

Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 17-05-2018

Profitable Science Based Farming

Farm Update

18.90 ha of the farm are now closed for silage.

59.34 ha remain available for grazing. We expect to cut some of this for bale silage when growth exceeds demand. Currently 260 milking cows are grazing on this. That is a stocking rate of 4.47 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.

The heifer calves are gone to the contract rearer. They got injected for Blackleg before leaving the farm. AI started 13days ago with the breeding heifers. They were heat detected and bred to AI for the first 7 days and those that have not been bred got an injection of prostaglandin to bring the remainder on heat. 15 heifers out of 55 were bred in the first 7 days of breeding as they showed heat and the remaining heifers have all now been injected with prostaglandin. 44 (80%) heifers have been bred up to day 11.

We have been breeding the cow herd for 13 days. Submission rates are good so far. We have 171 cows bred out of 260 cows currently milking on the farm in the first 13 days. That is 13 cows on average submitted every day. 260 cows divided by 21day (=12) is our benchmark to check is our submission rate on target. There are 18 cows being milked once a day to help them gain condition and come in heat in the first three weeks. All cows are tail painted as a heat detection aid and this will be kept topped up regularly.

The herd is milking 20.7 litres at 4.26% fat, 3.57% protein (4.95 % lactose, 117,000 SCC and 9,000 TBC). That's 1.67kg per cow per day.

Farm cover is 891Kg/DM/ha or 199 kg/DM per cow. Growth is 75kg/DM/day. One paddock has been skipped for bales and been mowed and will be baled tomorrow.

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