

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

09/01/17

- The autumn herd continue to be well settled, with no health issues except a couple of mastitis cases. Milk yield is very good, milk solids % is a bit disappointing, but the good yield is still giving us 2.28kgs/ms/cow. Feed intake is high, with 22.5kgs/cow offered and intakes estimated at 21.5-22.0kg – very little refusals.
- We're just coming up on four weeks of the breeding season; our 3 week submission rate came in at 86%. All of the remaining cows which haven't yet been submitted were examined today & action taken to get these cycling. Two of our twenty maiden heifers did not respond to estrumate, which is a little unusual for us. We plan to let an Angus stock bull run with all the maiden heifers from next week for a 3 week period to pick up any repeats etc. ADG on the autumn maiden heifers was poor for the past month or so ~0.3kgs/day, but they're still averaging 380kgs, so remain on target. They have now moved onto 68DMD silage + 1.25kgs ration. For the past month they were getting some of the surplus bales made in September (which sampled good at ~73-74DMD).
- Total annual rainfall for Johnstown in 2016 was 996mm, which is a bit below our mean of 1060mm. Average soil temperature was 11.0°C, which is a good bit higher than the 30 year average of 10.1°C. After a very poor start to 2016, from May onwards conditions in general were quite good for grass growth & utilisation.
- We plan to go out with slurry on some of the lower cover paddocks next week (allowed to spread from Friday 13th); this is provided ground conditions are suitable, as there is no immediate need from capacity point of view. We have fertiliser in stock & are ready to go with a first application of this, possibly next week – we'll see how the weather is going.
- The spring herd (all dry) are on moderate quality 68DMD pit silage ad lib, this is adequate for 70% of the herd, we separated out the remaining 30% & are feeding the same silage + 1kg of ration, most of these cows are in the 2.75-3.0 B.CS and are not far off where we want them, but would like them to gain a little in the next 3-4 weeks. Planned start of calving for the spring herd is 2nd February.

Winter diet for autumn milking cows

	<u>Kgs/Dm</u> <u>per cow</u>	Kgs per cow As fed
Parlour Nut	6.0	7.0
Maize Silage	4.5	16.0
Grass Silage	9.0	41
Coarse blend	3.0	3.5
Total	22.5	67.5

	<i>This week (09/01/17)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	All Dry
	Milk Kg	30.3	
	Fat %	4.25	
	Protein %	3.33	
	Milk Solids kg	2.28	
Intake	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	3.0	0
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	6.0	0
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 10 th Oct	2016 Lactation Yield
	Days in Milk	91	288
	Milk kg	2413	5983
	Milk Solids kg	185	458
	Concentrate Fed	467 in parlor (538kg total)	528kgs