

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 08/05/17

- Super grazing conditions, but grass growth is well behind what we'd hope; this is due to the lack of rain & the harsh easterly breeze. Total rainfall for the month of April was just 17.5mm along with no rainfall recorded for May as yet. Average soil temperatures for the past week were 12.2°C. We are happy with the performance of both autumn & spring herds at present; cows seem content and are utilising grass well. We're pre-mowing one plot on the spring herd as its gone strong (~2000kgs) but we still need it as covers coming ahead are slow.
- In order to address the lower than anticipated growth rates, we are still grazing at a lower overall stocking rate on the autumn herd (smaller amount of silage area closed) we may have to look at introducing supplementation this week.
- We harvested an early cut of silage last Friday in ideal weather conditions. This yielded well, given the early cutting date ~5T/dm/ha. Slurry is going out on this area today. This area had been targeted for early silage and was not heavily fertilised although it was still leafy & green.
- Breeding in the spring herd is going well, with all heifers having been submitted for service and ~56% of the cows. The higher than usual % of late calvers is going to affect overall submission rate.

	<i>This week (08/05/17)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	100%
	Milk Kg	25.6	28.1
	Fat %	4.22	3.88
	Protein %	3.91	3.33
	Milk Solids kg	2.06	2.03
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	17	17
	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	210	62
	Milk kg	5561	1599
	Milk Solids kg	425	119
	Concentrate Fed	1005kg in parlour (1187kg total)	172

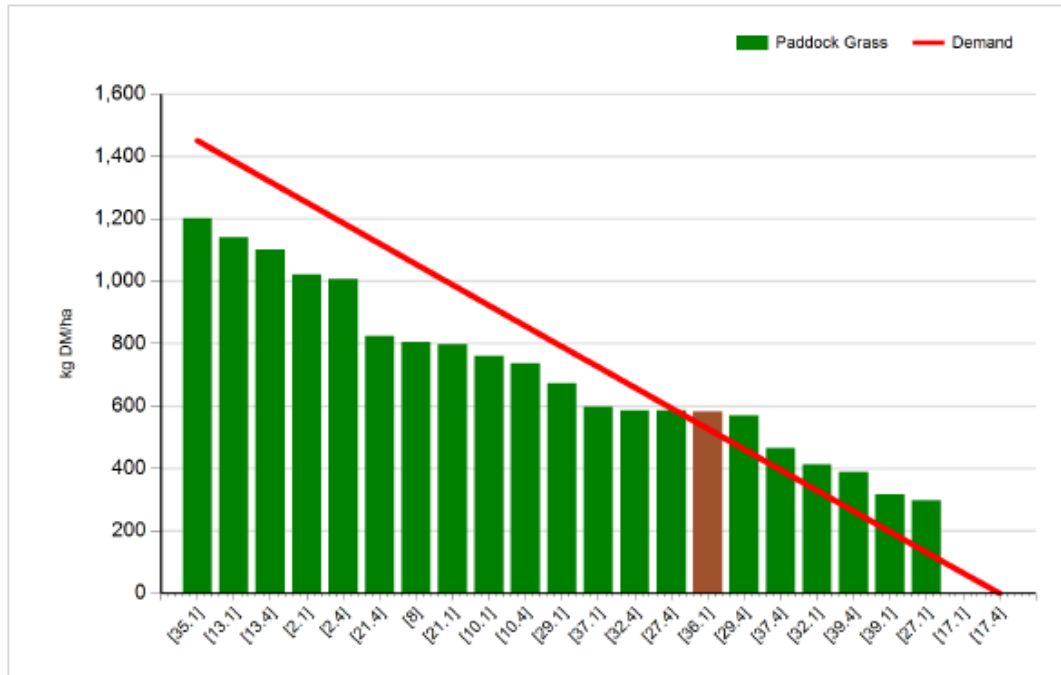
Pasture cover 08.05.17

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	22	Residual Height (cm)	4
Target pre-gaze (kg DM/ha):	1450	Estimation Method:	Visual Assessment - Available

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	662.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	192.00	LU / ha:	3.44
Growth / Ha (kg DM/ha/day):	44.00	Measured:	27 (20.61 Ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	59.00	Reseeded:	0 (0.00 Ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	1020.00	Silage:	4 (3.19 Ha)
Days ahead:	11.00		
Kg LWT / Ha:	0.00		





**Plot 38, Not grazed this spring
5,180kgs/fm. Cut 4th May**



**Autumn herd
Plot 39, PGY 1380kgs
Cows grazing out well
24-36hr allocations**



Spring herd

Plot 15. 2000kgs/fm

Grass pre-mowed each morning

Grazed after evening milking