

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd - Management Notes

23/03/20

- Total Rainfall for the month of March so far comes in at 48mm – all of that falling between 3rd & 18th March when we had rain every one of those days. The difference in just a week is amazing, with very good ground conditions for grazing in the last couple of days. Soil temperatures whilst colder than normal for the first half of March, has lifted over the past week & are now a little ahead of normal for time of year at 7.4°C
- Our second round of fertiliser went out Monday – 40kgs protected urea on all fields except a few we've put slurry on following grazing. We'll probably be going again within two weeks on some fields that might have to be taken out early for silage (fields that won't be grazed in the first round).
- Percentages grazed vary depending on treatments – our “intensive autumn” herd are close to 60% grazed, we're back down ~40% on the spring herds. Important that we monitor grass covers closely over the next couple of weeks, especially on the first grazed paddocks, the plan is obviously to graze fulltime with such good conditions & forecast for the coming week, after that we'll assess where we were at in terms of supply & demand, target end of first round pushed out to around 10th April?
- Autumn Cows have dropped off a bit in terms of milk volume, but are still doing over 2.1kgs of solids so we're happy with that - feeding levels are back down to 5kgs – we'll be leaving it at that for the next couple of weeks on the High SR (4 cows/ha), hopefully we'll get it down lower on the lower SR system if conditions remain favourable.
- Just a few cows remaining to calve on the spring herd & all those are springing, so should be wrapped up within next week to 10 days, no issues over the past few weeks with cows or calves.
- Similar to almost every sector & household in the country at present Covid19 is our biggest concern, with a number of staff & movement, human health & welfare followed by animal health & welfare have been our top priorities. We are strictly adhering to physical distancing & are operating split milking teams to reduce risk.

	<i>This week (02/03/20)</i>	Autumn Herd (Intensive)	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	96%
	Milk Kg	25.9	26.5
	Fat %	4.60	4.54
	Protein %	3.61	3.21
	Milk Solids kg	2.12	2.05
Intake Estimates	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	16	15
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Concentrate in TMR –	0	0
	Parlour concentrate	5	3.5
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 6 th October	Expected Mean calving date 20 th Feb
	Days in Milk	169	32
	Milk kg	4439	687
	Milk Solids kg	355	52
	Concentrate Fed	1140kgs – (526 parlor + 614 blend)	115

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	863.00	Total LU:	44.0
Cover / LU (kg DM/ha/ha):	217.00	LU / ha:	3.98
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	21(22)	Grazing Area:	11.05 ha (14)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	68.00	Reseed:	0.00 ha (0)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	748.00	Silage - Cut Later:	0.00 ha (0)
Days ahead:	13.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0.00 ha (0)
Kg LWT / ha:	0.00	Other:	0.00 ha (0)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	158

