

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 07/08/18

- Over the 5 day period 27th – 31st July we received a very welcome 47mm of rain, with a further 5mm in the last week, this was greater than many parts of the country and has really turned things around, soil moisture deficits are back to ~52mm. Grass has really recovered well & most of the farm would have covers of between 700-1000kgs at this stage, hopefully more rainfall later this week will keep things moving.
- That was the good news – the bad news for us is that we've only grown ~ 7T of grass DM/Ha so far this year, which is back from 9.8T for same period in 2017 – that's ~ 200T of a DM deficit on the 70ha farm. This is a huge hole to fill & regardless of conditions for the next few months I can't see us making that up. A number of measures will have to be taken to close the deficit, 1)we plan to sell some surplus breeding stock (excellent fertility results in the autumn herd left us with surplus cows due to calve down this autumn, spring cows will be scanned soon & we'll be looking to sell empty culls early, 2)we have sourced some additional straw which will give us the option of feeding to dry cows along with ration, 3)we'll be pushing the grass as hard as possible for the coming months in the hope of making as many 'surplus bales'/third cut as we can, 4)we plan to keep feeding the milking cows (4-5 kgs?) concentrate thereby reducing grass demand and increasing potential for surplus grass, 5)looking into the possibility of getting tillage farmer to grow a short-term crop of ryegrass. None of these are very palatable options and will be financially challenging, of a normal year we would not be going down this route, but this is not a normal year!
- Silage is out of the diet since Monday (except for the recently dried off cows), as mentioned above we plan to keep feeding a high level of concentrate for at least the next month & try to build grass.

| | <i>This week (07/08/18)</i> | Autumn Calving Herd | Spring Calving Herd |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| Production | % of Herd Milking | 30% | 100% |
| | Milk Kg | 20.5 | 24.3 |
| | Fat % | 4.90 | 4.20 |
| | Protein % | 3.88 | 3.67 |
| | Milk Solids kg | 1.80 | 1.75 |
| Intake | Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow | 13 kgs | 13kgs |
| | Silage kgs/dm/cow | | |
| | Maize silage kgs/dm/cow | | |
| | Concentrate in TMR – | | |
| | Parlour concentrate | 5kgs | 5kgs |
| Totals | <i>Lactation to date per cow</i> | Mean calving date 11 th October | Mean calving date 25 th Feb |
| | Days in Milk | 295 | 162 |
| | Milk kg | 7190 | 4269 |
| | Milk Solids kg | 577 | 315 |
| | Concentrate Fed | 1430 in parlor (1885total) | 745 |

"Autumn Herd" - grass wedge

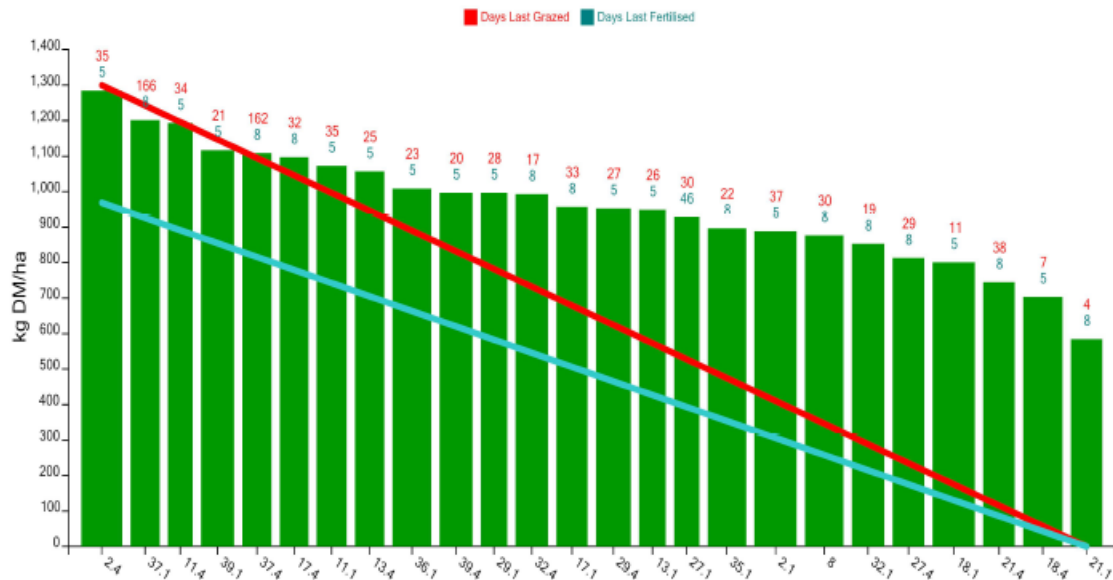
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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Farm: Johnstown Dairy | Cover Date: 07/08/2018 |
| Treatment: Autumn | |

Management Decisions

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|---------------------|---|
| Rotation Length (days): | 23 | Residual Cover (cm) | 4 |
| Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha): | 1300 | | |

Cover Parameters

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Farm Cover (kg DM/ha): | 957.00 | Total LU: | 60.00 |
| Cover / LU (kg DM/LU): | 307.00 | LU / ha: | 3.12 |
| Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day): | 42.00 | Grazing Area: | 19.22 ha (25) |
| Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day): | 24.00 | Reseed: | 0.00 ha (0) |
| Demand / day (kg DM/day): | 452.00 | Silage - Cut Later: | 1.39 ha (2) |
| Days ahead: | 40.00 | Silage - Cut Now: | 0.00 ha (0) |
| Kg LWT / ha: | 1280.00 | Other: | 0.00 ha (0) |
| | | Rotation Length Back (Days): | 45 |



Grass wedge for the autumn herd (demand dropping off with the high % dried off), the growth rate is the average for the past two weeks, last 7 days was probably closer to 80kgs, no real wedge of grass as all paddocks are coming strong from a very flat base, but this is a nice problem to have!

Figure 1 Early July when severe drought was beginning to take



hold

Figure 2 August 8th, Great response to the 50mm rainfall 10 days previous

