

# Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 12-09-2019

## Farm Update

There are 224 cows milking now.

231 cows which were bred this year were scanned last week and 19 of them were not in calf after 11.5 weeks breeding. This is an 8.23% not in calf rate (NIC). 5 of these cows have been sold now along with 3 other cows that needed culling due to bad udders and higher cell counts. The remaining 14 not in calf cows will stay milking dependent on our grass supply and their milk yield. Once we start feeding meal in the autumn to any cows we are effectively fully feeding these not in calf cows on ration. Therefore they need to cover the cost of this ration diet and leave a margin to justify keeping them milking on the farm. Currently these NIC cows are milking 16 litres at an estimate of 39cents/ litre current milk price which is bringing in €6.24 per cow per day in revenue. If we are paying €230 / tonne for 12% protein ration that's 26.1 cents per kg of ration drymatter. At 17kg of drymatter intake per day for these cows that's a cost of €4.44 per day in feed. That's a margin of €1.80 per NIC cow per day.

The farm grass cover is 1025kg/ha or 347kg/cow. Growth rate for the last week was 73 kg/day. The herd is stocked at 2.95 cows per hectare with a demand of 50kg/ha. We are feeding 1.5kg of ration in order to build cover.

The current co-op milk details are as follows: 15.67litres/day at 4.76% fat, 4.03% protein, 4.54% lactose, 117,000 SCC and 11,000 TBC. That's 1.42 kg of milk solids per cow per day.

The last bale silage was taken on Aug 7<sup>th</sup> off the milking platform. Bought in second cut silage was harvested after this date. The whole farm has been available for grazing since this date. The grazing plan has been to build covers by lengthening the rotation by feeding ration if necessary from that date. The farm is in line to reach our target of 1200kg/ha average farm cover by late Sept. Currently we are just feeding just 1.5kg per cow per day combined with the good growth rates in order to hit this target. The benefit of feeding ration now is to get extra days milking on grass. Grass in the diet in autumn for as long as possible holds up milk yield and milk composition, and feeding supplement early in order to achieve this pays.

The 53 breeding heifers were scanned last week. 52 of them are in-calf, that's a 1.9% not in calf figure. The not incalf heifer has been sold. All these heifers were fully vaccinated for Salmonella and IBR in August.

The last round of fertiliser is being applied this week ahead of the fertiliser spreading deadline. It is ¾ of a bag of 29:0:14, which is a protected urea type product. This is better than CAN from an environmental and cost per unit of nitrogen point of view.

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