

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

25/01/16

Management Comments

- See below for opening farm cover, similar to most farms we have a lot of grass on the farm & we need to get out grazing ASAP, ground conditions are still not good enough, along with a poor forecast. Priority is to avoid poaching damage at all costs, but hopefully we may be able to get out with some on/off grazing later this week. With the high proportion of autumn calved cows we can potentially have an instant high demand of ~30-40kgs DM.
- The autumn calving herd are continuing to milking well, still averaging ~30kgs milk/cow @2.2kgs/MS/cow, with a mean calving date of 8th October, they are on average 110 days in milk at this stage.
- All autumn calved cows bar one, have now been served, we put a couple of late calvers, which hadn't cycled on an 8 day cidr program & fixed time AI. It's planned to finish AI at the end of this month & use beef stock bulls for the final 3-4 weeks of the breeding season.
- We had our first spring calver today (2 weeks premature), our start of calving date for the spring is the 4th February, so we expect some more calves this week (mainly with heifers). Based on a B.C.S carried out on the 4th Jan any cows with a B.C.S of >3.25 were put on a restricted diet of 50:50 straw/silage DM diet. They will come off this diet this week & cows will be grouped as per expected calving date.
- Urea is being delivered this week & we plan to blanket spread 30kgs N/ha on all paddocks except those planned for slurry, as soon as ground conditions allow. Normally for slurry we would target to spread in mid January the 30% of the area with lowest covers (last 1/3 of spring rotation plan). This year due to the higher covers & borderline ground conditions we will spread a minimal amount pre-grazing & hope to follow the cows with ~ 2000gal/ac post grazing, when ground conditions allow.

Winter diet for autumn milking cows

	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 (25/01/16) – cows in milk</i>		
Milk Kg	29.4	
Fat %	3.94	
Protein %	3.43	
Milk Solids kg	2.14	
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
<i>Lactation to date</i>		2015 Lactation
Days in Milk	111	273
Milk kg	2911	6382
Milk Solids kg	211	488
Concentrate Fed	189 parlor & 636 kgTMR	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):	3.7	Growth Rate:	
Total Livestock (LU):	52.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	11
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	971	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1400
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	317	Days Ahead:	88
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.06	LW/ha (Liveweight/ha):	707

