Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd Management Notes 22/06/20

- Our drought issues which we were experiencing two weeks ago have been well addressed! - **total rainfall for June so far coming in at 60.3?? Mm,** (50mm in past week), soil moisture deficits for Johnstown are back down between 15-20, with a **soil temp of 18°C** giving us ideal conditions for growth. We'd be expecting a big burst over the next few weeks, so it's a case of measuring, managing & matching the various herds supply & demand. We're continuing to supplement the "intensive autumn herd", hoping to pull out the silage Today & then step back down the concentrate when we've covers back up closer to ~150/cow - cover for this herd had dropped below 500/ha for the past few weeks, but **back up to 530/ha this week** & could move fast. There had been huge local variability in rainfall up to the weekend, but I think most farms have hopefully had significant rain by now.

- Sweeper bulls are now running with the spring herds, start of breeding was 4th May, the plan would be to **pull the bulls ~15th July**, this would be just over 10 week breeding season which is tight, but we have surplus heifers this year and with autumn herds on the farm too we don't want to prolong calving beyond 20th April if possible.

- **27Kgs/N/ha in the form of protected urea** was spread last week across the farm (except high clover & multi-species plots). We had pulled back to ~ 20kgs on our previous application as growth rates had begun to drop off due to SMD. Second cut silage Fields (ones that we escaped without having to graze) & which we had only applied half rate N have been topped up also.

- The autumn herds have ~ 6 weeks before we begin to dry off, their still performing well, hopefully with good growth we can remove supplementation or at least drop down to ~1kg. We've a few vaccinations to administer for these over the coming weeks – IBR booster, Salmonella, clostridial. Our latest herd screening bulk milk sample came back with a level of ~0.9 for ostertagia , suggesting a benefit to dosing 1st/2nd lactation animals.

	This week (22/06/20)	**Autumn Herd (Intensive)**	**Spring Herd (Grass/Clover)**
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	100%
	Milk Kg	22.2	25.3
	Fat %	4.77	3.97
	Protein %	4.00	3.60
	Milk Solids kg	1.93	1.91
Intake Estimates	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	14	17
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Concentrate in TMR –	0	0
	Parlour concentrate	5	2.0
Totals	***Lactation to date per cow***	Mean calving date 6th October	Mean calving date 19th Feb
	Days in Milk	260	124
	Milk kg	6674	3383
	Milk Solids kg	540	258
	Concentrate Fed	1524kgs–(910 parlor + 614 blend)	400

Cover Date: 22/06/2020

Farm: Johnstown Castle Dairy

Treatment: Autumn Reds

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	21	Residual Cover (cm)	4
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1300		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	538.00	Total LU:	44.0
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	135.00	LU / ha:	3.98
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	36(39)	Grazing Area:	11.05 ha (14)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	56.00	Reseed:	0.00 ha (0)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	616.00	Silage - Cut Later:	0.00 ha (0)
Days ahead:	10.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0.00 ha (0)
Kg LWT / ha:		Other:	0.00 ha (0)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	21