

Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- March 20th

Introduction

These management notes refer to the high stocking rate group in the Johnstown Winter Milk Experiment. This herd has:

- 100% autumn calving
- A mean calving date of October 8th. Calving commences in early September and continues until early December.
- A Holstein Friesian base with an EBI of €92. Aim is a 50:50 balance for milk and fertility
- Whole farm stocking rate of 4.0 cows/ha

The aims of the system are to produce 30,000 litres per hectare utilising >12 tonnes of forage on the grazing block

Management Issues

- Feeding Management- Manage TMR allowance to achieve correct post grazing height of 4cm
- Mastitis – pre-foaming and post spraying. Maintain cubicle hygiene
- Spring Rotation- Stick to the targets for 1/3 grazed by early March, 2/3 grazed by March 17th

Current Situation

- Approx 70% of farm area grazed by this week. Grazing conditions excellent. Grazing to 3.5cm while maintaining intakes. See spring rotation plan below.
- Pre-grazing yield approx 1100kg DM, therefore offering approx 4.5kg grass DM per cow, grazing by day. Grazing to <4cm in excellent conditions
- Details of the TMR diet listed below. Offering 12kg DM of this mix per cow.. Allocation is reduced by feeding the same TMR mix but for fewer cows per day. Concentrate ingredients are included as a coarse blend in the wagon mix. 1kg of 18% nut fed in the parlour
- Soil temp 8.6 degrees
- Sires being used were SOK, UPH, RXR, LLK, LZD and some remaining RDU straws. (SOK and LLK on maiden heifers)
- Feeding flat rate to a yield of 26 litres on a UFL basis.
- Total TMR diet is 16.3% crude protein with a PDIE/PDIN balance of 103g / 106g. Diet provide adequate protein for 34 litres @ this PDI content

Milk Yield details for 20th Mar

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 20-MAR-11	
Feed System	
Genotype	4.0
Mean calving date of cows calved	03-OCT
Farmlet size (ha)	
Farmlet stocking rate (cows/ha)	
Production Data This Week	
Supplementation (kg/cow/day)	1.0
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	25.2
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.92
Fat Composition (%)	4.01
Protein Composition (%)	3.61
Lactose Composition (%)	4.69
Body Weight (kg)	504
Body Condition Score	
Cumulative Production to date	
Days in Milk (days)	171
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	254
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	4299
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	328
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	4.07
Protein Composition (%)	3.55
Lactose Composition (%)	4.63

Diet Details for TMR diet.

		kg as fed	kg DM	€ /t	Analysis (/ kg DM)	Dairy in Milk (Early Lactation)	
Feed Ingredients for Selection	Ingredients						
	Dairy 18% CP	1.00	0.9	€ 190	DM %	38.9	25-40
	Soyabean meal 48% CP	2.00	1.7	€ 330	UFL	0.95	0.90-0.95
	Barley (rolled)	1.60	1.4	€ 185	UFV	0.91	-
	Maize	0.50	0.4	€ 180	Cr. protein g	162	165-180
	Beet pulp unmolassed	1.20	1.1	€ 145	PDIN g	106	100-110
	Rapeseed meal	1.10	1.0	€ 170	PDIE g	103	100-110
	Trafford Gold	3.50	1.9	€ 95	PDIA g	52	
	Fat (vegetable)	0.20	0.2	€ 400	Starch g	169	120-200 max
	Minerals	Dairy Maize/beet 25kg/ton	0.25	0.2	€ 650	Sugar g	48
Forages		kg DM	kg as fed		Cr. Fibre g	185	170-200
	Grass silage 74 % DMD	5.00	20.8	€ 22	Oil g	37	Less than 50
	Maize silage 25% starch	7.00	21.9	€ 38	Ca g	6.1	6.5-7.5
	Straw- barley	0.50	0.6	€ 60	P g	5.4	3.5-4.5
					NDF g	406	280+
Wet Feeds & Brassica Crops					RSVConc	175	200.0
					ADF g	230	210+
					Se mg	0.58	0.35-0.45
					Mg g	2.61	2.2-2.8
					Tot. UF Intake	20.2 UFL	19.3 UFV
Tonne mix ration					Tot. PDI Intake	2256 g PDIN	2182 g PDIE
	jc mix 09		0.0		Cost	€ 3.50 / day	
	Total Intake / day	21.3 kg DM	54.6 kg				
	Chosen Intake as % of BW	3.3 %	20.5 kg DM				
	Need to allocate	-0.8 kg DM	more feed		Enter animal category	Milking cows	
					Animal live weight	620 kg	
					Target Intake as % of LW	3.0-3.5	

Spring Rotation plan for TMR Group

Total Area ha	6.0
Turnout	10-Feb
Magic Day	08-Apr

Week Start Date	Area ha Grazed by weekend	% Farm grazed by weekend
10-Feb	0.4	7
17-Feb	0.9	15
24-Feb	1.4	23
03-Mar	2.0	33
10-Mar	2.6	44
17-Mar	3.4	56
24-Mar	4.3	72
31-Mar	5.4	90
07-Apr	6.9	115

Notes

- The main aim is to extend the first grazing round to set up farm for second grazing round.
- Plan is to turn out herd by day on Feb 10th and have 7% of farm grazed by the end of week. This gives a long growing interval to second grazing. Delaying until grass builds up would result in too short of a first grazing round and a shortage of grass in April
- Total area is 6.0 ha for 24 cows- stocking rate 4.0 cows per ha. Herd feed demand is high at 72kg dry matter per ha
- Grass allowance will be small in the early weeks but the balance will be made up by balancing with TMR feeding indoors
- Post grazing residuals managed to 3.5 - 4cm. TMR allocation will gradually be reduced as grass allowance increases
- Offer at least 4-5kg DM per grazing bout. Stick to % area grazed per week. We housed cows for 2-3 days in the early weeks last year to achieve this- no significant problems with unsettled cows etc.