

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

20/03/17

- The few fine days during the middle of last week made a huge difference to ground trafficability, and thankfully we escaped much of the heavy rain over Patrick's weekend - getting just 9.4mm rain & a soil temperature of 9.8°C. With the good forecast for the coming weekend grazing conditions should hold reasonably ok, if we can get over the cold snap of the next couple of days. All milking groups are grazing fulltime, we brought them in late at night for a couple of nights in anticipation of rain, but we'd probably have gotten away with leaving them out. Ground is still just about ok, despite not getting a lot of rain.
- Moving through grazing ground reasonably well with the autumn herd having 63% grazed, target would have been 70%, we'll maintain concentrate levels at 4-5ks with this group for another week at least, demand is high. When we're happy we have enough grass to stay out fulltime, we'll look at reducing concentrate.
- Not getting through grass as quickly on the spring herd (under 50% grazed), the virtual stop in calving with the final third of this group certainly has not helped in this regard. At this stage we plan not to graze approx. 20% of the spring farm, which has covers between 2000-2500kgs/dm/ha, the plan would be to take an April silage cut on this & return it back to the grazing area – we have this flexibility when all paddocks can be grazed/cut. Plan to drop back concentrate to 2kgs with the spring cows over the next week if conditions are good.
- Replacement heifers are back out grazing since 15/03/17, we plan to get calves out before the weekend, we haven't a lot of area grazed on this section of the farm (heavy ground), and as a result I expect we won't be grazing silage ground on this area either.
- All of the cow paddocks received their second round application of 35Kgs/N/ha over the last week (planned for 1st week of March).
- Sires for spring AI have been provisionally selected & will be ordered this week – see below.

The following is the output of Sire Advice program for your herd.

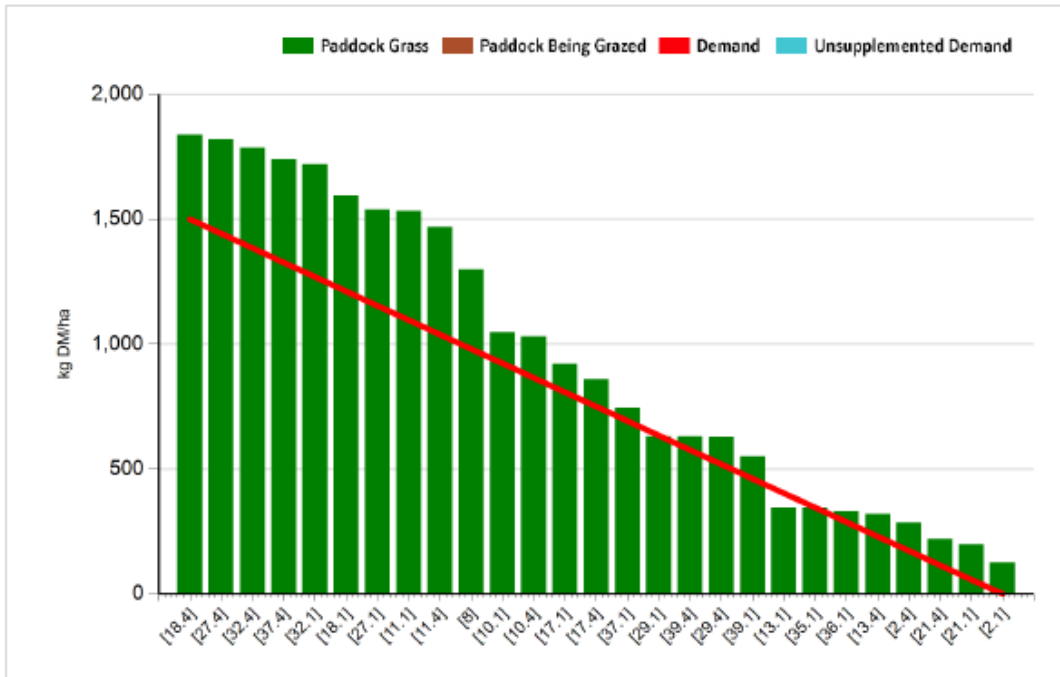
	EBI(€)	EBI Sub Index							PTA's						CI days	SU %
		Milk (€)	Fert (€)	Calv (€)	Beef (€)	Maint (€)	Mmgt (€)	Hlth (€)	M Kg	F Kg	P Kg	F+P Kg	F %	P %		
All Cows in Herd	114	34	50	31	-6	0	2	2	44	7.2	4.6	11.8	0.10	0.06	-2.5	1.6
Predicted 2018 Calves	210	65	104	38	-10	6	2	3	109	13.0	9.2	22.3	0.15	0.10	-5.0	3.5
Bulls Weighted Averages	306	96	159	46	-13	12	3	4	173	18.9	13.9	32.7	0.20	0.14	-7.5	5.4

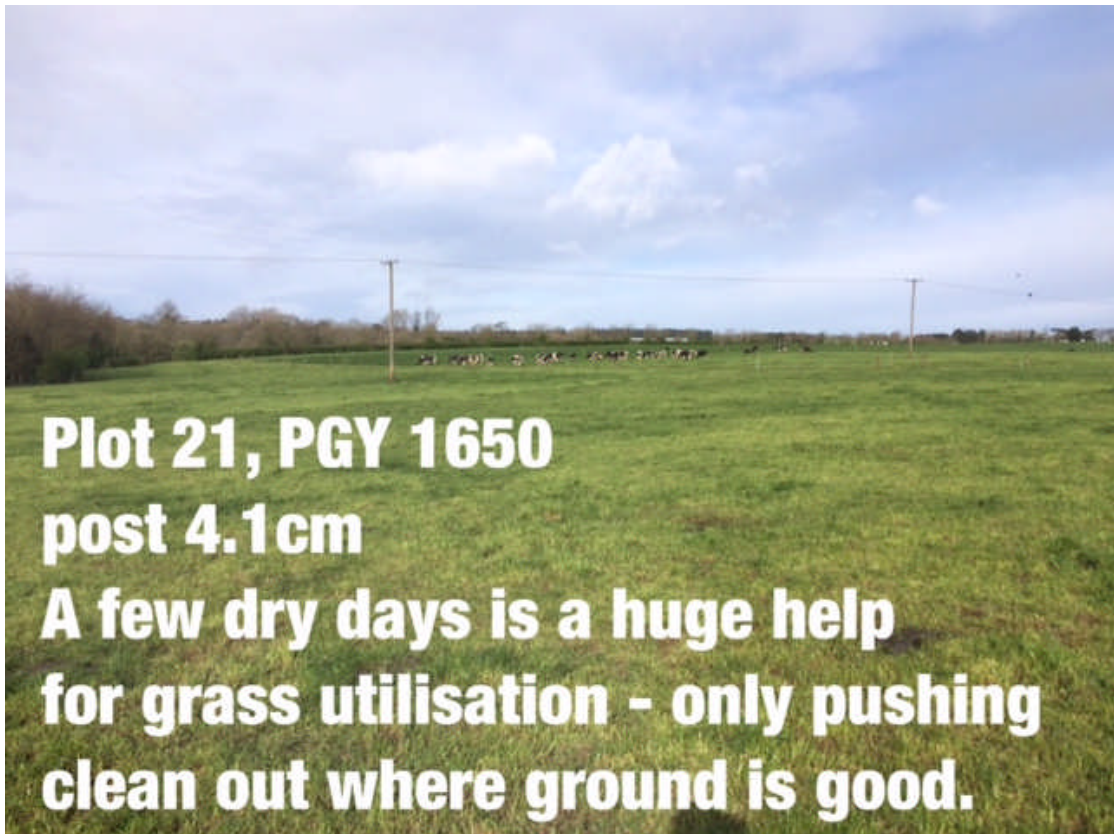
	<i>This week (20/03/17)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	63%
	Milk Kg	25.8	29.5
	Fat %	4.15	4.10
	Protein %	3.47	3.23
	Milk Solids kg	1.96	2.12
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	16	13
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Concentrate in TMR – kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	5	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	161	41
	Milk kg	4344	1002
	Milk Solids kg	329	73
	Concentrate Fed	863kg in parlour (1050kg total)	139

Autumn herd - grass wedge 20/03/17

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	933.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	321.00	LU / ha:	2.91
Growth / Ha (kg DM/ha/day):	26.00	Measured:	27 (20.61 Ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	44.00	Reseeded:	0 (0.00 Ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	900.00	Silage:	0 (0.00 Ha)
Days ahead:	21.00		
Kg LWT / Ha:	0.00		





Plot 21, PGY 1650

post 4.1cm

**A few dry days is a huge help
for grass utilisation - only pushing
clean out where ground is good.**



Plots 8 & 11

PGY 1450

35kgsN 16/3

Cows happy out grazing