be killed next week. Considering the conditions, the calves and yearlings are doing well at grass. It is likely that the yearlings will begin being supplemented with silage at grass next week.

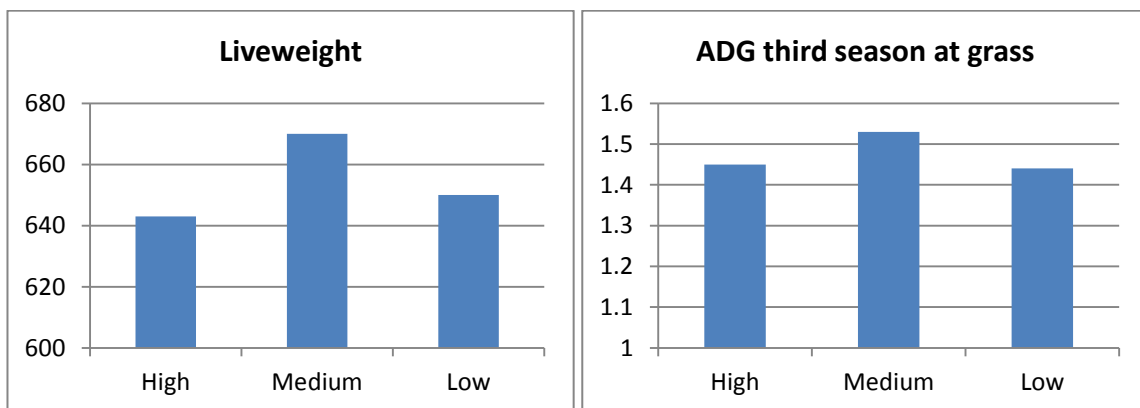
Animal Performance:

26 Month steers

- 50 steers were killed on 24th July. They averaged 692 kg liveweight.

	No. animals	Liveweight (kg)	Carcass weight (kg)	Fat score (1-15)	Conformation score (1-15)
Angus	17	703	356	9.3 (3+)	5.5 (O=/O+)
Hereford	19	694	351	9 (3+)	5.5 (O=/O+)
Limousin	14	677	351	7.9 (3=)	6.4 (O+)

- The remaining 58 steers are being fed ~7 kg concentrate/head/day at grass.
- All the cattle were weighed on the 13th July where they averaged 653 kg. For the entire group, the ADG for third season at grass was 1.47 kg/day.



Yearlings

- The yearlings were weighed on the 26th July. They averaged 407 kg.
- They are performing well, gaining 1.01 kg/day on average.

	Liveweight (kg)	ADG 2nd Season at grass
High	398	0.94
Medium	406	1.01
Low	418	1.08

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Calves

- The calves are doing well. The last load of calves that arrived were dosed last week.
- The calves are being monitored closely for worms through dung sampling.



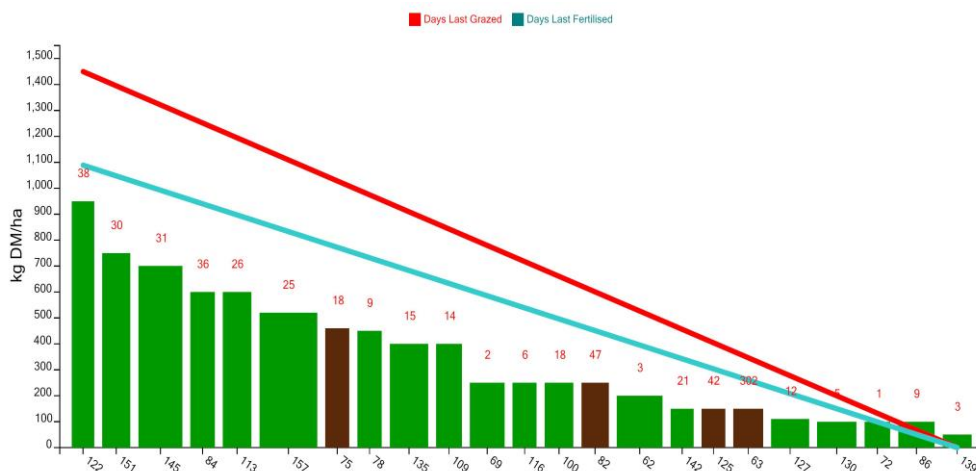
Grass Management:

- The latest farm cover was taken on the 23rd July. Grass growth rates for the week previous averaged 25 kgDM/ha across the farm, including the commercial ground.
- Paddock pre-graze grass yields are ~1400kgDM/ha, with paddocks with higher covers containing a large amount of stemmy grass with seed heads. Average grass DM is 33%.
- 'Watery' slurry was spread across the farm on recently grazed paddocks with the trailing shoe this week in advance of the rainfall forecasted for the weekend.

	Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	LU/ha	Days Ahead
High	27	35	343	4.32	10
Medium	28	32	548	3.98	17
Low	26	36	546	3.74	15

- As can be seen from the grass wedges below, the high farmlet has become incredibly low on grass. We have enough to grass to cover this weekend but will begin feeding baled silage to the high stocking density yearlings Monday next week.

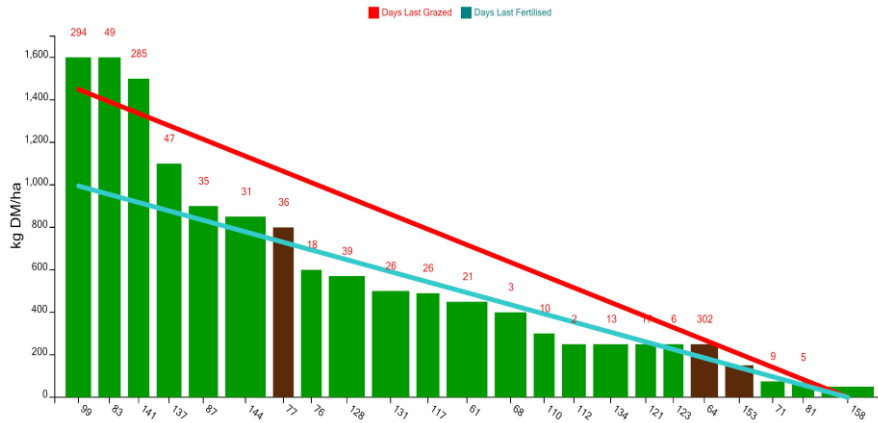
High stocking density



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Medium stocking density



Low stocking density

