

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

14/12/15

Management Comments

- All of the autumn calving herd are now calved. Averaging ~30kgs milk/cow @2.2kgs/MS/cow, estimated intake of approx. 23kgs/dm/cow, it might not be quite this high as the persistent heavy rain is probably resulting in the forage dry matter at the feed face being a bit lower than test results.
- Autumn Breeding for cows & heifers has started, we plan to serve heifers to observed heat for 1st 7 days & then prostaglandin to anything not served on day 7, these will be served to observed heat on the ~22nd December. We treated two cows which had cysts, 5 non cycling cows and a couple of later calved cows which were still a bit dirty with metricure.
- The remaining 40% of the spring calving herd will be dried off this week.
- Rainfall for the past week was 65.4mm & soil temp 8.1, we've had 106mm rain for the month of December to date, so we've avoided all of the extreme rain & had no problems with flooding etc, all stock are housed, so the weather isn't causing problems. The continuing very mild weather has resulted in higher than normal growth rates, whilst we haven't measured in the last 3 weeks, covers have increased.
- Results of our maize came back this week (see below), I was very surprised at how poorly it tested for starch, from what I would have seen of the crop pre-harvest & visually in the pit I had expected it to come in similar to the last two years at greater than 30%. However DM% @ 31% & ME content at 11.4 are both still good & were happy with overall cow performance, so not too concerned.

Winter diet Autumn for milkers

	Kgs/DM per cow	Kgs per cow As fed
Parlour Nut	6.4	7.3
Maize Silage	4.7	15.0
Grass Silage	9.3	33
Coarse blend	2.4	2.8
Total	22.8	

Milk production and feed details

	Autumn Calving Section	Spring Calving Section
<i>This Week (14/12/15) – cows in milk</i>		
Milk Kg	30.7	15.9
Fat %	3.72	4.63
Protein %	3.46	3.96
Milk Solids kg	2.17	1.36
Parlour concentrate (kgs)/dm/cow	0.8	0.3
Forage kg dry matter per cow	14	15
Concentrate in TMR –kgs/dm/cow	7.9	0
% of Herd Milking	100	40 (all due dry by 20 th dec)
<i>Lactation to date</i>		
Days in Milk	68	273
Milk kg	1808	6382
Milk Solids kg	137	488
Concentrate Fed	164 parlor & 254kgTMR	554kg parlor & 166kg tmr

Coarse Blend	% as fed
Barley (rolled)	25.00
Beet pulp	25.00
Maize distillers	15.00
Soyabean meal 48% CP	35.00

Parlour Con

- 18 HE
- UFL 0.95+
- PDIE 125+
- 30% Cereal
- + Mins

MAIZE ANALYSIS

Farmer PO-200218387

Lab Reference: ME15078

Item	Units	Normal Desirable Values	Result
Dry Matter	%	22.0 - 35.0	30.8
pH	-	3.5 - 3.9	3.8
ASH	%	3.2 - 4.5	3.2
NDF	%	42.0 - 55.0	51.70
Starch	%	20.0 - 28.0	24.5
ME	MJ/kg	10.5 - 11.5	11.4
Crude Protein	%	6.5 - 10	8.0