

# **Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 13-07-2018**

## **Profitable Science Based Farming**

### **Farm Update**

72.86 ha are available for grazing. The second cut silage area is being grazed. There are 244 milking cows and 58 spring born 2018 dairy heifer calves grazing this. That is a stocking rate of 3.5 cows per hectare, giving a feed demand of 60kg of DM per hectare per day if no supplementary feed was going into the diet.

The herd is milking 18.6 litres at 4.36% fat, 3.72% protein (4.75 % lactose, 181,000 SCC and 5,000 TBC). That's 1.55kg of milk solids per cow per day. Yield has increased since the introduction of ration at milking even with tight rationing of grass. At least this rise in milk is indicating to us that we could reduce the amount of grass being offered a little more until we hold milk yield. Recovery on recently grazed paddocks is very poor, we estimate growth rate on these is 10kg/day.

We are feeding 6kg of parlour ration at milking (3kg at morning at 3 kg at evening milking). They are also getting a mid-day feed of 5 kg of high fibre ration. The grass is being rationed with a strip wire and the herd is grazing the second cut silage area by day and paddocks at night. The silage area has a cover of 1,200kg/ha.

With our current level of feeding demand is now 27kg/DM/ha/day. Growth was 27kg/DM/day here for the last 7 days. Farm cover is 511kg/DM/ha or 146kg/DM per cow.

We are only spreading a half bag of CAN now, as when we get rain there will be a release of nitrogen that is in the ground (mineralisation) as well as bag nitrogen that has not been used by the grass in the last three weeks.

Updates are on the Shinagh website: <http://www.shinaghdairy.ie/>