

# **Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 29-06-2018**

## **Profitable Science Based Farming**

### **Farm Update**

63.54 ha are available for grazing. There are 244 milking cows and 58 spring born 2018 dairy heifer calves grazing this. That is a stocking rate of 4.02 cows per hectare, giving a feed demand of 69kg of DM per hectare per day if no supplementary feed was going into the diet.

The herd is milking 17.64 litres at 4.12% fat, 3.57% protein (4.84 % lactose, 160,000 SCC and 6,000 TBC). That's 1.40kg of milk solids per cow per day. Cows were doing 4.22% fat and 3.68% protein and 1.45kg of milk solids a week ago before meal and silage was introduced.

We have fed 10,780 kg of bale dry matter and 8,540 kg of ration in the last 7 days to reduce grass demand as growth rates dropped. That is 6.3 kg of silage drymatter and 5 kg of ration per cow per day. That is over half the cow's daily diet. The grass is being rationed with a strip wire in order to hold to grazing 2 ha per day. This is keeping us at a 30 day rotation currently.

Farm cover has dropped to 545kg/DM/ha from 659Kg/DM/ha a week ago even with all the feed going in. Growth was 40kg/DM/day for the last 7 days. With our current level of feeding our demand is now 31kg/DM/day which is where we expect growth is today. We have enough bale silage (made from surplus produced in May) to last until Tues. Our plan at that stage is (if we don't get rain) to begin feeding 2<sup>nd</sup> cut silage ground rather than opening the silage pit and feeding this year's first cut silage.

We have continued to spread 19:0:15 this round, but intend to reduce to a half bag of CAN now, and get a benefit from the nitrogen that will be in the ground and will get released when we get rain.

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