

Derrypatrick Farm Notes week beginning 23/06/2017

General details

Pregnancy scanning was carried out on farm this week for any cows inseminated at least 35 days. There were 34 cows submitted for pregnancy scanning with 30 of these proving in calf. Of the 4 that were not in calf, 3 of these were cycling fine and will be inseminated on next heat. Estrumate will be given to one cow to induce cyclicity following embryo mortality. We also availed of this opportunity to scan 3 cows that have been having irregular heats. Of these 3, 2 are cycling fine while the other had a cyst that was causing the irregular heats. Although a cyst was present and subsequently removed, this cow held to her recent insemination and will require further pregnancy confirmation in weeks to come.

We are experiencing good progress with our clover establishment programme with clover sown in 22 out of the targeted 34 paddocks. The remaining paddocks will receive clover as the grazing rotation continues while 8 paddocks targeted for clover establishment are currently closed for second-cut silage and will be sown following silage harvest.. It is important that any paddock that receives clover seed is grazed at pre-grazing covers between 1,100 and 1,300 kg DM/ha to prevent shading of clover seed by the grass cover. In order to ensure clover paddocks are grazed at the appropriate stage, grass may have to be removed as baled silage in the grass only paddocks.

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
- Five 1st calvers received CIDRs 16th June for a synchronisation programme

Grassland management

- Farm cover: 730 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 50 kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 51kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 12
- 6 acres were removed from the grazing area that had gone too strong for grazing
- Fertiliser following grazing: CAN (1bag/acre) non-clover swards, 0:7:30 (2 bags/acre) clover swards
- 6.5 acres sprayed with Roundup ahead of reseeding

Weekly planner

- Be extra vigilant on heat detection following synchronisation of 5 cows
- Sow clover as paddocks become available
- Ensure pre-grazing sward height for clover paddocks does not exceed target

