

Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- March 18th

Introduction

These management notes refer to the Johnstown Winter Milk Herd in Co Wexford. 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 €119 (see page 3). Aim is a 50:50 balance for milk and fertility

The herd produces approximately 45% of annual supply from October to February inclusive. This includes 20% of annual supply in December and January.

A new experiment commenced in October 2011, comparing different concentrate feeding systems at similar stocking rates (3.25 cows per ha). Briefly, the systems compared are:

Feed to budget (GREEN): Maximizes the proportion of quality forage in the milking diet. Supplements used to balance feed availability and demand at a herd level. Flat-rate concentrate feeding at pasture and during housing.

Feed to yield (RED): Meets the daily nutritional demands of the cow while maximising quality forage in the diet. Concentrates offered on an individual cow basis, depending on yield and the base diet.

There are 42 cows per group. For reference, management notes will refer to the flat rate (GREEN) group

Management Issues

- Spring Rotation plan- Achieve 60% of area grazed by this week
- Graze tight (<4cm) to ensure grass quality in 2nd round
- Match indoor feeding to grass allocation- budgeting feed

Current Situation

- Approx 70% of the farm has been grazed at this stage, slightly ahead of the spring rotation plan target, so extra forage is being fed to hold rotation length. Farm cover is 655kg DM with pre-grazing yields of 1400-1600kgDM.
- Grazing conditions have been excellent which is helping to achieve post grazing heights (current 3.5cm). Cows are currently being offered 8kgDM of grass, which is a total of approx 380kgDM for 48 cows. Pre-grazing yield is 1400kgDM this week, so an area of 2700sq metres is being allocated.
- The remainder of the diet comprises a mix fed by night at the barrier (4kgDM maize silage, 3kgDM grass silage, 2kg coarse blend) plus 4kg flat rate in the parlour. This give a total offered of 20kg DM, 6kg of which is concentrate.

Feed at the barriers is usually cleared by morning milking at 6.30am, which encourages grazing activity at morning turnout.

- Current milk yield is 26.2kg at 1.97kg milk solids, at 163 days in milk (see table). Max milk yield in group is 39.0kg, top 25% average 34.5kg. Milk protein stands has lifted to 3.49%, and has averaged 3.40% since the start of lactation
- There have been no recorded cases of digestive upsets to date in the milking herd this week. Achieving >13kgDM from forage is likely to be of benefit in this regard.

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Weekly production sheet for week ending March 18th

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 18-MAR-12	
Feed System	
Genotype	Feed
Mean calving date of cows calved	10-OCT
Famlet size (ha)	
Famlet stocking rate (cows/ha)	
Production Data This Week	
Supplementation (kg/cow/day)	6.5
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	26.2
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.97
Fat Composition (%)	4.04
Protein Composition (%)	3.49
Lactose Composition (%)	4.70
Body Weight (kg)	396
Body Condition Score	
Cumulative Production to date	
Days in Milk (days)	163
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	841
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	4351
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	325
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	4.08
Protein Composition (%)	3.40
Lactose Composition (%)	4.73

HERD EBI Johnstown Castle , January 2012

Data Exported: 24/10/2011

1. EBI Herd Summary

Average EBI for all dairy cows with: (i) a known sire (or milk recorded progeny with a known sire) and (ii) are currently on your farm.

* Missing Sires can be added through the 'Record Events' section of the HerdPlus website or by contacting the HerdPlus office - 1850 600 900

Animal Group	Num of Cows	Milk Kg Fat Prot	% %	Surv% CI Days	Milk % Contrib	Fertility % Contrib	Calving % Contrib	Beef % Contrib	Mainten. % Contrib	Health % Contrib	EBI €
Cows with EBI	118	178			€ 40	€ 68.7	€ 17.4	€ -8.1	€ 1.3	€ -0.2	
Missing a Sire*	1	7.5	0.02	2.1	29.5%	50.6%	12.8%	-6%	1%	-0.1%	€ 119
Total Cows	119	7.7	0.04	-3.7							
1st Lactation	45	213			€ 41.2	€ 58.1	€ 18.7	€ -11.5	€ 1.5	€ -0.6	
		7.6	-0.01	1.7	31.3%	44.1%	14.2%	-8.7%	1.1%	-0.5%	€ 107
		8.4	0.03	-3.2							
2nd Lactation	20	161			€ 38.3	€ 69.5	€ 20	€ -6.1	€ -0.9	€ -0.1	
		8.7	0.05	2.2	28.4%	51.5%	14.8%	-4.5%	-0.7%	-0.1%	€ 121
		7.1	0.03	-3.6							
3rd Lactation	17	154			€ 50	€ 77.2	€ 15	€ -9	€ 2.6	€ -0.4	
		9.6	0.07	2.3	32.4%	50.1%	9.7%	-5.8%	1.7%	-0.3%	€ 135
		8.6	0.07	-4.2							
4th Lactation	15	130			€ 32.3	€ 84.5	€ 19.5	€ -4.9	€ 1.9	€ -0.3	
		6.2	0.03	2.5	22.5%	58.9%	13.6%	-3.4%	1.3%	-0.2%	€ 133
		6.0	0.03	-4.6							
5th Lactation (+)	21	170			€ 36	€ 72.6	€ 12.8	€ -4.4	€ 1.5	€ 0.6	
		5.3	-0.02	2.2	28.1%	56.8%	10%	-3.4%	1.2%	0.5%	€ 119
		7.4	0.03	-3.9							

2. Dairy Youngstock

11 Calves	37	153			€ 49.3	€ 93.9	€ 22.3	€ -10.3	€ 0.6	€ 2.5	
Missing a Sire*	0	9.6	0.07	2.6	27.6%	52.5%	12.5%	-5.8%	0.3%	1.4%	€ 158
Total Calves	0	8.5	0.07	-5.2							
10 Calves	45	145			€ 52.3	€ 80.4	€ 20.9	€ -14.3	€ 2.7	€ 0.8	
Missing a Sire*	0	9.8	0.09	2.2	30.5%	46.9%	12.2%	-8.3%	1.6%	0.5%	€ 143
Total Calves	37	8.9	0.09	-4.5							

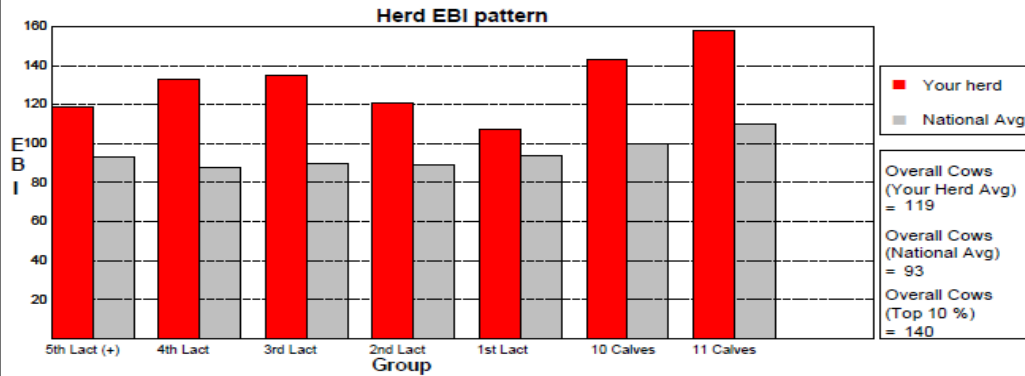


Table 3: Wexford/ICBF Performance Score Card

	Your Herd	Wexford Average	Wexford Top 10%	Your Rank out of 100	Your Star Rating ¹
Milk performance for 2011 (Jan - Sep) based on Wexford data					
Fat + Protein (Kg/cow) Average Fat and Protein yield per cow for your herd	365	303	377	85%	* * * * *
Litres per Cow per Day Avg litres of Milk per cow from Jan - Sep 2011	17.05	14.84	18.1	80%	* * * * *
Fat % to end September 2011 Weighted average Fat % from Jan - Sep 2011	4.1	3.94	4.14	86%	* * * * *
Protein % to end September 2011 Weighted average Protein % from Jan - Sep 2011	3.53	3.4	3.5	96%	* * * * *
Average Milk Price (cpl) Incl. VAT Average milk price received from Jan - Sep 2011, (Includes Bonuses/Penalties, Excludes Levies)	34.3	32.8	34.4	88%	* * * * *
SCC (.000 cells/ml) The weighted average Somatic Cell Count for Jan - Sep 2011	227	246	155	60%	* * *
Fertility & Calving data based on HerdPlus 2011 Calving Report					
Calving Interval (days) Average number of days between successive calvings for cows calved during the period	383	418	383	90%	* * * * *
Days to calve 50% of cows Start 01/02/2011 - Median 27/02/2011	27	47	25	87%	* * * * *
Total Dairy Replacements Dairy Females born in the period (43) as a proportion of eligible cows (104)	41%	24%	41%	91%	* * * * *
%AI bred replacements %female calves born in the period from dairy AI (43) as a proportion of eligible cows (104)	41%	15%	33%	97%	* * * * *
EBI Statistics based on the latest HerdPlus EBI report 2011					
Herd EBI (2011) Average EBI for Cows (101) with EBI data	€ 101	€ 66	€ 91	97%	* * * * *
Yearly EBI Gain (2011-2012) Gain in Herd EBI based on: 0-1yr old, 1-2yr old & 22% replacement rate	€ 10	€ 6	€ 10	92%	* * * * *
EBI of 2011 Inseminations Weighted Average EBI of dairy AI bulls recorded in Summer 2011	n/a	€ 190	€ 226	n/a	
Table of Terms					
Wexford Average	The average performance of all Wexford Suppliers				
Wexford Top 10%	The top 10% cut off point of all Wexford Suppliers				
Your Rank out of 100	Your performance expressed across all Wexford herds eg. 1% = Bottom Supplier, 50% = Average Supplier 100% = Top Supplier				
Your Star Rating	Your performance is displayed in stars e.g. 1 star is bottom 20% and 5 stars = top 20%				
Eligible Cows	Number of dairy cows in the herd on September 2011				
¹ * = 0 - 20% * * = 21 - 40% * * * = 41 - 60% * * * * = 61 - 80% * * * * * = 81 - 100%					