

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd

Weekly Management Notes - 12/02/19

- We had some heavy bouts of rain in the past week, but overall conditions are still very good for the time of year. 22.2mm for last 7 days with average soil temperatures of 5.8°C. We were grazing by day last week, with the autumn herd being held in on the couple of wet days as we're well ahead of target area grazed with these. The spring herd started grazing last week (by day only), we plan to let them out after evening milking this week to get a second grazing bout, they'll come in around 20.00-21.00 and have access to a very small amount of silage (1-2kgs/dm/hd). We'll see what conditions are like, with the good forecast we may be able to leave them out all night later in the week. Very poor growth rates over the past two weeks (low single figures), we lost grass in some paddocks, the few night heavy frost hit the grass harder than I thought.
- All paddocks have received their first round of fertiliser at this stage – some in the form of slurry, the remainder artificial N. We hope to follow the cows with an application of slurry on the grazed paddocks, provided ground conditions allow, we've spread any of the lower cover paddocks already & prefer to leave the remainder till after grazing as there's nice covers of grass on them.
- We're well into the spring calving 42% calved with an E.C.D of 5th Feb, we had two unexplained still births last week, but otherwise all going well with no problems. We would expect two thirds of the herd calved by the end of February, with the final third spread over March and early April. Numbers in our spring herd are small with just 65 in total.
- The bulls will run with the autumn herd till the end of February, disappointingly we had 3 cows served by the bulls this week who all had last service dates in late December, activity overall seems quite enough, hopefully we won't get many more "6 week repeats".

	<i>This week (12/02/19)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	42%
	Milk Kg	27.7	
	Fat %	4.15	
	Protein %	3.58	
	Milk Solids kg	2.13	
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	7kgs	9 kgs
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	4.0 kgs	2 kgs
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	2.5 kgs	
	Concentrate in TMR –	2.8 kgs	
	Parlour concentrate	6.0 kgs	4 kgs
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 10 th October	Expected Mean calving date 24 th Feb
	Days in Milk	124	
	Milk kg	3496	
	Milk Solids kg	280	
	Concentrate Fed	732kg in parlour (982kgs total)	

