

Shinagh Dairy Farm Update 17-11-2020

210 cows are still milking, producing 10.6 litres at 5.56% fat, 4.21% protein and 4.49% lactose. That is 1.07kg of milk solids per cow per day. Somatic cell count is 234,000 and TBC is 16,000 and thermoturics are 290. The herd is on 3 kg of ration, indoors on silage by night and on grass by day. They have been housed some of the extremely wet days too.

Cows are being dried off based on their condition score, age, and next calving date. So lower condition score cows less than 2.75 CS get dried off first, then all heifers get 12 weeks dry.

The farm is approaching housing both day and night shortly, probably at the end of this week when grass has dropped to 700kg/ha overall farm cover. Our target is to have a cover of 750kg/ha on Dec 1st. The autumn rotation plan went to plan with 70% of the farm grazed from the 3rd of October up to the 3rd of November. The remaining 30% is being grazed off currently.

There are 224 in calf cows on the farm. The 55 in-calf heifers came home from the contract rearer this year earlier than usual and are grazing on the rented ground that has been used for silage all year. There are 55 weanling dairy heifers with the contract rearer. The 23 not in calf cows have been sold at an average price of €587. This is a 9.2% not in calf after 11.5 weeks breeding this year, the highest not in calf rate yet for the farm.

The 127 non-dairy calves that are being contract reared in Ballyhooly continue to do well. Their average weight is 218kg at the end of October which is matching all the other calves that are in this Teagasc project. They gained 0.78kg per day for Sept and October. They are housed at this stage and will be fed indoors with a target of gaining 0.7kg per day. The plan is that they will be sold on the market when demand for grazing stock is at its best in April 2020.