

Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 24-05-2018

Profitable Science Based Farming

Farm Update

18.90 ha of the farm are closed for silage.

59.34 ha available for grazing. That is a stocking rate of 4.57 cows per hectare, giving a feed demand of 76kg of DM per hectare per day. Grass growth is 95kg/DM/ha per day. We are using the opportunity of grass growth exceeding demand to take a paddock that needs reseeding out. This paddock has been burned off with glyphosate. All the farmyard manure from the winter will be spread on the paddock and this will be ploughed down. A single grass variety will be set in this paddock as we provide data to Moorepark on individual grass varieties that helps produce the Pasture Production Index. Another paddock has been cut for bales, and we expect to cut another early next week if the current high growth continues to exceed demand. 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 a little disappointed that just 80% of the replacement heifers got bred to AI. They were all in good condition and had sufficient size and weight. They were heat detected and bred for 7 days, and then the remainder were injected with prostaglandin. Normally we achieve a 90% submission rate to AI using this method. All these heifers are now running with two stock bulls.

We have been breeding the cow herd for 20 days. Submission rates are good. We have 236 cows bred out of 260 cows currently milking on the farm in the first 20 days. That is a submission rate of 91%. Vasectomised bulls will help with heat detection for the second three weeks of AI use now. All cows are tail painted as a heat detection aid and this is kept topped up regularly.

We are milking 260 cows. The herd is milking 19.71 litres at 4.25% fat, 3.64% protein (4.85 % lactose, 121,000 SCC and 9,000 TBC). That's 1.60kg of milk solids per cow per day, or 5.25 kg of milk solids per whole farm hectare per day.

Farm cover is 805Kg/DM/ha or 176 kg/DM per cow. Growth is 95kg/DM/day. One paddock is out for reseeding and another has been cut and will be baled tomorrow.

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