

## Shinagh Farm Update October 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

Grass cover dropping on the farm, its currently at 933kg/ha and 292kg/cow.

Grass growth in the past week was 34kg/ha/day and we have reduced the grass demand to 35kg/ha/day by

Increasing the silage drymatter being fed per day to 5kg/cow/day and meal is still at 2kg/cow/day.

We are working our autumn grazing plan with a target of having 70% grazed by the first week in Nov.

To achieve this we are grazing 2.5% of the farm daily, we are on target to do this so far.

The herd is milking 12.93litres per day at 5.2% butterfat and 4.35% protein which works out at 1.27kg of milk solids per cow per day.

The empty cows will be sold next week.

Keeping an eye on cow condition regularly and will start drying off some lower condition cows in the next few weeks.

In 2019 when sensitivity tests were done on the bulk milk sample at this time of the year it showed up with Strep Agalactiae.

As a consequence all cows got an antibiotic dry cow treatment.

Looking at the milk recordings in 2020 if the bulk milk tests all clear for Strep Agalactiae this year there is 25% of the herd under consideration for no antibiotic dry cow and will only get a teat sealer.

These are cows that have had less than 50,000 cell count in their last 6 recordings, and have had no instance of mastitis.

The basis of the 50,000 criteria is that then no quarter could have been above 200,000 on any of these recordings

The next milk recording SCC information will help decide how many of these cows will not get an antibiotic.

The herd got two grazing's of the mixed species paddock last week, this was planned to coincide with an empty bulk tank.

Milk samples of milk from these grazing's was taste tested in Carbery for any adverse flavours and was found to be perfect.

Other tests on these samples will also be conducted.

The research on how the mixed species may affect fodder production per ha, milk yield and composition, is part of an extensive trial in Moorepark starting in 2021.

Moorepark were setting the mixed species swards in 2020 in preparation for this trial.