

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd Management Notes 05/10/20

- For the month of September we recorded 47mm rainfall, just over half the average for this time of year, soil temperatures came in slightly above normal at 13.9°C. Both grazing conditions & grass growth were excellent for the month. The early days of October has seen the weather change to more typical autumnal conditions, hopefully we can get another few weeks of reasonable grazing in. Ground conditions are still ok for the most part, but we have switched to mainly 12hr allocations to avoid damage & help with cleanout.
- We have begun our last round of grazing on the autumn herds, Overall Cover is high and we've been grazing covers of >2000 over the past week, which is higher than we'd like with the fresh calvers (going ok when conditions were good as dry cows were following to do the tidying up). We're through the heaviest covers at this stage, our target is to have close to 70% grazed by 1st November with the remaining finished towards mid-November on the high SR system. Come Mid November much of the Autumn herd are hitting peak milk production & they will benefit from moving to a full indoor diet, even if that means leaving a paddock or two of heavier grass – they'll gladly clean this out in Early spring & benefit more from it. In order to get through 70% of area in October, we try to avoid any forage supplementation, just ~3-4kgs high UFL Nut.
- Calving has been progressing well, we're nearing two thirds of the way there, no issues of note so far, the cows join the milking herd straight after calving on a full grass diet with 2 kgs concentrate stepping up to 4kgs after ~ 1 week.
- We had an excellent scan result on the spring herd with all our in-calf heifers scanning in calf & an empty rate of just 6% on the cows after breeding periods of 7 & 11 weeks. Production has dropped off a fair bit on the spring herd, they've been grazing through the heavy covers with just the 2ks concentrate, so performance is still ok. We lost one spring cow last week to a bleeding ulcer - just a one off hopefully.

	<i>This week (05/10/20)</i>	Autumn Herd (Intensive)	Spring Herd (Grass/Clover)
Production	% of Herd Milking	63	95%
	Milk Kg	22.4	17.4
	Fat %	4.72	4.40
	Protein %	4.25	3.86
	Milk Solids kg	2.15	1.44
Intake Estimates	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	14	16
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Concentrate in TMR –	0	0
	Parlour concentrate	3.4	1.8
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Predicted Mean calving date 8 th October	Mean calving date 19 th Feb
	Days in Milk	14	229
	Milk kg	360	5706
	Milk Solids kg	32	442
	Concentrate Fed	40	593

Cover Date: 06/10/2020

Farm: Johnstown Castle Dairy

Treatment: Autumn Reds

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	35	Residual Cover (cm)	4
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1922		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	967.00	Total LU:	44.0
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	243.00	LU / ha:	3.98
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	25(25)	Grazing Area:	11.05 ha (14)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	55.00	Reseed:	0.00 ha (0)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	606.00	Silage - Cut Later:	0.00 ha (0)
Days ahead:	18.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0.00 ha (0)
Kg LWT / ha:	0.00	Other:	0.00 ha (0)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	43

