

# Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

21/11/16

- We had a great couple of weeks in terms of getting the last few paddocks grazed off. The entire milking platform is now closed, with just the spring in-calf heifers & heifer calves still out grazing the replacement area. Rainfall for the past week just 5.1mm with a soil temp of 7.7°C average.
- The autumn herd finished up grazing last Friday (18<sup>th</sup> Nov), leaving a closing cover of 670kgs/dm/ha. The heaviest cover is coming in at ~1400kgs, which is fine – with the excellent grazing conditions for the last round all of the paddocks were well cleaned out with very little damage, this should benefit us in the spring
- Calving has slowed right up, we have 95% calved with the last few going to drag out for at least another 2, possibly 3 weeks, thankfully we had no serious calving difficulties & just the 2 mild cases of milk fever, so far.
- We still have 65% of the spring herd milking & their production has held up well on 1<sup>st</sup> cut silage plus 3kgs concentrate (spring herd housed fulltime on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov). We will probably dry off all the remaining spring herd in one batch ~ 30<sup>th</sup> November, as most of these will be due dry at that stage.
- Our silage results (see below) which we got back over the last couple of weeks, were a bit disappointing, we had been targeting a first cut of ~75 DMD, given that our cutting date was delayed from a target of 18<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> May, we expected that we'd come in around 72-73 DMD, results we're below this -coming in around 70 DMD for 1<sup>st</sup> cut, with second cut not far behind at 68-69. We have a good number of quality surplus silage bales (75+dmd), which we plan to keep & use next spring if necessary. Below is the planned winter diet for the autumn milking herd, which will see only minimal changes, based on intake & dm% of forages.

## Winter diet for autumn milking cows

|              | <u>Kgs/Dm</u><br><u>per cow</u> | Kgs per<br>cow As<br>fed |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Parlour Nut  | 6.0                             | 7.0                      |
| Maize Silage | 4.5                             | 16.0                     |
| Grass Silage | 9.0                             | 41                       |
| Coarse blend | 2.0                             | 2.3                      |
|              |                                 |                          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>21.5</b>                     | <b>66.3</b>              |
|              |                                 |                          |
|              |                                 |                          |

### First cut silage for winter milk herd

| Sample Receive Date: 27/10/2016 |              | Return Date: 27/10/2016 |        | Lab Reference: SE84183 |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------|------------------------|--|
| Item                            | Units        | Desirable Values        | Result | Status                 |  |
| Dry Matter                      | %            | 20 - 30                 | 27.6   | -                      |  |
| pH                              | -            | 4 - 4.7                 | 3.9    | Good                   |  |
| Ammonia N                       | % of Total N | < 10.1                  | 5.2    | Good                   |  |
| ASH                             | %            | < 8.6                   | 8.8    | Moderate               |  |
| NDF                             | %            | < 45.0                  | 49.50  | Moderate               |  |
| DMD                             | %            | > 68.9                  | 69.9   | Good                   |  |
| ME                              | MJ/kg        | > 9.8                   | 10.0   | Good                   |  |
| Crude Protein                   | %            | 13.5 - 17               | 13.5   | Good                   |  |

| Item             | Units                  | Normal Range | Result | Status |  |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|--|
| PDIN             | g/kg                   | 65 - 102     | 80     | A      |  |
| PDIE             | g/kg                   | 58 - 83      | 74     |        |  |
| PDLA             | g/kg                   | 16 - 37      | 25     |        |  |
| UFL              | per kg                 | .65 - .90    | 0.78   |        |  |
| UFV              | per kg                 | .59 - .89    | 0.74   |        |  |
| SFU              | per kg                 | 1.04 - 2.81  | 1.75   |        |  |
| LFU              | per kg                 | .95 - 1.89   | 1.38   |        |  |
| CFU              | per kg                 | .96 - 1.92   | 1.39   |        |  |
| DM Intake Cattle | g/kg W <sup>0.75</sup> | 70 - 130     | 96     |        |  |
| DM Intake Sheep  | g/kg W <sup>0.75</sup> | 60 - 140     | 88     |        |  |

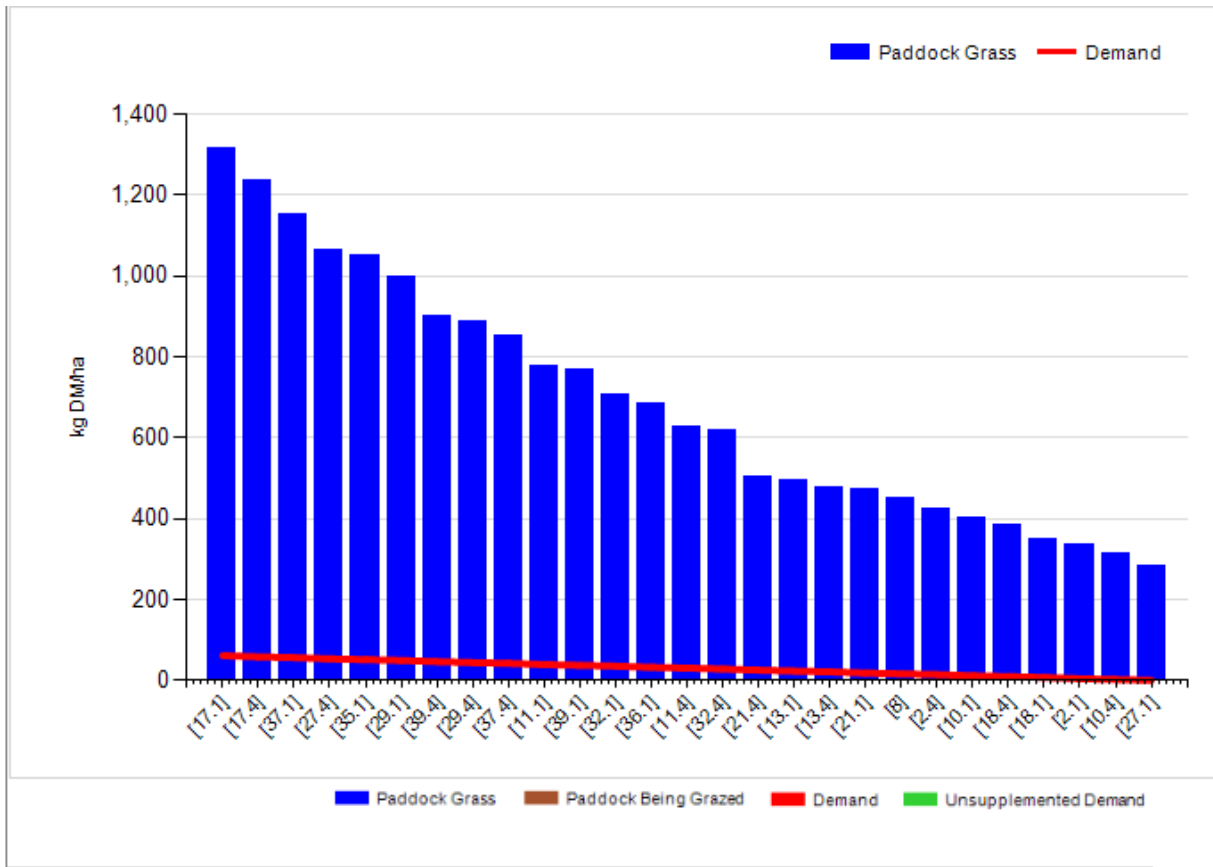
  

| PREDICTED PERFORMANCE<br>(silage ad lib no meals) |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>WITH GOOD MANAGEMENT</b>                       |     |
| Lactating Cows (Litres/Day)                       | 9.9 |
| Dry Cows (Kg/Day)                                 | 0.6 |

| SUPPLEMENTATION         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| Dairy Ration Protein %  | 20   |
| Kg/Day for 27 litres    | 7.5  |
| Beef Ration Protein %   | 14   |
| Kg/Day for 1Kg/day Gain | 5.53 |

### Closing Farm cover - 670kgs/ha



|                   | <b><i>This week (21/11/16)</i></b>      | <b>Autumn Calving Herd</b>                        | <b>Spring Calving Herd</b>             |
|-------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Production</b> | % of Herd Milking                       | 95%   | 65%                                    |
|                   | Milk Kg                                 | 26.3  | 13.6                                   |
|                   | Fat %                                   | 4.21  | 5.06                                   |
|                   | Protein %                               | 3.37  | 3.78                                   |
|                   | Milk Solids kg                          | 1.99  | 1.20                                   |
| <b>Intake</b>     | Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)      | 0   | 0                                      |
|                   | Silage kgs/dm/cow                       | 9   | 13                                     |
|                   | Maize silage kgs/dm/cow                 | 4.5   | 0                                      |
|                   | Concentrate in TMR – kgs/dm/cow         | 2   | 0                                      |
|                   | Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow          | 6.0   | 3                                      |
|                   |   |   |  |
| <b>Totals</b>     | <b><i>Lactation to date per cow</i></b> | Expected Mean calving date<br>8 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Mean calving date 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb |
|                   | Days in Milk                            | 41  | 277                                    |
|                   | Milk kg                                 | 1099  | 5700                                   |
|                   | Milk Solids kg                          | 88  | 434                                    |
|                   | Concentrate Fed                         | 193   | 468kgs                                 |
|                   |   |   |  |