

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 13/03/2017

General details

All yearlings have successfully grazed their first paddocks to a residual of 4cm and minimal damage. These animals will now enter paddocks that were reseeded last Autumn that were never grazed due to weather conditions and subsequently have covers greater than 2200kg DM/HA. In order to achieve a residual of 3.5-4cm these paddocks will be strip grazed. If necessary, cows will be used to achieve target post-graduate sward height of 3.5-4cm in these paddocks. Once these paddocks are grazed, cattle will enter the silage ground with the aim to have all silage ground grazed by 7th April.

On Tuesday 14th March, 24 cows and calves were turned out to grass where they are grazing in 2 groups of 12. The remainder of cows and calves will be turned out as soon as all calves are at least 10 days of age and have received IBR and pneumonia vaccinations.

We are currently working with Grasstec where we are remapping segments of the farm to facilitate the implementation of our upcoming clover trial.

Calving

- Start date: 30/1/17
- Total calved : 47/86 = 55%
- Total live calves - 45
- Mortalities: 3 still-births
- Calf average birth-weight: 41kg

Grassland

- Farm cover: 1,211 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 15kg DM/ha

Weekly planner

- Important not to lose focus on remaining cows to calve as stock go to grass
- Clean out & disinfect calving pens
- Have a balance between medium grass covers and driest paddocks when turning stock out
- Ensure fencing and drinkers (minerals) are suitable for cows going to grass
- Disbudding and intranasal IBR application to calves at 2 weeks of age