

Derrypatrick Farm Notes week beginning 03/07/2017

General details

Following Round-up application on the 22nd of June, silage was harvested from 6.5 acres in advance of reseeding. The decision was made to remove grass as silage, opposed to grazing this area, in order to maximise clean-out and subsequently minimise “thrash” remaining on the seed bed from dead material. The more dead material, the more acidic the seed bed is and is major negative for seed germination. Reseeding took place on Friday of this week (07/07/17) and was carried out by the Farrellys Bros. of Kells using an Erth one-pass Agriseeder (Picture 1). The grass seed of choice was the late-maturing tetraploid; Abergain. Fertiliser was spread post sowing at a rate of 3bags/ac, 10:10:20 was the fertiliser of choice due to the low index rating for P and K in these paddocks. Granulated lime (1.5bags/ac) and slug pellets (2kg/ac) were also applied post-sowing. Post-emergence herbicide application, the most important component of reseeding, will be carried out 5-6 weeks post sowing.

Yearlings were weighed this week and their performance is summarised in Table 1. Current performance is on target for some of these animals to be slaughtered off grass in the autumn. Live-weight ranges are 479-654kg for steers and 393-588kg for heifers.

Animal performance	LW(kg)	ADG(kg) since turnout	Age(months)
Steers	559	1.25	15 M
Heifers	493	1.00	15 M

Table 1.

Breeding

- Start date: 01/05/17
- 1 teaser bull with chin-ball per 25 cows
- AM:PM rule to be followed for AI
- 100% AI to be carried out
- 100% submitted for AI first 7 weeks
- Pregnancy scanning carried out 35 days post AI
- 1st scan 31/35 in calf (20/06/17)
- 2nd scan 30/32 in calf (07/07/17)

Grassland management

- Farm cover: 762kg DM/ha
- Growth: 51kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 51kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 12
- Fertiliser following grazing: CAN (1bag/acre) non-clover swards, 0:7:30 (2 bags/acre) clover swards

Weekly planner

- Be observant of calf health during periods of broken weather
- Sow clover as paddocks become available
- Ensure pre-grazing sward height for clover paddocks does not exceed target (1,100-1,300 kg DM/ha)



Picture 1. Erth one-pass Agriseeder