

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 12/03/18

- Last week's rainfall total was 37.0mm with a soil temp of 5.3°C, this follows on from "the beast from the East", where we had snow/rainfall of 70mm over the first four days of March. Incredibly the average 10cm soil temperature for 2018 so far is just 4.6°C, so it's not surprising then that growth rates over the past couple of weeks are as good as zero. Most paddocks are saturated after the rain over the weekend, but a couple of mild days since has seen some signs of growth.
- We will be revising our spring rotation plan – pushing out end of the first round to around mid-April. We had a great week of grazing prior to the storm and were pretty much on target with 30% grazed to end of February, however the autumn herd have not gone to grass in March yet due to ground conditions, our farm cover is on the critical level of ~500kgs/ha and we're not getting anything coming back on the grazed paddocks.
- 85% of the spring herd are calved, the remaining 15% are in calf to the beef stock bulls and will dribble along for another 4 weeks or so, calving has been going well, couple of mild cases of milk fever and a few assisted calving to biggish Friesian bull calves but generally hassle free.
- Both autumn & spring herds took a bit of a knock during the storm/snow, between cows being milked once/day for a couple of days, snow in cubicles, switch back to full indoor diet & freezing water troughs it was a stressful time on them, we had a couple of cases of mastitis & milk solids have taken a hit but otherwise they managed ok and thankfully we had no structural damage, unlike many farmers in the Wexford area.

	<i>This week (12/03/18)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	85%
	Milk Kg	23.2	22.9
	Fat %	4.35	4.09
	Protein %	3.42	3.18
	Milk Solids kg	1.79	1.67
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	Cows in since 1 st March – struggled to find dry paddocks with grass, that weren't snow covered	0kgs or up to 6kgs some days, when conditions allow)
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	9.5	9kgs or back to ~4.0
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	3.5	
	Concentrate in TMR – kgs/dm/cow	2.5	
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	5	4
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 11 th October	Mean calving date 25 th Feb 2018?
	Days in Milk	151	15
	Milk kg	4057	594
	Milk Solids kg	320	44
	Concentrate Fed	864 in parlour (1200 in total)	96

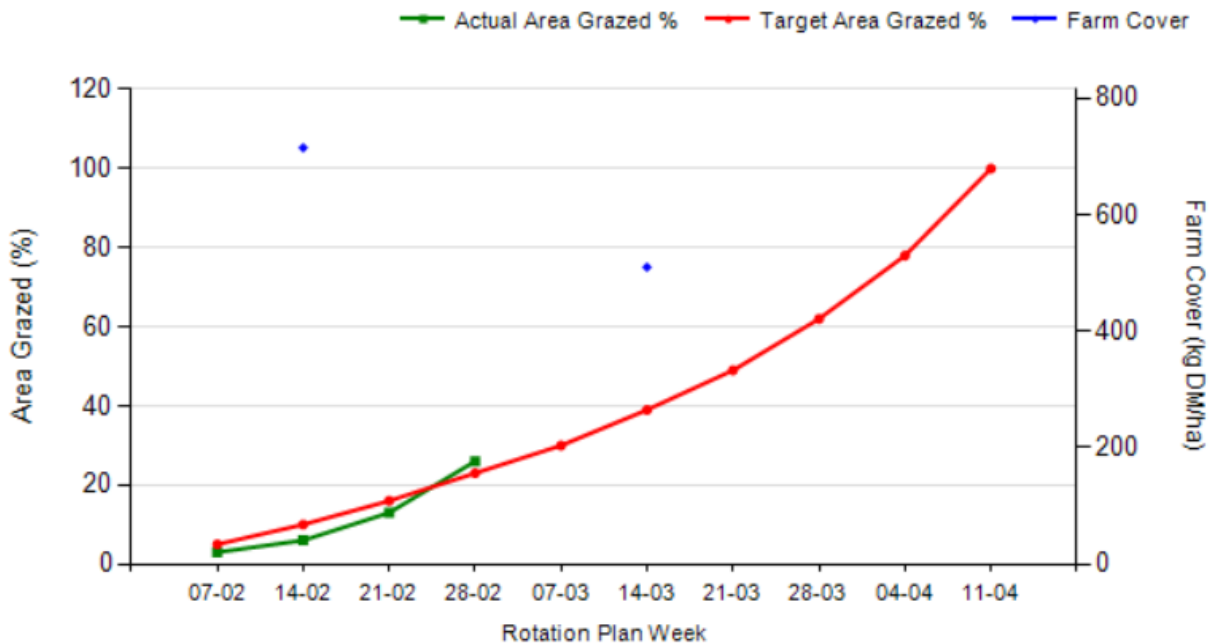
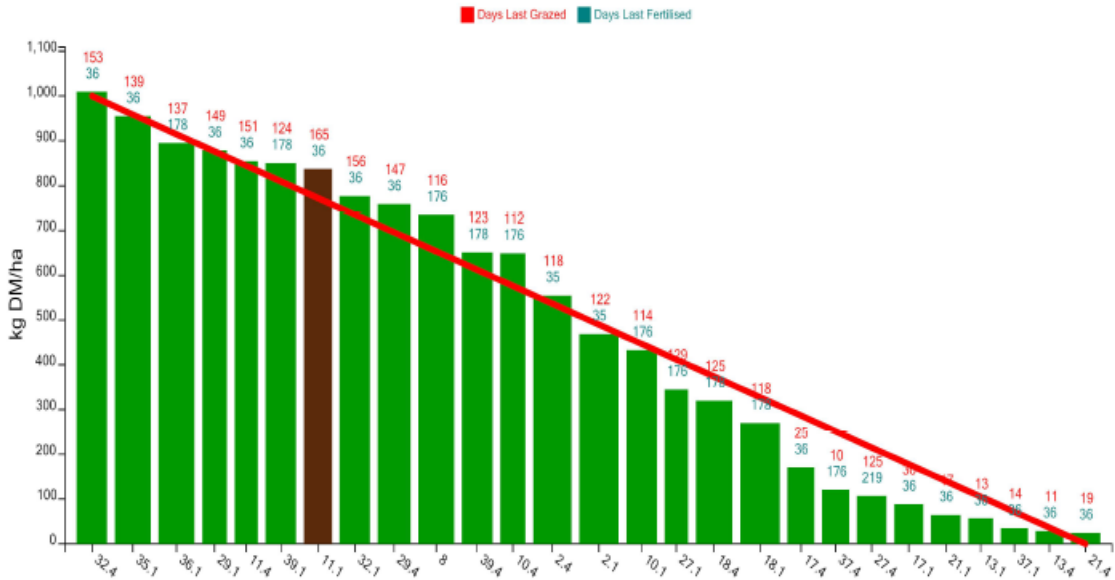
Cover Date: 08/03/2018	
Farm: Johnstown Dairy	Treatment: Autumn

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	60	Residual Height (cm)	4
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1000		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	489.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	168.00	LU / ha:	2.91
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	2.00	Grazing Area:	27 (20.61 ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	15.00	Reseed:	0 (0.00 ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	300.00	Silage - Cut Later:	0 (0.00 ha)
Days ahead:	33.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0 (0.00 ha)
Kg LWT / ha:	0.00	Other:	0 (0.00 ha)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	130





**Spring cows back out grazing
a "dry" paddock where the snow
didn't land 8/3/18**



**Same plot 13/3/18
Snow gone & the couple of
mild days has brought the
green shoots of recovery.
Ground saturated though.**