

Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- April 30th

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

- Hold rotation length >22 days in a grass growth deficit scenario
- Maintain forage intake of >12kgDM where grass is inadequate
- Post grazing residuals- targeting 4cm
- Silage area closed, increase stocking rate to 3.8 per ha
- Target pre-grazing yields 1400kgDM

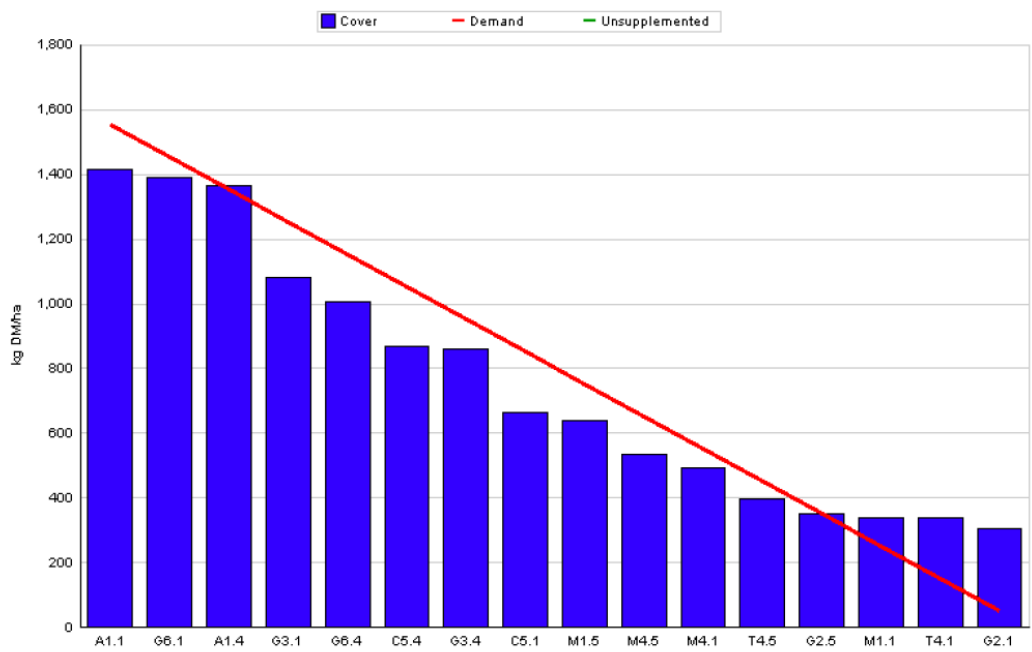
Current Situation

- Pasture growth had been <35kg for last 2 weeks. Farm is stocked at 3.8 cows per ha, which total forage demand at $3.8 \times 18 = 68\text{kg}$ per ha. The result was a large daily forage deficit of 35-40kg per ha over the last 2 weeks. This was balanced by 4.5kg meal plus 7kgDM of quality silage for 10 days.
- Holding rotation length at >22days by grazing less than 4.5% of available area per day.
- Pre-grazing yields are currently at 1500kg DM. Farm cover is 201kg/cow, which is relatively comfortable. This is a combined result of holding rotation length and being slightly ahead of target cover going into the low growth spell.

- Growth rates look set to improve with increasing temp so supplement feeding has been reduced to 2kg concentrate in-parlour. This will be closely monitored and feeding will be re-introduced if farm cover per cow fall below 140kgDM
- Silage crops are well behind target due to growth rates, and delayed closing of some areas has not helped. A staggered first cutting may be required to maintain herbage quality. Options for recovering lost yields for second (and subsequent?) cuts are being developed.
- Grazing conditions have been good which is helping to achieve post grazing heights (current 4.0cm).
- Current yield is satisfactory at 25.1kg 3.98% fat 3.64% protein
- There have been no recorded cases of health problems in the herd this week.

Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS	Split calving feeding trials	Date Produced 02-MAY-12
Farm : Johnstown Castle Farm		
Date : 30-APR-12	Treatment : Feed to Budget	

Rotation Length :	22	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	18
Number of Cows :	49	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	765
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	201
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	2	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.80
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	43
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	68
Residual Height :	4.2	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1555
Total Livestock (LU) :	49		



Weekly production sheet for week ending April 29th

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 29-APR-12	
Feed System	Au
Genotype	Feed
Mean calving date of cows calved	10-OCT
Farmlet size (ha)	
Farmlet stocking rate (cows/ha)	
Production Data This Week	
Supplementation (kg/cow/day)	4.3
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	25.1
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.91
Fat Composition (%)	3.98
Protein Composition (%)	3.64
Lactose Composition (%)	4.64
Body Weight (kg)	527
Body Condition Score	
Cumulative Production to date	
Days in Milk (days)	205
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	985
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	5432
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	405
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	4.02
Protein Composition (%)	3.43
Lactose Composition (%)	4.71

HERD EBI Johnstown Castle , January 2012

Data Exported: 29/10/2011

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							

