

Derrypatrick Farm Notes week beginning 26/06/2017

General details

Roundup was applied to 6.5 acres last Thursday (22nd of June) ahead of planned reseeding. There has been a good kill of this existing pasture and this will be removed next week as bales.

Cows, calves and replacement heifers were weighed this week and their weights are presented in Table 1. Overall, we are happy with how the herd is performing. All animals are in good health and there is minimal calf sickness to report despite the broken weather. Of course, we are always striving for improved performance and therefore would prefer if calf ADG was greater than current figure. However, cows/calves were subject to a milk yield study over the previous three weeks and may have had a negative effect on performance. Therefore, we expect an improvement in performance at the next weight recording.

Cows	LW(kg)	BCS	Rep. heifers	LW(kg)	BCS	Calves	D.O.B	LW(kg)	A.D.G
Mature cows	710	3.00	Suckler	478	3.00	Bull calves	16/03/2017	160	1.11
1st calvers	529	2.75	Dairy	354	2.50	Heifer calves	14/03/2017	153	1.04

Table 1.

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
- 4/5 cows synchronised shows signs of heat, the remaining cow was inseminated using fixed time AI protocol

Grassland management

- Farm cover: 766kg DM/ha
- Growth: 51kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 51kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 12
- Fertiliser following grazing: CAN (1bag/acre) non-clover swards, 0:7:30 (2 bags/acre) clover swards

Weekly planner

- Be observant of calf health during periods of broken weather
- Sow clover as paddocks become available
- Ensure pre-grazing sward height for clover paddocks does not exceed target
- Control weeds in paddocks as weather permits



Picture 1. Clover beginning to emerge 3 weeks post sowing



Picture 2. Paddocks to be reseeded