

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 07/03/2016

General Details

- Good turnout for grass walk on Tuesday 1st March with approx. 100 farmers attending
- Turned out cattle on Thursday 25th February but had to rehouse on Wednesday 2nd March due to ground conditions, hope to be back out by end of this week
- Calving started on Sunday 14th Feb with 47 cows calved by Monday 7th March

• Grassland Details

- Soil temperatures currently 4 degrees
- Average growth of 5 kg/DM/Ha over the past 20 days
- Slurry at the rate of 2500 gallons/acre was spread across 33#5 of the farm on Saturday 27th February. This was spread on paddocks with low covers and also paddocks low in P and K
- Average farm cover on 07/03/2015 was 947 kg/DM/Ha.
- Spread ½ bag UREA (23 units) across 50% of farm on 25th February
- Hope to get weanling heifers and cows and calves out grazing by end of this week
- Aim to get 40% of farm grazed by 20th March-will struggle to hit this target
- Grazing medium covers first to speed up rotation
- Need to be off silage ground by 1st April and fully finished first rotation by 12th April

Housing Details

- All steers and heifers stopped concentrates on 01/02/15
- Weanling bulls(U16) are currently on ad-lib ration
- Cows housed on slats and pre calving cows over BCS 3 receiving 32kgs silage and 3kg straw
- Cattle weights on 27/01/2015

	Steers	Heifers	U16 Bulls
ADG since 7/12/15	.64	.71	1.21
27/01/2016	405kg	363kg	448kg

• Key recommendations

- Look at possible turnout of cows and calves on Thursday
- Scrape slats where freshly calved cows are to avoid contamination of udders
- Clean out calving pens this week
- Repair fences in paddocks where fence damaged with water installation
- U16 bulls to be foot-bathed with copper sulphate this week
- Dry cow minerals continue to be fed at a rate of 100 grams/head/day



A section of the crowd at last week's Grass walk in Derrypatrick, Grange. Speakers were Adam Woods, Ned Heffernan and James Keane



Ned Heffernan discussing spring fertiliser application at last week's grass walk in Derrypatrick