

Derrypatrick Farm Notes 09/03/2018

General details

Four weeks of calving is now complete for the Derrypatrick Herd and 50% of cows have calved. Calving data for the first four weeks of calving is presented in Table 1. On average, cows have calved in an appropriate BCS (2.5-3.25) ensuring cows are strong at calving and are producing good quality colostrum. This BCS will also facilitate early breeding during the 2018 breeding season. Due to the recent poor weather conditions, cows and calves remain indoors. Thankfully, the heavy snow fall passed without any major issue to which all farm staff must be commended.

	n=	Cow LW (kg)	Cow BCS (1-5)	Calving score (1-4)	Calf BW (kg)
Calving data	49	655	2.75	1.8	47

Table 1. Calving data 10/02/2018 – 09/03/2018

We have had to alter our grassland management plans due to the snowfall. Further fertiliser, the first slurry application and turnout to pasture have been delayed. A farm cover will be taken early next week to assess the grass supply and ground conditions with turning stock out to pasture on the agenda. Cows and calves >10 days of age will be turned out to the drier, sheltered paddocks of the farm whereas, yearlings will graze paddocks not suitable for cows and calves. Paddocks with the heaviest covers of grass are the main grazing priority. Grass utilisation will be significantly reduced if grass growth arrives and these paddocks aren't grazed. In order to try and fast-track the first rotation and maximise area grazed, we will also target paddocks with a grass cover of 1,000 to 1,200 kg DM/ha within the first days of turnout. Feed will be removed the night before turnout to promote grazing immediately upon turnout to pasture and subsequently minimise potential ground damage.

Calving

- Start date: 10/02/2018
- Total calved 52/99
- Total live calves: 49
- Mortalities: 3 abortions

Grassland management

- Cover taken 22/02/2018
- Farm cover: 914 kgDM/ha
- Growth: 4 kgDM/ha/day
- Demand: 0 kgDM/ha/day

Weekly planner

- Move cows to the calving shed ahead of due date falls and indications of calving are visible e.g. elder, pin-bones etc.
- Primary focus remains on calving and ensuring assistance is provided when needed
- Check fencing and water supply are correct and fit for grazing to begin
- Disbud and vaccinate calves for respiratory diseases



Picture 1. 14-d old CH4202 sired bull calf from LM x FR cow with replacement index of €99



Picture 2. 12-d old SI2152 sired bull calf from S666 LM dam with replacement index of €116



Picture 3. Calves pictured L to R, FPI (AA) heifer, VMO (CH) bull and FTY (LM) bull calf



Picture 4. Calves with access to creep area while cows remain on slats