

Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- April 17th

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

- Grazing management- Manage grass allowance to achieve post grazing height of 4cm
- Rotation length- target graze 5% of farm area each day to achieve a 20-day rotation.
- Pre-grazing yield- target 1400kgDM pre grazing yield.
- Use supplements to correct deficits in pasture availability. Feeding decisions should be driven by pasture covers.

Current Situation

- Current milk yield is 24.8kg at 1.86kg solids, average 190 days in milk (see table). Max milk yield in group is 31.5 litres.
- Supplements fed at a flat rate based on grass cover, not fed to individual yield.
- Pasture growth has increased steadily to 65kgDM per ha. Pre-grazing yields have risen to 1500kg as a result. The response has been to reduce meal feeding to 2kg in parlour, covering Calmag.
- Grazing to 4cm in excellent conditions. Approx 10% of area will be closed for silage to bring grazing stocking rate to 4.5 cows per ha, holding pre grazing yield at 1400kg

Milk Yield details for 17th Apr

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 17-APR-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)	
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	24.8
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.86
Fat Composition (%)	3.84
Protein Composition (%)	3.67
Lactose Composition (%)	4.70
Body Weight (kg)	608
Body Condition Score	
Cumulative Production to date	
Days in Milk (days)	198
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	356
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	5010
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	381
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	4.04
Protein Composition (%)	3.56
Lactose Composition (%)	4.64

