

Teagasc Johnstown Castle
Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 14-08-2017

Animal Performance: Yearlings

- Yearlings continue to graze paddocks with swards of ~1500kgDM/ha.
- Residency time per paddock is approximately 3 days, depending on the paddock size.
- Heifers will begin their 60 day finishing period next month.

Animal Performance: 2017 calves

- Calves continue to graze lower swards of ~1100kgDM/ha.
- Supplemented with 1.3kg concentrate/day.
- All calves are now allotted to their correct grazing groups.
- Low grazing group received Recocam (anti-inflammatory, 4ml) and Unisol (antibiotic, 5ml) on 14th August for respiratory tract infection.
- For the parasitology task, the first faecal sample results (samples taken 8th Aug) showed a very low level of worms, ~10 epg.

Grassland Management

- Grass growth has picked up a small bit, averaging 52 kg DM/ha/day.
- Second silage cut began Tuesday 8th August, with some paddocks still to be cut this week (weather permitting).
- From the paddock pre-cuts, the average silage yield is 4000 kgDM/ha with a DM% of 22.05%.

	Highest	Lowest
Silage yield (kgDM/ha)	5335	2617
DM %	30.1	12.91



From last week's farm cover, grass is very tight on the Low farmlet due to the reduced grass growth and the higher number of paddocks being cut from the farmlet for silage. This second cut was also delayed by the weather. Grass is also tight on the medium farmlet, but with some paddocks cut last week and returned to rotation we hope to not have to supplement the cattle at grass.

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Date of cover: 09-08-2017	High	Medium	Low
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	877	721	778
Cover/LU (kg DM/LU)	206	171	139
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	63	49	44
Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	62	60	81
Days ahead	14	12	10
Silage	2.42 ha	4.39 ha	10.29 ha

DM analysis of samples taken from two paddocks pre-grazing (11th Aug) showed DM to be ~17%.

Low stocking density farmlet

