

Shinagh Farm

A 57 acre farm has been leased for 5 years and will be used by Shinagh in 2020.

This ground will allow Shinagh to milk more cows under the current nitrate derogation rules and will allow this number to be held in the likely event of stocking rate being decreased in the next derogation.

We will increase milking cows to 250 immediately and have gone about this.

We will sell internally about 200 silage bales to the Gurteen farm, which is what the Gurteen needs to purchase each year.

The contract reared incalf heifers will come back to this farm this autumn earlier than normal to use the grass available and this will reduce the cost of the heifer rearing.

15 cows were sourced and bought in West Cork, 6 of these have yet to calf, they are all on Shinagh farm now.

There are 7 Shinagh cows also left to calf.

This will bring the total milking cows to 251 in Shinagh.

This will then be 3.2 cows per ha stocking rate on the milking platform.

There are now 238 milking giving 25.5 litres at 4.09% fat and 3.73% protein which is 2.05kg of milk solids per cow per day

Milk quality is 88,000 SCC and 7,000 TBC

The herd is getting 1.5 kg of ration per cow per day. and is on grass full time.

Grass growth was 38kg/day and farm cover is 696kg/ha or 207kg/cow (last week).

Ground is out for silage and some for reseeding at this stage, and stocking rate has increased to 3.37cows/ha on the grazing area and will go higher as growth increases.

Demand will be set at 70kg/ha/day until first cut silage and reseeding is back in the grazing cycle.