

Teagasc Dairy Beef Programme
February 2017 Update, Johnstown Castle

Date of writing: 23rd February 2017

Covering period: January- February 2017

Animal performance:

Weanlings

- Weanlings performance improved
- Were being fed 73 DMD pit silage ad lib and 2kg concentrates.
- From 13th February concentrates reduced to 1kg/head/day.

	22/12/2016		12/01/2016		16/02/2017	
	LW (kg)	*ADG kg/day	LW (kg)	Gain kg/day	LW (kg)	Gain kg/day
High	226.13	0.58	248.01	0.50	268.18	0.71
Medium			256.70	0.61	291.4	0.94
Low			250.87	0.26	268.83	0.57

*Average daily gain per day since previous weighing

26 Month Steer System

- Performance had been poor in December- underwent investigation
- Were being fed ad lib surplus baled silage, approximately 71 DMD. Now changed to pit silage.
- Being fed high P and Se general purpose beef minerals with silage.

Date	Live weight (kg)	ADG kg/day
13/12/2016	505.29	0.08
10/01/2017	526.10	0.77
16/02/2017	546.7	0.65

Health:

Weanlings

- Weanlings dung and blood sampled in December, approx. two weeks after Closmectin administration.
- Blood samples clear, however dung samples showed high levels of strongid worms.
- Suggests resistance to wormer. All calves subsequently given white dose down the neck.
- Will be dosed for Blackleg before they go out to grass.

26th Month Steer System

- Dung samples came back clear.
- Blood samples showed Selenium deficiency.
- Suggested that the deficiency may be due to high Nitrogen in levels the baled surplus silage.
- Silage test results showed severely low levels of Se and low levels of other trace minerals.

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- Selenium injection administered to animals as per vet recommendation. Animals switched to pit silage with selenium mineral powder supplementation.

Grassland management:

- Farm cover taken week of 20th February.
- Weanlings and steers to go to grass as soon as weather permits.

Farm cover, kg DM/ha	
High	813
Medium	872
Low	861

Other notes:

- Soil sampling of whole farm – samples to be sent next week.
- ABP Trial Farm animals slaughtered 10th January and 14th February.

This month...

- Launch of calf rearing manual.
- Weekly grass measuring and sampling to commence.