

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

20/02/17

- Despite a total rainfall for the past week of only 10.2mm grazing conditions have been very disappointing. The ground for the most part was just too soft for grazing, the murky drizzly weather resulted in no drying. We battled with getting the freshly calved spring cows out for on/off grazing, but even the benefits of this were marginal at best. We decided it was best to leave the autumn herd in until conditions improve, good drying today Monday, spring herd are out and hopefully we'll get out autumn herd tomorrow. On the positive side the milder weather saw a jump back up to 7.3°C average soil temp but dry cold weather would be preferable for us.
- We would have a target of ~20% of the farm grazed off at this stage, but we're well behind this with only 10% grazed on the spring herd. The autumn herd are better at 14%.
- Calving is going ok, but we would have hoped to have a higher % calved within the first 3 weeks, target of 65% with an actual of 54%

	<i>This week (20/02/17)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	54%
	Milk Kg	27.9	
	Fat %	4.09	
	Protein %	3.41	
	Milk Solids kg	2.07	
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	6	5
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	5.5	5
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	2.5	0
	Concentrate in TMR – kgs/dm/cow	2.0	0
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	6.0	4
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 10 th Oct	Expected mean calving date 27 th February
	Days in Milk	133	
	Milk kg	3607	
	Milk Solids kg	274	
	Concentrate Fed	719kg in parlour (860kg total)	

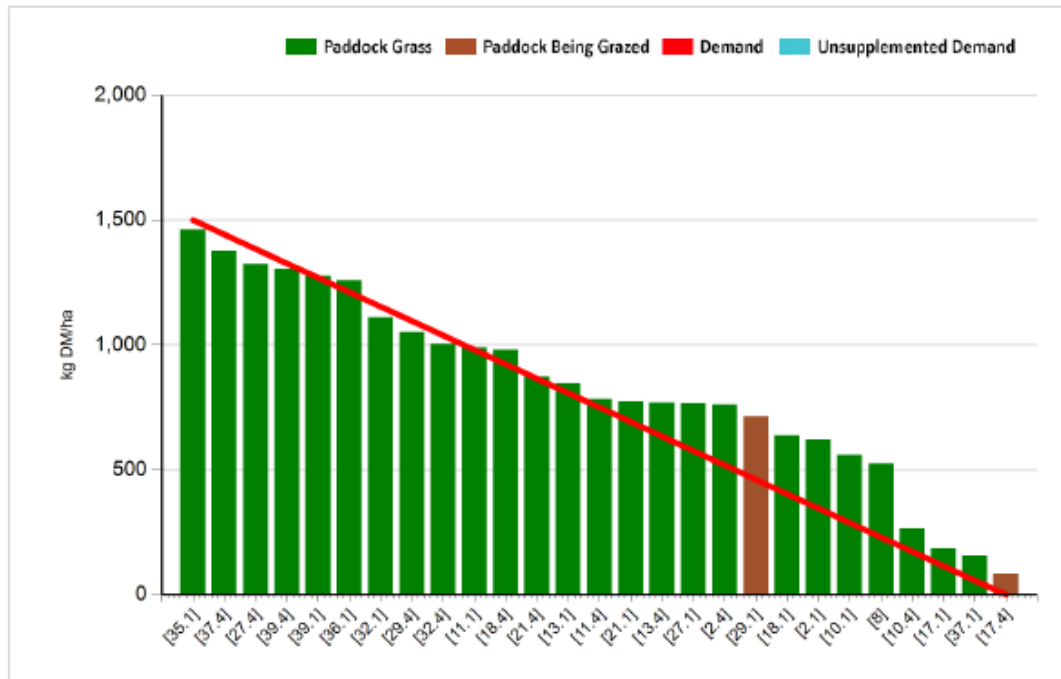
Autumn herd - grass wedge

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	110	Residual Height (cm):	4
Target pre-gaze (kg DM/ha):	1500		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	843.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	290.00	LU / ha:	2.91
Growth / Ha (kg DM/ha/day):	7.00	Measured:	27 (20.61 Ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	15.00	Reseeded:	0 (0.00 Ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	300.00	Silage:	0 (0.00 Ha)
Days ahead:	56.00		
Kg LWT / Ha:	0.00		





**Spring herd - plot 9 - 17/2
PGY 1150, post height 4.6
Messy underfoot after just 2hrs grazing**



**Spring herd plot 9, 20/2
PGY 1150, post height 4.7
Better grazing conditions**