

Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 17-04-2019

Farm Update

There are 235 cows milking. All cows are calved now and 10 cows have been sold. All the male calves from the farm have been sold. 105 male calves that were being contract reared (to honour our commitment not to send any calves to the factory in 2019) have now all been sold. The planned start of breeding is the 3rd of May.

The farm grass cover is 749kg/ha. Cows are getting 3kg of a 14% ration. They were fed 5kg a day at the weekend during the extreme weather. They dropped 1.5litres per day during this weather. There have been 3 cases of grass tetany during the bad weather (all 3 cows survived) despite the fact that full rate magnesium is being supplied at a 3 kg meal feeding rate. Magnesium flakes are also being put in the water troughs now too. The paddocks that were skipped in the first round of grazing have been baled, and slurry and fertiliser applied. It is planned that they will stay out of the grazing rotation now and will be cut for 1st cut silage.

The current co-op milk details are as follows: 23.5 litres/day at 4.38% fat, 3.71% protein, 5.04% lactose, 113,000 SCC and 7,000 TBC. This is a drop of 1.5 litres since before the bad weather. The next collection may see a bounce back up. That's 1.96 kg of milk solids per cow per day. The herd is supplying 2000 litres (with slightly less cows) per collection more than the same dates in 2018. We are putting this down to the even nutrition this spring compared to 2018. Once cows calved this year they were on grass plus meals with no silage in the diet (except for a few wet days or nights). 20 cows are on once a day milking based on their condition score being less than 2.75 or that they calved after the 1st of April.

The replacement heifer calves are due to go to the contract rearer soon. They will go when they are all weaned off milk and ready to go to grass. They are weaned off milk replacer when they have been consistently consuming 1.25 kg of calf starter per day, and are 8 weeks old.

Updates are on the Shinagh website: <http://www.shinaghdairy.ie/>