

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd Weekly Management Notes - 25/11/19

- Rainfall for the month of November so far has been 152mm, which is already well above average for the full month, rainfall for the year to date is 957mm, up until the autumn we had been well below on annual rainfall but the months of October & November have closed the gap - nearing our annual average of ~1060mm. Grazing for all groups finished up about a week ago, we would have liked to have kept our lower stocked autumn group & the spring herd grazing by day for a bit longer, but cows were only messing & getting very little benefit from grazing – hopefully we'll benefit more from this grass with a good spring. Cover on 25/11 is 770kgs/ha.
- Our autumn replacement weanlings, which will be served in mid-December were housed last week, these are a lovely even bunch of well grown heifers with an average weight of 370kgs, the lightest 340kgs & heaviest 410kgs, If they hold their own over the next few weeks during the housing transition period we'd be happy -our target bulling weight is 360kgs.
- Sires have been selected & ordered for the autumn breeding, similar criteria as previous years, minimum €100 fertility, with as high as possible kgs of milk solids – see summary of bulls weighted average – team of 10.
- Our spring replacement weanlings are still out at grass – we have plenty of grass for another 3 weeks, but due to ground conditions they'd be housed by now except their winter accommodation isn't ready just yet. Their wasting a certain amount of grass, but with the lighter animals there shouldn't be any permanent damage.
- The autumn herd are all calved at this stage, we're happy with how the season went with very few issues, a lot of cows seem to be cycling (tail-painting & recording heats for the next 3 weeks pre-breeding). Milk yield is back a couple of litres on same time last year, but is rising & cows are really only settling in on their full winter diet over the last week to 10 days. Silage & maize quality is good, we might need to increase ration by another bit, we'll see how they settle down over the next week.

	<i>This week (25/11/19)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	84%
	Milk Kg	26.4	15.3
	Fat %	4.56	4.20
	Protein %	3.43	3.69
	Milk Solids kg	2.11	1.21
Intake Estimates	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	5.0	8
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	9.0	7
	Concentrate in TMR –	4.25	2
	Parlour concentrate	2.55	1.60
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Expected Mean calving date 6 th October	Mean calving date 20 th Feb
	Days in Milk	50	275
	Milk kg	1218	6290
	Milk Solids kg	97	490
	Concentrate Fed	248 (224 in parlour)	895

2019 autumn bull team

	EBI(€)	EBI Sub Index							PTA's						CI days	SU %
		Milk (€)	Fert (€)	Calv (€)	Beef (€)	Maint (€)	Mmg (€)	Hlth (€)	M Kg	F Kg	P Kg	F+P Kg	F %	P %		
All Cows in Herd	158	53	66	39	-6	2	3	2	80	8.9	7.2	16.0	0.10	0.08	-3.3	2.0
Predicted 2020 Calves	236	87	103	44	-7	3	4	3	148	14.8	11.8	26.6	0.15	0.12	-5.2	3.0
Bulls Weighted Averages	314	120	140	48	-8	5	5	4	215	20.8	16.4	37.2	0.20	0.15	-7.1	4.1

Maize Silage

Item	Units	Normal Desirable Values	Result
Dry Matter	%	22.0 - 35.0	31.1
pH	-	3.5 - 3.9	3.8
ASH	%	3.2 - 4.5	3.4
NDF	%	42.0 - 55.0	45.60
Starch	%	20.0 - 28.0	36.1
ME	MJ/kg	10.5 - 11.5	12.0
Crude Protein	%	6.5 - 10	9.5

Ist cut Pit silage

Item	Units	Desirable Values	Result	Status
Dry Matter	%	20 - 30	29.2	-
pH	-	4 - 4.7	4.4	Good
Ammonia N	% of Total N	< 10.1	7.3	Good
ASH	%	< 8.6	8.7	Moderate
NDF	%	< 45.0	43.60	Good
DMD	%	> 68.9	75.5	Good
ME	MJ/kg	> 9.8	10.9	Good
Crude Protein	%	13.5 - 17	14.9	Good

Item	Units	Normal Range	Result	Status
PDIN	g/kg	65 - 102	88	A
PDIE	g/kg	58 - 83	83	
PDIA	g/kg	16 - 37	27	
UFL	per kg	.65 - .90	0.86	
UFV	per kg	.59 - .89	0.82	
LACTIC ACID	%	2 - 10	5.00	
VFA	%	1 - 9	2.70	
WSC	per kg	1 - 10	5.20	
PAL	g/kg W ^{-0.75}	500 - 1200	778	
Fim Intake	g/kg W ^{-0.75}	60 - 130	109	