

Derrypatrick Farm Notes week beginning 24/07/2017

General details

The good weather of last week combined with an increased level of rainfall, resulted in the necessity to remove surplus grass from 4 paddocks (3.3ha) at the beginning of this week. As a consequence of high levels of silage harvesting elsewhere on the farm, this grass received a number of showers prior to baling. Surprisingly, the grass was not wet at the time of wrapping following adequate intermittent drying between rain showers. Of course, it would have been preferred that this grass did not receive any rain prior to harvest but, as is the case with farming, weather can often disrupt plans. Removing surplus grass that has gone too strong for grazing (>1,500kgDM/ha) will benefit our overall grass production, improve the quality of grass consumed and subsequently increase animal performance at pasture.

The beginning of this week brought the breeding season to a close as the last cow was inseminated on the 24th of July. Calving from the middle of February until the end of April and commencing breeding on the 1st of May until mid- to late- July provides a huge workload on this and every suckler farm operating a similar system around the country. Focus now turns to other key jobs such as; monitoring stock that may be fit for slaughter over the coming months, the establishment of clover on our farm and shed maintenance e.g. power-washing and disinfection.

Faecal samples were taken from all calves two weeks ago with the result indicating a low prevalence of stomach worms (*Trichostrongylus*). Therefore, treatment is not required and further sampling will take place.

Breeding

- Start date: 01/05/17
- End date: 24/07/17
- 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)
- 3rd scan due next Wednesday

Grassland management

- Farm cover: 613kg DM/ha
- Growth: 55kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 51kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 12
- Fertiliser following grazing: CAN (1bag/acre)
- Current demand figure is not including area that second-cut silage was harvested that will enter rotation in the coming weeks

Weekly planner

- Pregnancy scan cows not yet scanned and inseminated more than 35 days ago
- Power-wash & disinfect sheds
- Identify level of clover establishment in paddocks



Picture 1. Grass (Abergain) beginning to emerge this week that was sown 07/07/2017



Picture 2. The grass is greener on the other-side for these heifers prior to moving