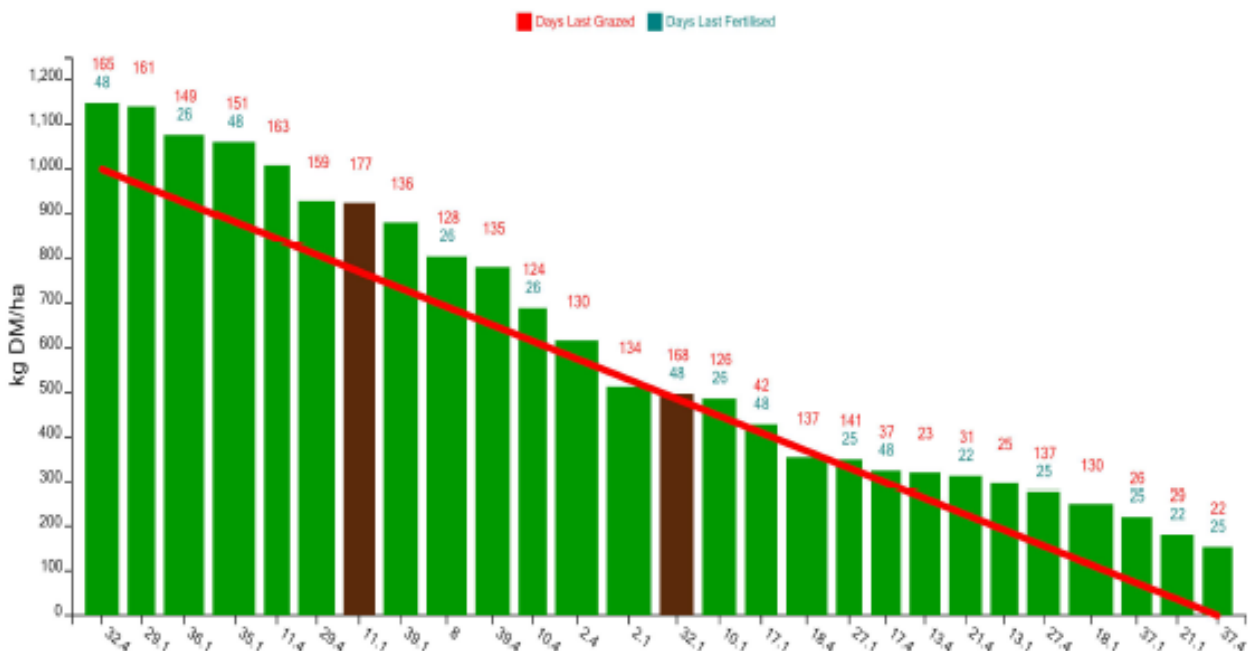


Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 26/03/18

- Last week's rainfall total was 20.4mm with a soil temp of 5.5°C, monthly figures for March so far are 154mm rain with an average soil temp of 4.9°C. It's been the most difficult spring we've encountered for a long number of years in Johnstown, with slow growth/cold weather combined with wet grazing conditions for all of the grazing season so far. Thankfully we have adequate silage stocks (maize silage finished over the weekend) and we managed to spread some slurry after grazing last week which has taken the pressure off.
- As mentioned previously our planned end of the first rotation has been pushed back to somewhere between 15-20th April. This is primarily due to the very slow recovery on grazed paddocks & the fact that we still have only ~50% of the farm grazed. Overall farm cover is critically low at 560kgs/ha, but we plan to keep grazing as some of the better growth (small & all that it is) is coming off paddocks that have been grazed and are greening up.
- 90% of the spring herd are calved, the remaining 10% are starting to spring up & hopefully should all be calved within the next 2-3 weeks. Herd health remains good in general, a couple of mastitis issues & a couple of cows lame. Production is taking a significant hit on the spring herd, especially in terms of milk solids, this is not unexpected given the generally low level of grass & poorer winter diet compared to autumn herd.
- Only a few weeks away from breeding season! – sires are being selected & will be ordered this week. All the farm has received its second round of fertilizer over the past week - 50kgs/N/ha as we're 3 weeks behind the planned application date, the first round spread in late January definitely helped to maintain grass & keep a healthy green colour, but obviously response in terms of yield was low

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	598.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	205.00	LU / ha:	2.91
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	11.00	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:	40.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0 (0.00 ha)
Kg LWT / ha:	0.00	Other:	0 (0.00 ha)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	



	<i>This week (26/03/18)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	90%
	Milk Kg	23.0	25.1
	Fat %	4.76	3.97
	Protein %	3.65	3.08
	Milk Solids kg	1.92	1.77
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	Cows getting out most days for one grazing bout (6kgs) & on good days we'll get a second grazing in the PM	Cows getting out most days for one grazing bout (6kgs) & on good days we'll get a second grazing in the PM
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	6.0	Anywhere from 12kgs, back to ~4.0 on good days
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	3.0	
	Concentrate in TMR – kgs/dm/cow	2.5	
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	5	6
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 11 th October	Mean calving date 25 th Feb 2018?
	Days in Milk	165	31
	Milk kg	4380	931
	Milk Solids kg	347	67
	Concentrate Fed	945 in parlour (1345 in total)	177

Comparison Chart

