

Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- July 24th

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

- Drying off- Criteria for drying are 60 days from expected calving date or <10 litres per day. Using antibiotic and teat sealer. Stockholm tar spray applied as insect repellent.
- Grazing management- Manage grass allowance to achieve post grazing height of <4cm using dry cows.
- 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 295 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

- 25% of herd dry this week. Dry cows are grazing behind milking herd, approximately 8-10kgDM allowance in 1st weeks dry.
- Current milk yield is steady at 16.7kg at 1.37kg solids. Milk protein 3.94%
- Pasture cover per cow was dropped to 143kgDM per cow by removing 20% area as surplus silage. Drying off cows has reduced demand to approximately 55kg DM.
- Further surpluses will be removed through August, by grazing with young stock or baling off, to reach between 800- 850kgDM/ha by mid-September
- Herd is 295 days in milk, 540kg solids per cow delivered to date. Milk protein has averaged 3.60% for lactation to date.

Milk Yield details for 24th July

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 24-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)	.2
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	16.7
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.37
Fat Composition (%)	4.29
Protein Composition (%)	3.94
Lactose Composition (%)	4.59
Body Weight (kg)	505
Body Condition Score	
Cumulative Production to date	
Days in Milk (days)	295
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	574
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	7071
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	540
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	4.03
Protein Composition (%)	3.60
Lactose Composition (%)	4.63

Rotation Length :	20	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	575
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	17	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	143
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	.5		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :			
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	4.01
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	
Residual Height :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	68
Total Livestock (LU) :	24	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1365



