

Derrypatrick Farm Notes week beginning 17/07/2017

General details

The beginning of this week brought us weather conditions reminiscent of the South of France. While many were basking in the sun around the country, the Grange staff were harvesting second-cut silage for the Derrypatrick Herd. Trust me, this was no mean feat with the warm weather and after spending no more than five minutes in the cab of the tractor, I had to get out to cool down! Anyway, the harvest was a success and following the onslaught of rain we have experienced toward the latter end of the week, we are very happy that the decision was made to commence and complete the harvest.

Of course, we wouldn't be farming correctly unless we were praying for rain while many others for extended sunshine. As we know rain is never too far away and grass growth has noticeably increased over the course of the week due to the welcomed rain fall. The silage harvest and increased soil moisture levels have provided a perfect combination to carry-out the remainder of the clover sowing. As of Friday of this week, the target of sowing clover in 50% of the paddocks on farm has been achieved. With the appropriate ingredients provided (seed, fertiliser and weather), clover establishment will be monitored over the coming weeks

Until this point, there has been no major illness to report among stock despite the broken weather that can often prove quite challenging for calves. However, one calf this week was noticeably lacking vigour and required veterinary assistance. The calf is now housed on straw bedding with his dam and the cause of illness is unknown despite a number of visits from the vet. A digestive issue/blockage is deemed to be the cause of this issue and the cow and calf pair will remain indoors for monitoring until health is restored.

All calves were faecal sampled this week to determine worm burden. Correct action will be carried out once the results are received.

Breeding

- Start date: 01/05/17
- End date: 23/07/17
- 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: 830kg DM/ha
- Growth: 75kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 51kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 14
- Fertiliser following grazing: CAN (1bag/acre)

Weekly planner

- Pregnancy scan cows not yet scanned and inseminated more than 35 days ago
- Implement correct grazing procedure as clover begins to increase in paddocks to prevent bloat issues.



Picture 1. Second-cut silage harvest Teagasc Grange July 2017



Picture 2. Second-cut silage harvest Teagasc Grange July 2017



Picture 3. Clover sowing post second-cut silage July 2017