

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 24/04/17

- We've had great grazing conditions for all of April, with practically no rain, we haven't got any explosion of growth yet, but with the good weather, utilisation is good and cows are content. Soil temperatures still recorded a surprisingly high 12.5°C. With the forecast for this week I don't expect any burst in growth just yet.
- All cows are now on 2kgs concentrate per head of 14% grazing nut -UFL .95. We had hoped to have more area closed up for silage this week, but with growth rates still hanging around the 35kgs mark and with a demand of nearer 70kgs we will have to graze some area initially planned for silage & keep overall SR ~3.75 for now.
- Breeding has started today on the spring herd. We scanned the autumn cows yesterday and we're reasonably happy with results – 11% empty rate overall, have yet to work out expected 6 week calving rate etc. We had a couple of heifers show up empty which is disappointing given that they were in great order for bulling (only a 7 week breeding season with heifers)
- We hope to take an early cut of 1st cut silage on some of the farm –as soon as possible - probably next week now given the forecast, this includes some area not grazed in the spring & a couple of paddocks grazed early & which got too heavy for the second round grazing.

	<i>This week (24/04/17)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	100%
	Milk Kg	24.4	27.5
	Fat %	4.11	4.11
	Protein %	3.88	3.56
	Milk Solids kg	1.93	2.16
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	18	16
	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	2	2
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 10 th Oct	Mean calving date 7 th March
	Days in Milk	196	48
	Milk kg	5214	1390
	Milk Solids kg	397	104
	Concentrate Fed	976kg in parlour (1158kg total)	165

Pasture cover 24.04.17

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	20	Residual Height (cm)	4
Target pre-gaze (kg DM/ha):	1415	Estimation Method:	Visual Assessment - Available

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	705.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	179.00	LU / ha:	3.93
Growth / Ha (kg DM/ha/day):	31.00	Measured:	27 (20.61 Ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	71.00	Reseeded:	0 (0.00 Ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	1080.00	Silage:	6 (4.59 Ha)
Days ahead:	10.00		
Kg LWT / Ha:	0.00		

