

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 16/10/17

- Thankfully we escaped without any structural damage last Monday, with just a few trees down on electric fence wires etc. The weather coming this weekend will cause a lot more difficulties in terms of grazing. Ground conditions have been ok for the last week, but with very heavy rainfall forecast we will be housing by night for the coming weekend, I expect. Total monthly rainfall for October so far has was just 27mm.
- In some paddocks clean out has not been as good as we would have liked, but it's a case of trying to clean out as well as possible, where possible, whilst making sure not to do any long term damage. Ground conditions are quite soft, given the low level of rainfall. The plan over the next week or so, will be to try & graze some of the lighter covers (1200-1400) on the drier paddocks and to try ensure we stay on target of getting greater than 65% grazed by the end of October (currently 42% on the autumn herd). As has been the case for most of this autumn, the dry cows are grazing separate to the milking herd, normally they'd be following the milkers, but conditions didn't allow for this. Were staying on 12 hour allocations form here on.
- Our maize was ensiled this week, quality looks to be reasonably good, we'll be getting both the maize & grass silages analysed within the next few weeks. If cows are housed by night over the weekend they'll be on the surplus bales of quality silage. Pit silage & winter diet won't start until were definitely housed – end Oct?
- We have two paddocks on wettish ground with a heavy cover, which I'm not sure what we'll do with yet, we had planned on skipping them & taking out for silage, but weather didn't allow, our wedge would look a lot different with those sorted, if conditions allowed, they could be grazed with the remaining dry cows.

	<i>This week (16/10/17)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	73%	100%
	Milk Kg	25.6	16.8
	Fat %	5.02	4.55
	Protein %	3.66	3.58
	Milk Solids kg	2.24	1.35
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	12	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	5	2
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>		Mean calving date 7 th March
	Days in Milk	18	216
	Milk kg	440	5314
	Milk Solids kg	38	403
	Concentrate Fed	82	451

Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms	Cover Date: 17/10/2017
Farm: Johnstown Dairy	Treatment: Autumn

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	40	Residual Height (cm)	5
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1500		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	1025.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	352.00	LU / ha:	2.91
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	26.00	Grazing Area:	27 (20.61 ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	39.00	Reseed:	0 (0.00 ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	806.00	Silage - Cut Later:	0 (0.00 ha)
Days ahead:	26.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0 (0.00 ha)
Kg LWT / ha:	495.00	Other:	0 (0.00 ha)

