

Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 16-05-2019

Farm Update

There are 234 cows milking. Breeding started on May 3rd. All cows are tail painted and this is topped up on a regular basis. We are now on day 14 of breeding and 134 cows have been bred. This is an 85% submission rate to date, based on breeding all the cows in 21 days. The replacement heifers were bred to AI on observed heat for 7 days and then got an injection of Prostaglandin to bring the remaining animals on heat. 50 out of the 53 heifers have been bred to AI at this stage.

The farm grass cover is 727kg/ha or 177kg/cow. Growth rate for the last week was 74 kg/ day. The herd is stocked at 4.11 cows per hectare with a demand of 70kg/ha, this has allowed us to stop feeding supplements. 4 ha of silage ground have been reseeded with a two cut silage grass mixture. Magnesium is supplied in the drinking troughs daily by adding magnesium flakes to them.

The current co-op milk details are as follows: 22.62 litres/day at 4.23% fat, 3.61% protein, 4.81% lactose, 122,000 SCC and 5,000 TBC. That's 1.83 kg of milk solids per cow per day. We are over our peak milk supply, we aim to keep the drop from peak as slow as possible and less than 10% per month decrease. They are off ration and getting covered for magnesium by using Mg flakes in the drinking troughs.

The replacement heifer calves are all at grass at the contract rearer. The surplus breeding heifers have been sold.

This round of fertiliser we are using a protected Urea product. We have taken a decision to use protected urea products instead of CAN products because they are better from an environmental point of view and they are cheaper per unit of nitrogen. The product is 29:0:14 plus 3.5% sulphur.

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