

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 30/10/17

- Conditions for the past week or so have been very good for the time of year, rainfall for the past week was just 12.2mm (53mm total for the month of October). We are back out fulltime (housed by night for 6/7 nights in mid October due to weather/ground conditions), with grass being the only forage in the diet. We're still going with 12 hour allocations, pasture cleanout has improved as the ground conditions improved, hopefully another week of full grazing should see us with close to 80% of the farm closed up, at that stage we'd be happy to go in by night and graze by day for another week or two up to 20th Nov.
- Our target area closed by today the 31st was 66%, the autumn herd are a bit behind this with 60% grazed, with the other herds on target. The one paddock with a very heavy cover of grass (~2400kgs/dm/ha) is being grazed by the remaining dry cows. We have a lot of grass on the autumn farm – a combination of good growth rates & reduced demand when cows were housed by night, so we have to try get as much grass as possible into them over the next two weeks.
- Calving has slowed right down, 20% remaining and these will drag out until late November/Early December.
- Our autumn replacement weanlings are housed, getting good quality baled silage ad-lib along with 1kg beef rearer nut, surplus stock will be sold off, the group we're keeping and which will be served in mid-December are averaging 340kgs. Spring in-calf heifers and spring born replacements will remain out for another few weeks - weather permitting.

	<i>This week (30/10/17)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	80%	96%
	Milk Kg	24.5	15.4
	Fat %	5.06	4.61
	Protein %	3.43	3.80
	Milk Solids kg	2.08	1.28
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	14	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	2.5
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>		Mean calving date 7 th March
	Days in Milk	30	230
	Milk kg	760	5527
	Milk Solids kg	65	417
	Concentrate Fed	142	490

Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms	Cover Date: 31/10/2017
Farm: Johnstown Dairy	Treatment: Autumn

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	40	Residual Height (cm)	5
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1600		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	971.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	334.00	LU / ha:	2.91
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	23.00	Grazing Area:	27 (20.61 ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	39.00	Reseed:	0 (0.00 ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	814.00	Silage - Cut Later:	0 (0.00 ha)
Days ahead:	25.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0 (0.00 ha)
Kg LWT / ha:	378.00	Other:	0 (0.00 ha)

