

Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 8-06-2018

Profitable Science Based Farming

Farm Update

First cut silage is in the pit. It was cut and ensiled in dry weather.

59.89 ha are available for grazing. There are 260 milking cows and 58 spring born 2018 dairy heifer calves grazing this. That is a stocking rate of 4.52 cows per hectare, giving a feed demand of 76kg of DM per hectare per day. Cows are off ration as there is sufficient grass available. Magnesium and minerals is being fed to cows by adding them to the water troughs, and with additional dusting of paddocks with calmag in wet weather.

Grazing ground is getting 1.5 bags per acre of 18:6:12 this round.

We are 13 days into the second 3 weeks of breeding. There are 4 cows left to breed for the first time. There is a 69% non-return to first service so far after 13 days of the second cycle. Three vasectomized bulls are being rotated with the herd as an aid to heat detection. All cows are tail painted as a heat detection aid and this is kept topped up regularly.

The herd is milking 18.6 litres at 4.15% fat, 3.57% protein (4.76 % lactose, 128,000 SCC and 3,000 TBC). That's 1.44kg per cow per day. We took a drop in milk the weekend of the lightening, two weeks ago down from 1.58kg of milk solids per day to 1.28kg per day, and the herd is still slowly recovering from that.

Farm cover is 803Kg/DM/ha or 179 kg/DM per cow. Growth is 79kg/DM/day. Growth has slowed down from the high of 117kg/DM/day. We expect growth to slow further with this current dry weather. With this in mind we are currently grazing a paddock that was planned to cut for bales today, but we are grazing it rather than drop our farm cover lower.

All milking liner and milking rubber tubes were changed last week. Our first TBC tests after doing that dropped from their usual figures even lower to the current 3,000.

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