

Shinagh Farm Update 11-06-2020

Grass Growth has dropped to 39kg/day. Farm cover is 526kg/ha at a stocking rate of 3.97cows/ha, or 132kg/cow. 4 kg silage drymatter and 4 kg of meal is being fed to hold rotation, and this will be increased further to a maximum of 6 kg of ration and 6 kg of silage drymatter if rain does not come by the weekend.

There are 250 cows milking. We lost a cow this week to bloat. The herd was not grazing any of the higher clover paddocks and she was a 5th lactation cow. They are milking 22.8litres at 4.36% fat, 3.68% protein giving 1.89kg of milksolids per day. Milk quality test is 128,000 SCC. 7,000 TBC, and 90 thermoturic.

Breeding started on May 5th and the 21 day submission rate was 93%. We are now 15 days into the second cycle and non-return rate to the first service is running at 64%. There are four vasectomised bulls rotating in the herd for this second 3 weeks breeding as an aid to heat detection. 230 Dairy bulls plus Gene Ireland straws were used. This should give us enough dairy heifer calves for replacements (230 at 50% conception rate and 50% heifers is 57 heifer calves). After this beef AI bulls (SPL, AU4683, HE 5452) are being chosen off the Dairy Beef Index with easy calving and short gestation length. Five home bred Friesian stock bulls will run with the herd after 6 weeks breeding. They hopefully will have only 50 repeating cows to put in calf after the 6 weeks AI.

We are spreading 1 bag per acre of 29:0:14 plus sulphur on the grazing ground. If we don't get rain at the weekend we will stop spreading until we get some rain as the soil moisture deficit will be over 50mm by then (at 40mm deficit currently)