

Shinagh Update 13-12-2018

The herd were housed by night on Nov 13th (the night of the Open Day) and continued to graze by day until the 27th of Nov. The farm cover at closing was 750kg/DM/ha. 60% of the farm was grazed and closed in October. This is the grass that will be needed in February when there is a big demand as the herd calves down fast. This grass is more valuable to a fresh calved cow than it is to late lactation ones so as we can't have it at both times we protect it for spring.

There are 100 cows still milking and they are currently milking 7 litres at 5.39% Fat and 4.59% protein which is giving 0.72kg of milk solids per cow per day. Cell count is 240,000 and TBC is 25,000. The diet is 3kg of ration, and silage ad lib. The herd is being milked once a day since they were housed full time on Nov 27th.

The herd has delivered 413kg of milk solids per cow to the end of Nov this year. 98,491kgs of milk solids have been sold off the farm to the end of Nov 2018. That's 1262 kg of milk solids sold per ha. This will be the highest production year since the farm started. Grass growth on the farm is down 4.5tonnes per hectare compared to 2017 and as a consequence we have fed 1000kg more feed per cow and had to buy in extra silage to fill this gap. Thankfully milk price has stayed strong right through 2018 and despite all the extra feed having to be bought the farm will still generate a profit of approximately €100,000 for the year.

The first calvers all get 12 weeks dry and were first to be dried off. Mature cows get a minimum of 8 weeks dry. Cows less than 2.75 condition score are next to get dried off. The herd will get fluke and worm dose and their IBR booster vaccine next week. The in calf heifers are home from the contract rearer and housed.