

Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 8-04-2019

Farm Update

There are 237 cows calved.

The farm grass cover is 749kg/ha. Cows are grazing fulltime and getting 3kg of a 16% ration. There is no silage in the diet. We started the second rotation on the 2nd of April going into covers of 1300kg/DM/ha. This was 5 days ahead of our planned date and it was decided to do this based on the grass cover on the paddocks grazed first in Feb. Growth has slowed here since our last cover was done on April 4th and we now think we will have to go back and graze a silage paddock that we skipped in the first round in order to allow the next of the second round grazing paddocks grow more.

The current co-op milk details are as follows: 24.15 litres/day at 4.23% fat, 3.62% protein, 4.87% lactose, 91,000 SCC and 12,000 TBC. That's 1.95 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). 10 cows are on once a day milking based on condition score. All cows calving after April 1st will be milked once a day until they are bred, to give them every chance of cycling in the first 3 weeks of the breeding season.

The first of the replacement heifer calves are being weaned this week. They have been consistently consuming 1.25 kg of calf starter per day, which is our trigger point at which to wean them off milk.

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