

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 17/09/18

- Total rainfall for the past 2 weeks was 36.0mm. Average soil temperatures over this period are coming in at 14.5°C, with Soil moisture deficits around 22, so grazing conditions are still excellent with no restriction on growth (except for the shortening days & lower soil temperatures). Growth for the past week has been good (~42kgs/dm/ha), with very good re-growths on paddocks grazed in the past week.
- Calving on the autumn herd is just beginning with 4 calving over the weekend (expected start of calving 22/09/18), similar to previous years, cows/heifers within 10-14 days of calving join a group in the “calving paddock”. This year we don’t have any poorer quality stemmy silage so the diet in the calving paddock consists of 4kgs stemmy grass (>3,000 kgs/dm/ha strip grazed daily), approx. 5kgs straw in a ring feeder (fed ad lib) along with 2.5kgs of a coarse ration which is used to carry pre-calver as well as balancing the high straw content.
- We will apply our last round of Nitrogen next week (25kgs/N/ha), obviously of a normal year we’d be finished by mid-September, but with the deadline extended & a big demand on forage we’ll be going with a final round next week with the hope of getting at least 10kgs grass/Kg of N response.
- Spring cows continue to perform well, they remain on 3ks concentrate, as we’re still building autumn cover & winter forage supplies are tight.

| | <i>This week (17/09/18)</i> | Autumn Calving Herd | Spring Calving Herd |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| Production | % of Herd Milking | 6% | 100% |
| | Milk Kg | | 21.7 |
| | Fat % | | 4.77 |
| | Protein % | | 3.79 |
| | Milk Solids kg | | 1.85 |
| Intake | Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow | 15 kgs | 15kgs |
| | Silage kgs/dm/cow | | |
| | Maize silage kgs/dm/cow | | |
| | Concentrate in TMR – | | |
| | Parlour concentrate | | 3kgs |
| Totals | <i>Lactation to date per cow</i> | Mean calving date 11 th October | Mean calving date 25 th Feb |
| | Days in Milk | 301 | 204 |
| | Milk kg | 7280 | 5218 |
| | Milk Solids kg | 585 | 392 |
| | Concentrate Fed | 1450 in parlor (1905total) | 922 |

"Autumn Herd" - grass wedge

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Cover Date: 17/09/2018 | |
| Farm: Johnstown Dairy | Treatment: Autumn |

Management Decisions

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|---------------------|---|
| Rotation Length (days): | 32 | Residual Cover (cm) | 4 |
| Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha): | 1450 | | |

Cover Parameters

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Farm Cover (kg DM/ha): | 828.00 | Total LU: | 60.00 |
| Cover / LU (kg DM/LU): | 265.00 | LU / ha: | 3.12 |
| Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day): | 41(39) | Grazing Area: | 19.22 ha (25) |
| Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day): | 43.00 | Reseed: | 0.00 ha (0) |
| Demand / day (kg DM/day): | 832.00 | Silage - Cut Later: | 0.00 ha (0) |
| Days ahead: | 19.00 | Silage - Cut Now: | 0.00 ha (0) |
| Kg LWT / ha: | 1748.00 | Other: | 1.39 ha (2) |
| | | Rotation Length Back (Days): | 34 |

