

Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- July 10th

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.
- **Supplement Feeding:**
 - Herd is 280 days in milk- demand easily met on pasture-only diet
 - Use supplements to correct deficits in pasture availability
 - Feeding decisions should be driven by pasture covers.

Current Situation

- Current milk yield is steady at 17.8kg at 1.44kg solids, at 280 days in milk (see table). Max milk yield in group is 24.3 litres. 80% of the group are within 3 litres of the mean
- Growth rate has risen to 86kg/d compared to <40kg/d 3 weeks ago. Concentrate feeding reduced to a token 0.5kg. Pasture cover per cow has risen to 192kgDM per cow. 15% of area will be removed as surplus silage
- Grazing to 4.5cm in excellent conditions. Pre grazing yield is currently 1640kg, which is above the target 1400kgDM. Removing paddocks will correct this increase
- Herd is 280 days in milk, 520kg solids per cow delivered to date. Milk protein has averaged 3.59% for lactation to date.

Milk Yield details for 10th July

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 10-JUL-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)	.5
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	17.8
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.44
Fat Composition (%)	4.40
Protein Composition (%)	3.74
Lactose Composition (%)	4.54
Body Weight (kg)	574
Body Condition Score	
Cumulative Production to date	
Days in Milk (days)	281
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	570
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	6848
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	521
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	4.02
Protein Composition (%)	3.59
Lactose Composition (%)	4.63

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : 929

Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : 192

Stock Rate (LU/ha) : 4.84

Growth Rate : 86

Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) : 82

