

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd Weekly Management Notes

16/12/19

- Total Rainfall for the month of November came in at 160mm, with a mean soil temp of 7.1°C. so a colder wetter month than normal. Rainfall for December so far is 40mm. All field activities are finished for the year, so weather conditions are not that critical at the moment.
- Autumn breeding season has started just this week, hoping to have all our replacement heifers submitted by the 23rd December (breed for 7 days, PG remainder & serve to observed heat 3-4 days later). We'll serve the cows as they come on heat, we have pre-breeding heats for ~85% of the herd, so we'll be hoping for good submission rates & watching out for those cows not yet seen cycling, if no activity within the first 3 weeks, we'll investigate further. Autumn breeding season starts with us a little earlier than on many farms, as we are running 100% autumn calving system for current trials. Tail paint used as our heat detection aid.
- Production on the autumn herd has picked up a bit over the past few weeks and we've settled down at an average yield of ~28L/cows @ 2.2kgs MS, very similar to the past couple of years.
- The remainder of the spring cows have been dried this week. Annual production for the spring herd was a bit disappointing – 6500L @ 515kgs of milk solids. We fed ~ 250-300kgs additional concentrate above our target, this was mainly due to much of the spring farm being reseeded for trial purposes resulting in a reduced supply of grass towards the back end.
- Growth rates for the past couple of weeks between 5-10kgs/ day, will probably do an end of year cover later this week, pastures holding good and green so far.

	<i>This week (16/12/19)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	0
	Milk Kg	28.2	
	Fat %	4.52	
	Protein %	3.41	
	Milk Solids kg	2.23	
Intake Estimates	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	5.4	15
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	10.5	0
	Concentrate in TMR –	4.25	0
	Parlour concentrate	2.6	0
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Expected Mean calving date 6 th October	Mean calving date 20 th Feb
	Days in Milk	71	288
	Milk kg	1804	6478
	Milk Solids kg	144	515
	Concentrate Fed	425kgs – (247 parlor + 178 blend)	895

2019 autumn bull team

	EBI(€)	EBI Sub Index							PTA's							
		Milk (€)	Fert (€)	Calv (€)	Beef (€)	Maint (€)	Mmgt (€)	Hlth (€)	M Kg	F Kg	P Kg	F+P Kg	F %	P %	CI days	SU %
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