

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 03/10/17

- The weather has been very disagreeable over the past few weeks, September was our highest rainfall month this year so far with a monthly rainfall total of 161mm. Ground conditions over the past week were very soft & we had to re-adjust some of our plans accordingly.
- The springing cows on the calving paddock were housed & let out to graze 3-4kgs of the stemmy grass for a few hours by day (their back out in the paddock fulltime since yesterday), the mob of dry cows which would normally follow the freshly calved milkers are grazing high pre-grazing covers independently, with the fresh milkers grazing paddocks which had surplus silage removed in late August -12 hour allocations. Ground conditions are just too wet to have dry cows following milking herd. We housed the milking cows for 4 nights late last week, due to saturated ground. Conditions have improved greatly in the last couple of days.
- With good growing conditions & a reduced demand last week, due to being housed, covers have increased. We are above our target & we'd much prefer to have less grass on the farm. Pre-grazing yields are in excess of 2,000kgs/dm/ha, quality is still good, as all the paddocks would have been well cleaned out in the previous round, but it's still difficult to get a good clean-out especially in the wet weather. We might skip one or two heavy paddocks & consider taking out for silage.
- The autumn calving season is well under way, with 54% of the autumn herd calved since starting two weeks ago, no issues so far, one cut teat when the cows were in the cubicles & one cow with a mild case of milk fever, calves are very lively & going well so far. The remaining 46% will drag out till December!

	<i>This week (03/10/17)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	54%	100%
	Milk Kg		16.3
	Fat %		4.48
	Protein %		3.90
	Milk Solids kg		1.35
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	13	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 7 th March
	Days in Milk		202
	Milk kg		5082
	Milk Solids kg		380
	Concentrate Fed		423



Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms	Cover Date: 03/10/2017
Farm: Johnstown Dairy	Treatment: Autumn

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	38	Residual Height (cm)	5
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1800		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	1141.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	392.00	LU / ha:	2.91
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	19.00	Grazing Area:	27 (20.61 ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	38.00	Reseed:	0 (0.00 ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	784.00	Silage - Cut Later:	0 (0.00 ha)
Days ahead:	30.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0 (0.00 ha)
Kg LWT / ha:	815.00	Other:	0 (0.00 ha)

