

Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- August 5th

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

- Difficult grazing conditions remain- avoid poaching
- Maintain rotation length at 22-24 days during variable growth
- Drying off cows to ensure at least 60 days dry. Dry cows housed
- Post grazing residuals- targeting 4cm
- Target pre-grazing yields 1400kgDM

Current Situation

- Difficult grazing conditions have remained over the last 2 weeks. With some prospect of weather improvement, action will be taken to rectify quality of swards by mowing post grazing and/or removing heaviest pre-grazing yields (paddock G.5 and G.6)
- Pasture growth was 45kg this week. Farm stocking rate has dropped from 4.2 cows per ha to 2.9 cows per has due to drying off autumn calvers. This gives some scope for managing sward quality.
- Dry cows are usually grazed (to <3.5cm residual) behind the milking herd in the early dry period on this farm. However this year dry cows are being

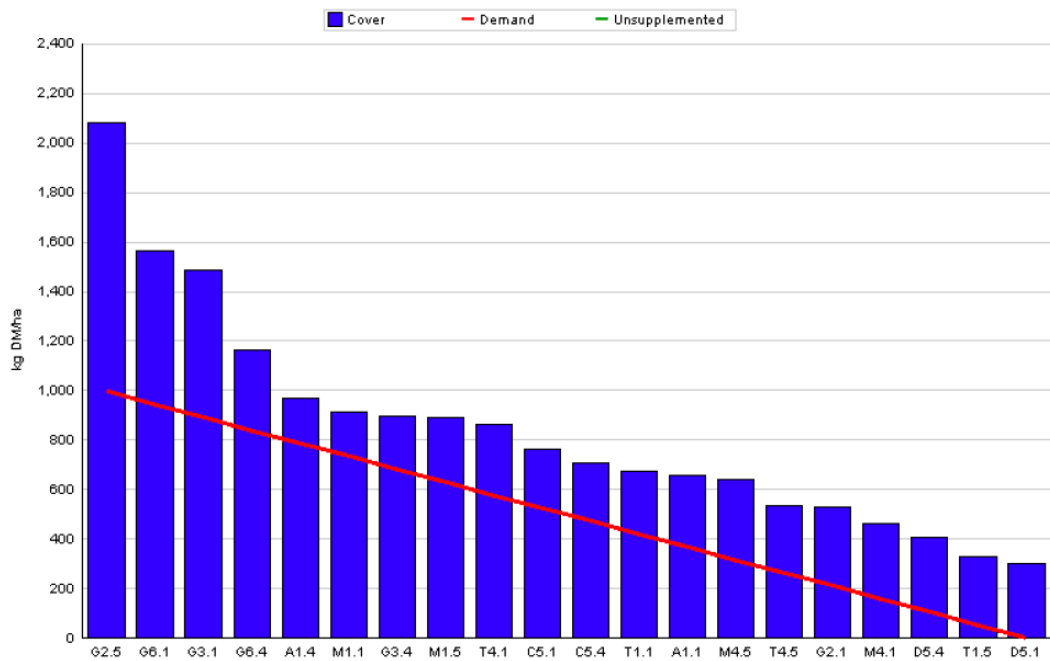
housed on 4kg DM straw, 5kg DM silage and 1kg DM maize gluten plus mins, due to ground conditions

- Cover per ha is 827kg DM, (277kg per cow) which is above target 180-200kg per cow. Much of the surplus is stacked in areas G3 and G6, this will be removed as bales if conditions allow. Our target is not to exceed a farm cover of 850g DM in mid-September so removal of surpluses through August will be needed to offset falling grass demand.
- Current yield is 15.7kg (1.21 kg MS). Cumulative production at 300 days in milk is 7307kg at 3.98% fat and 3.50% protein. This is similar to previous lactation totals however meal input has increased by approx 200kg per cow during the grazing season
- There have been no recorded cases of health problems in the herd this week.

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre **GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report**

Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS **Date Produced** 09-AUG-12
Farm : Johnstown Castle Farm Split calving feeding trials
Date : 06-AUG-12 **Treatment :** Feed to Budget

Rotation Length :	22	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	15
Number of Cows :	30	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	826
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	17	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	277
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	2	Days Ahead	18
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	2.99
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	44
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	45
Residual Height :	4	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	994
Total Livestock (LU) :	48	LW/ha (Liveweight/ha) :	672



Weekly production sheet for week ending August 5th

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 05-AUG-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)	2.0
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	15.7
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.21
Fat Composition (%)	3.91
Protein Composition (%)	3.76
Lactose Composition (%)	4.49
Body Weight (kg)	609
Body Condition Score	
Cumulative Production to date	
Days in Milk (days)	302
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	1160
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	7307
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	546
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	3.98
Protein Composition (%)	3.50
Lactose Composition (%)	4.69

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	€ 119
Missing a Sire*	1	7.5	0.02	2.1	29.5%	50.6%	12.8%	-6%	1%	-0.1%	
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	€ 107
		7.6	-0.01	1.7	31.3%	44.1%	14.2%	-8.7%	1.1%	-0.5%	
		8.4	0.03	-3.2							
2nd Lactation	20	161			€ 38.3	€ 69.5	€ 20	€ -6.1	€ -0.9	€ -0.1	€ 121
		8.7	0.05	2.2	28.4%	51.5%	14.8%	-4.5%	-0.7%	-0.1%	
		7.1	0.03	-3.6							
3rd Lactation	17	154			€ 50	€ 77.2	€ 15	€ -9	€ 2.6	€ -0.4	€ 135
		9.6	0.07	2.3	32.4%	50.1%	9.7%	-5.8%	1.7%	-0.3%	
		8.6	0.07	-4.2							
4th Lactation	15	130			€ 32.3	€ 84.5	€ 19.5	€ -4.9	€ 1.9	€ -0.3	€ 133
		6.2	0.03	2.5	22.5%	58.9%	13.6%	-3.4%	1.3%	-0.2%	
		6.0	0.03	-4.6							
5th Lactation (+)	21	170			€ 36	€ 72.6	€ 12.8	€ -4.4	€ 1.5	€ 0.6	€ 119
		5.3	-0.02	2.2	28.1%	56.8%	10%	-3.4%	1.2%	0.5%	
		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	€ 158
Missing a Sire*	0	9.6	0.07	2.6	27.6%	52.5%	12.5%	-5.8%	0.3%	1.4%	
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	€ 143
Missing a Sire*	0	9.8	0.09	2.2	30.5%	46.9%	12.2%	-8.3%	1.6%	0.5%	
Total Calves	37	8.9	0.09	-4.5							

