

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 21/03/2016

General Details

- Ground conditions good with cows and calves and weanlings out grazing
- Calving started on Sunday 14th Feb with 73 cows calved by Monday 21st March and 69 live calves
- Currently 52 cows and calves at grass
- Currently 45 weanling heifers and 24 weanling steers at grass

Grassland Details

- Soil temperatures currently 6.5 degrees
- Average growth of 9 kg/DM/Ha over the past 14 days
- Average farm cover on 22/03/2015 was 952 kg/DM/Ha.
- Spread ½ bag UREA (23 units) across 50% of farm on 25/2/16
- Spread ½ bag UREA (23 units) across remaining 50% on 15/3/16
- Aim is to have 53 units N /acre spread by April 1st
- Currently 52 cows and calves, 45 weanling heifers and 24 weanling steers out grazing
- Aim to get 40% of farm grazed by 20th March- currently 28% grazed but should speed up in next week
- 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 turned out
- Weanling bulls(U16) are currently on ad-lib ration
- Cows housed on slats and pre calving cows over BCS 3 receiving 28kgs silage and 4kg straw

Key recommendations

- Turn out a further 10 cows and calves on Tuesday 22nd March
- Scrape slats where freshly calved cows are to avoid contamination of udders
- Clean out calving pens this week
- Finish repairing 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
- Spread 30 units UREA /acre across paddocks 147-158 and 167-186