

Teagasc Johnstown Castle
Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 28-09-2018

Animal Performance:

Older cattle

- The 18 month old cattle will be weighed next week. The heifers are still being fed 4.1kg/conc./day.
- The heifers will be body conditioned scored next week also; there should be some fit for kill in the next 2-3 weeks.
- The steers are performing well at grass. The aim will be to keep them out until the end of October as long as grazing conditions stay suitable. They will be housed on ad lib silage only for their second winter.

Calves

- The calves are receiving ~2kg/head/day at grass.
- Health wise, the calves are doing very well. They are being monitored closely for worms and any signs of respiratory issues.
- The calves weighed 194 kg on the 20th September (~15kg ahead of last year).
- The calves will remain at grass for as long as possible before being housed on 1.5-2 kg of conc./head/day alongside silage.
- Target live weight is 220-230 kg/head at housing.

	Live weight	ADG
High	193	0.76
Medium	193	0.76
Low	196	0.77

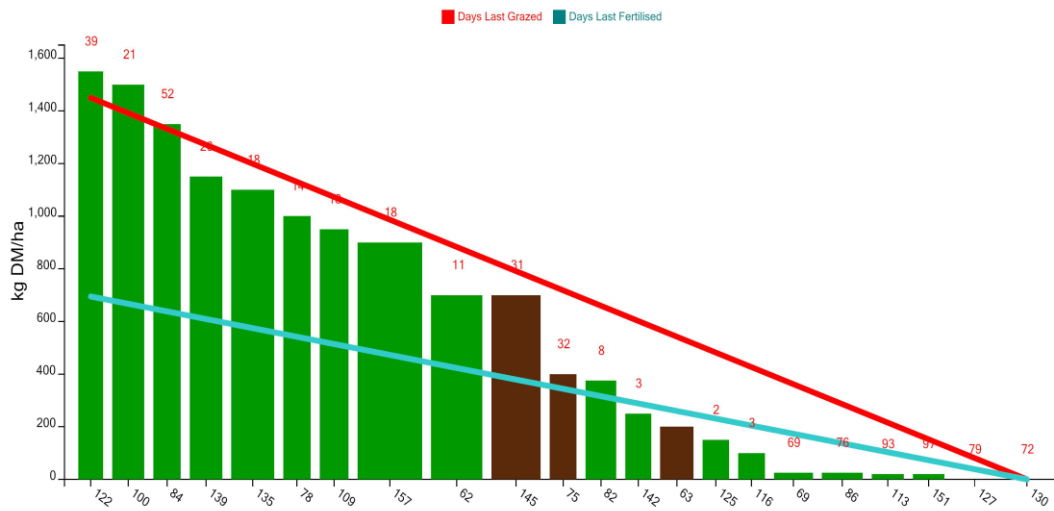
Grass Management:

- Grass growth for the week averaged 38 kg DM/ha/day. The regrowth on grazed paddocks is still good and cattle are grazing out paddocks well.
- Grass DM is around 17%. Pre-grazing yields are ~1200 kg DM/ha.
- Silage was cut on the 24/25th September and picked up 2 days later. It was all put into a fresh pit.
- 21 experimental paddocks were cut and these averaged 3800 kg DM/ha at 17% dry matter.
- If the weather stays good and grass growth remains good, it is hoped to get one grazing off the just-cut silage paddocks before closing.
- Paddocks will start to be closed from next week. Some farm cover needs to be built up so that we are not tight at spring turn out.

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	Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	LU/ha	Days Ahead
High	38	27	559	3.44	21
Medium	40	25	363	3.18	15
Low	36	23	490	2.88	21

High stocking density



Medium stocking density

