

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 31/07/17

- Last week's rainfall was 23.3mm, with an average soil temp of 17.7°C, this is keeping growth rates just about ok at ~45kgs/day but with over half the herd being dried off this morning, I expect we'll be running into surplus & taking out silage on the autumn herd over the next few weeks. We spread a round of fertiliser last week (25kgs/N/ha), and we plan a further two applications for the remainder of this year ~20th August & ~10th September.
- 58% of the autumn herd have been dried off today, the remainder will be dried off in late August. The cows being dried were averaging 17.6L milk a week ago but we've dropped that down to a daily average of 9.5L by restricting grass intakes, grazing behind the milkers & removing all concentrate (cows still milked twice/day as normal). This routine involves an extra group of milking cows for the week prior to drying off, but we have very little trouble with cows leaking milk/"bagging up" after drying and feel it's worth the effort. Cows who've been below 100K on scc throughout the year get a sealer only, cows who've tested >100K, at any stage in the past 6 months get Dry cow tube & sealer.
- One of our spring calved cows served in early May was seen bulling last week after we noticed a small 'string' & discharge the previous day, this coupled with another 9 week repeat is concerning. I've heard of other farmers with similar issues this year, we'll try investigate further in conjunction with our vet.

	<i>This week (31/07/17)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	42%	100%
	Milk Kg	20.2	24.8
	Fat %	4.48	3.84
	Protein %	3.97	3.47
	Milk Solids kg	1.70	1.81
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	16	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	294	146
	Milk kg	7261	3857
	Milk Solids kg	565	274
	Concentrate Fed	1176kg in parlour (1347kg total)	358

Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms	Cover Date: 27/07/2017
Farm: Johnstown Dairy	Treatment: Autumn

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	21	Residual Height (cm)	4
Target pre-gaze (kg DM/ha):	1400	Estimation Method:	Visual Assessment - Available

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	729.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	234.00	LU / ha:	3.12
Growth / Ha (kg DM/ha/day):	45.00	Measured:	27 (20.61 Ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	44.00	Reseeded:	0 (0.00 Ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	845.00	Silage:	2 (1.36 Ha)
Days ahead:	17.00		
Kg LWT / Ha:	1091.00		

