

Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 07-09-2018

Profitable Science Based Farming

Farm Update

The total farm (78ha) is being grazed. Half of the second cut silage (rented in) is in the pit with another 40 acres still to be cut. This remaining silage was left to grow more and bulk up and will be cut shortly.

There are 218 cows milking and 56 spring born 2018 dairy heifer calves on the farm. That is a stocking rate of 3.0 cows per hectare, giving a feed demand of 51kg of DM per hectare per day if no supplementary feed was going into the diet. Feeding 6kg per cow per day of dairy ration has reduced our daily demand to 33 kg DM/Ha/day. We need this extra growth over demand in order to build grass for the autumn at this stage and therefore will continue to feed this level of ration until we hit our target cover of 1200kg/ha in late Sept. Grass growth was 82kg/DM/day here for the last 7 days. Farm cover is 786kg/DM/ha or 262kg/DM per cow.

The herd is milking 19.0 litres at 4.62% fat, 4.19% protein (4.70% lactose, 159,000 SCC and 11,000 TBC). That's 1.73kg of milk solids per cow per day.

Bulk cell counts have stabilised now again at around 150,000. 4 high cell count cows (based on milk recording) which were getting repeat cases of mastitis have been culled and sold. They were in calf, unfortunately.

The herd has been scanned, and 20 cows are not in calf out of 242 cows that were bred. This is an 8.26% not in calf rate after 11.5 weeks breeding. These 20 cows plus the four chronic cows above (that were in calf) have been sold off the farm. We are feeding now to build up grass supply for the autumn and these marginal cows are effectively being fully fed on ration. 53 heifers are in calf out of a total of 55 breeding heifers. This is a not in calf for these heifers of 3.6%.

We are putting magnesium flakes in to the water trough because we lost a cow 1 month ago to grass tetany and because the herd is milking higher than usual for this time of the year and grass is lush with probably higher levels of potassium (K) in it after the rain.

We are spreading 0.5cwt of CAN fertiliser on this last round.

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