

Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 13-11-2017

Profitable Science Based Farming

Farm Details

Farm Cover 938/DM/Ha

17.8 tonnes of drymatter grown per hectare to date in 2017 (up 1.7 t/ha from 2016)

Milking 0.87kg MS/Day on grass, 5kg silage drymatter and 3 kg of ration.

There are 189 cows still milking. Current yield is 9.06 litres at 5.08% Fat and 4.19% Protein, SCC at 193,000, TBC of 23,000 and lactose 4.56. That is 0.87 kg of milk solids per day. The herd is on target to sell 1150 kg of milk solids per hectare in 2017, which is an increase over 2016, but our kg per cow will be less than 2016. We are up in cow numbers this year.

31 cows (including first calvers) have been dried off based on their condition score and milk yield. The low yielders that have less than 3 condition score are gradually being dried off. All first calvers will be given 12 weeks dry, so they will start being dried off from now on too.

The milking herd is grazing day and night still. It is getting 5 kg of silage drymatter and 3 kg of a 15% protein mix per day. The milking herd will be housed by night from tomorrow night and get grass by day for probably another 10 days. The farm cover will decide when we stop grazing finally. We have a high demand for grass in spring once the herd starts calving so therefore we will close at a high farm cover of at least 750kg/DM/ha. That will mean leaving a paddock of at least 1600kg/DM/ha not grazed when we close down. 71 % of the farm is now grazed and closed for spring 2018.

The herd has been blood tested for Johnes again this year as part of our herd health programme. The tests are continuing to show we don't have Johnes in the herd. We also tested for Neospora through this blood test and we have 3 carrier animals that we won't be keeping or selling replacement heifers from as a result of this test.

The 50 incalf heifers are coming home from the contract rearer this week and will be housed and kept separate from the main herd until they are lying on the cubicles and have settled.

2 sheds roofs were damaged in the hurricane. One bay of a round roof shed was whipped completely off and the canopy on the calf house was taken off. The farm is purchasing a three phase tractor operated generator.

The cull cows (16 cows that were not in calf, and 1 cull cow) were sold out of the parlour at an average price of €463 each.

This year's not in calf rate after 13 weeks breeding was 16 cows not in calf out of 237 cows we wanted to put in calf, that's 6.75% NIC.