

Teagasc Johnstown Castle

Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 28-08-2017

Animal Performance: Yearlings

- Yearlings continue to graze covers of ~1500kgDM/ha.
- Animals weighed next week. Heifer weight will determine the start of their finishing period.

Animal Performance: 2017 calves

- Calves continue to graze lower swards of ~1100kgDM/ha.
- Supplemented at grass with 1.3kg concentrate/day.
- Calves to be weighed next week.



Grassland Management

- Grass growth is averaging 47 kg DM/ha/day across the farm.
- Some ground was poached over the weekend with the heavy rainfall, but the damage was mainly confined to the field gates, water trough and meal trough areas. It is important to avoid grazing heavy swards in such conditions.
- Ground has since dried up immensely over the past two days. Reseeding (direct drill) to take place as soon as weather and ground conditions permit.
- Second silage cut was delayed due to the bad weather. Paddocks sprayed off for reseeding were cut 17th August (average yield 3850 kg DM/ha).
- The final seven paddocks were cut 23rd August; average yield of 4600 kg DM/ha (18% DM).
- Topping of grazed paddocks has ceased.



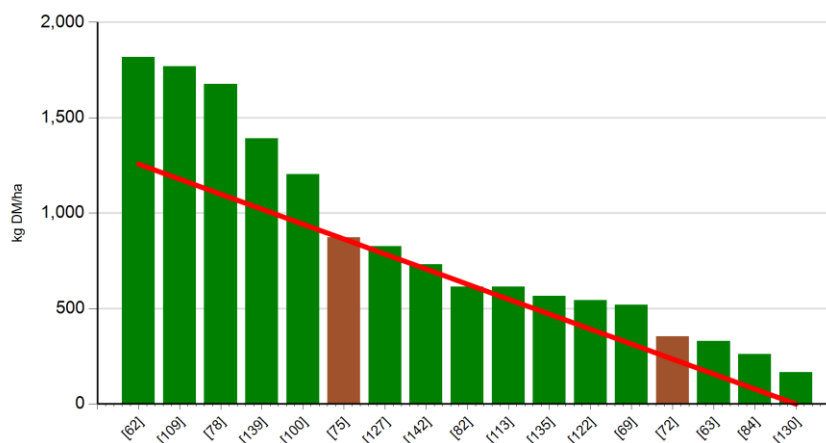
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Date of cover: 22-08-2017	High	Medium	Low
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	848	713	523
Cover/LU (kg DM/LU)	225	189	121
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	54	47	35
Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	55	54	62
Days ahead	15	13	8
Silage	0.71 ha	2.00 ha	4.06 ha

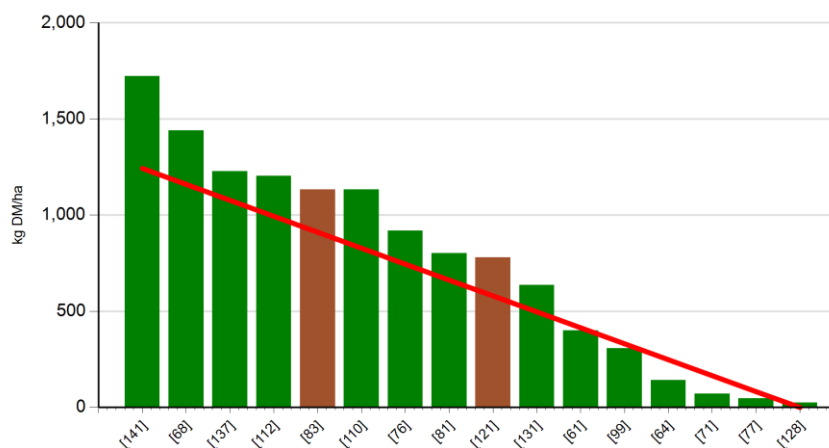
Grass is very tight on the Low farmlet. This is mainly because a larger number of paddocks were tied up by the delayed silage cut and reseeded. In addition, this time last year half of the heifers in each farmlet were being fed concentrate for the 19 month heifer system which would have reduced the demand for grass.

Due to the poor ground conditions and continued unsettled weather forecasted, it is not practical to feed silage at grass. Therefore, the low yearlings will graze a large paddock that had been set aside for commercial grazing to tie them over. The recently grazed low paddocks are to receive fertiliser before the weekend to boost grass growth.

High stocking density farmlet



Medium stocking density farmlet



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Low stocking density farmlet

