

# Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

04/01/16

## Management Comments

- The autumn calving herd are milking well, currently averaging ~30kgs milk/cow @2.2kgs/MS/cow, with a mean calving date of 8<sup>th</sup> October, their on average 90 days in milk at this stage.
- We're gone past 3 weeks into the breeding season at this stage, 84% of cows have been submitted which is behind our target submission rate of at least 90%, all bar one of the maiden heifers have been served.
- All of the spring herd are still dry, our start of calving date for the spring is the 4<sup>th</sup> February, so we can expect calves anytime from the 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. All spring calvers have been on a diet of 2<sup>nd</sup> cut silage since drying off (~69DMD), based on the body condition score carried out this week, there are 40% of the cows with a B.C.S of 3.25 or greater, we've separated these out & are feeding a restricted diet, half straw/half silage, only a couple of cows are <2.75.
- See below for the final farm walk of 2015 & a met eireann summary of Johnstown's annual rainfall. The mild conditions in November & December (for Dec - soil temp 9.0°C v average of 5.6°C) resulted in covers continuing to increase, we have a lot of grass on the farm, quality is still good, but a dry spell towards the end of January would be ideal, to allow us graze out some of the heavy covers, those in excess of 1300-1400kgs/dm/ha are starting to go a bit in the base (very wet weather in Nov-Dec didn't help matters). But thankfully none of the land is prone to flooding.

Total rainfall in millimetres for JohnstownII

| Year | Jan   | Feb   | Mar  | Apr  | May   | Jun  | Jul   | Aug   | Sep  | Oct   | Nov   | Dec   | Annual |
|------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 2016 | 22.2  |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |      |       |       |       | 22.2   |
| 2015 | 77.7  | 47.2  | 61.8 | 21.9 | 145.0 | 35.0 | 116.6 | 54.2  | 59.8 | 72.0  | 105.2 | 270.2 | 1066.6 |
| 2014 | 145.1 | 175.1 | 94.6 | 67.1 | 63.6  | 35.2 | 35.5  | 128.0 | 16.3 | 196.7 | 154.0 | 43.5  | 1154.7 |
| 2013 | 115.9 | 46.4  | 89.2 | 44.0 | 45.5  | 44.4 | 29.9  | 56.1  | 30.0 | 189.6 | 46.1  | 142.6 | 879.7  |
| mean | 103.4 | 75.5  | 79.0 | 70.4 | 67.6  | 72.6 | 72.8  | 83.7  | 87.7 | 122.1 | 115.3 | 109.8 | 1059.9 |

Mean 10cm soil temperature for JohnstownII

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr  | May  | Jun  | Jul  | Aug  | Sep  | Oct  | Nov | Dec | Annual |
|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|--------|
| 2016 | 7.4 |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |     | 7.4    |
| 2015 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 6.8 | 10.5 | 12.4 | 16.6 | 16.7 | 16.3 | 14.0 | 11.7 | 9.7 | 9.0 | 11.1   |
| 2014 | 5.3 | 5.6 | 7.3 | 11.1 | 13.5 | 18.4 | 20.1 | 16.3 | 16.4 | 12.3 | 8.5 | 5.8 | 11.7   |
| 2013 | 5.8 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 8.7  | 12.7 | 16.4 | 21.0 | 17.6 | 15.2 | 12.8 | 6.8 | 6.5 | 11.2   |
| mean | 5.0 | 4.8 | 6.2 | 8.5  | 12.1 | 15.0 | 16.7 | 16.0 | 13.7 | 10.4 | 7.4 | 5.6 | 10.1   |

## Milk production and feed details

|   | Autumn Calving Section | Spring Calving Section   |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b><i>This Week (04/01/16) – cows in milk</i></b> |                        |                          |
| Milk Kg   | 31.5                   |                          |
| Fat %   | 3.74                   |                          |
| Protein %   | 3.45                   |                          |
| Milk Solids kg                                    | 2.22                   |                          |
| Parlour concentrate (kgs)/dm/cow                  | 0.8                    |                          |
| Forage kg dry matter per cow                      | 14.2                   |                          |
| Concentrate in TMR –kgs/dm/cow                    | 7.9                    |                          |
| % of Herd Milking                                 | 100                    | All Dry                  |
| <b><i>Lactation to date</i></b>                   |                        | 2015 Lactation           |
| Days in Milk                                      | 90                     | 273                      |
| Milk kg   | 2292                   | 6382                     |
| Milk Solids kg                                    | 172                    | 488                      |
| Concentrate Fed                                   | 168 parlor & 447kgTMR  | 554kg parlor & 166kg tmr |

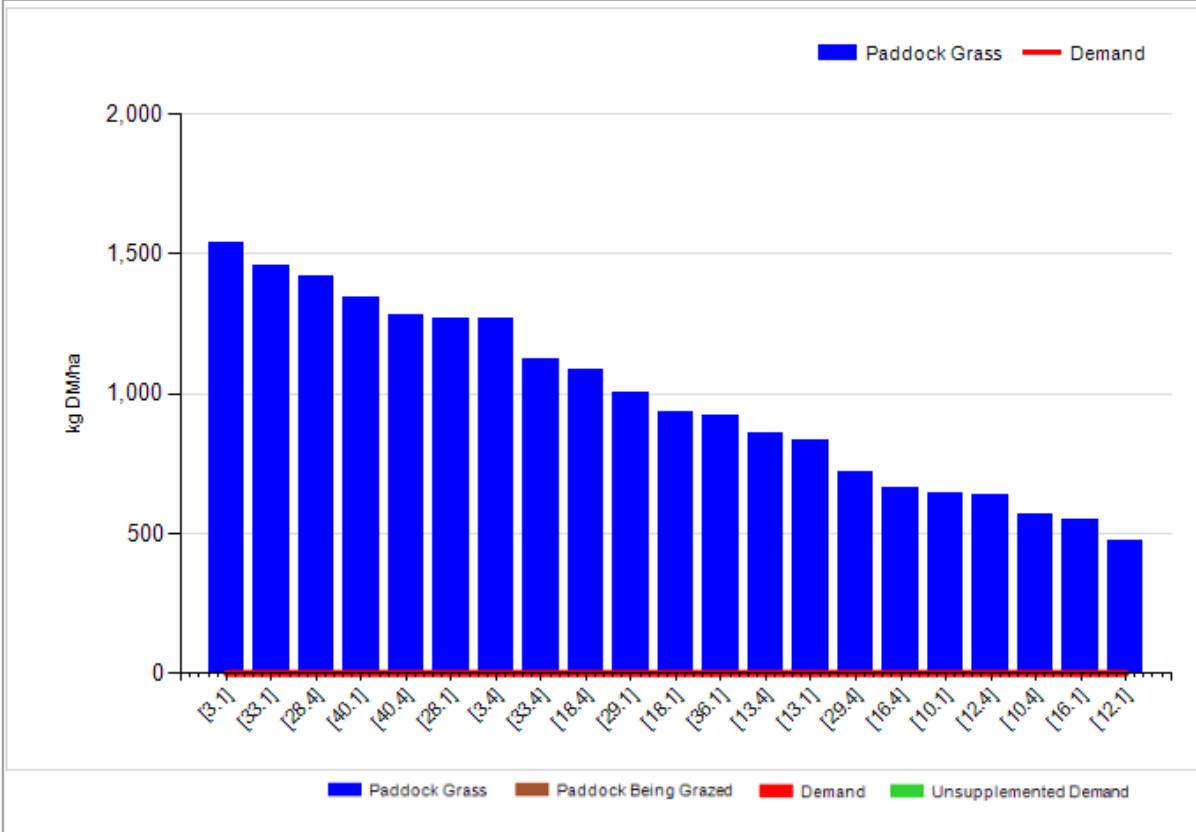
| Coarse Blend         | % as fed |
|----------------------|----------|
| Barley (rolled)      | 25.00    |
| Beet pulp            | 25.00    |
| Maize distillers     | 15.00    |
| Soyabean meal 48% CP | 35.00    |

### Parlour Con

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

### Cover Parameters

|                                 |      |                                      |     |
|---------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU): |      | Growth Rate:                         |     |
| Total Livestock (LU):           | 52.0 | Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):          |     |
| Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):          | 999  | Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha): | 0   |
| Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):          | 326  | Days Ahead:                          |     |
| Stocking Rate (LU/ha):          | 3.06 | LW/ha (Liveweight/ha):               | 205 |



### 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                |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>22.8</b>    |                    |