

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 01/05/2017

General details

Calving 2017 is now finished (summary provided below) and coincided with the beginning of breeding 2017. Current weather conditions are facilitating excellent post grazing heights and therefore, maximising grass utilisation. To ensure excellent quality grass is provided for grazing, 2ha of surplus grass was removed from the grazing platform and should provide bales of the highest standard. This week saw the arrival of an Einbock seeder that will be used to "stitch-in" clover seed over the coming months with the aim of establishing clover in 50% of the farm for our upcoming clover study.

Calving

- Duration: 13 weeks
- 0.94 calves/cow
- Mean calving date: 09/03/17
- Avg. birth-weight: 42kg
- Mortalities: 5 still births, 1 deformity
- Sections: 3
- Cow live-weight @ calving: 627kg
- Cow BCS @ calving: 2.75

Breeding

- Start date: 01/05/17
- 1 teaser bull with chin-ball per 25 cows
- Tail paint and visual observations other aids to heat detection
- AM:PM rule to be followed for AI
- 100% AI to be carried out

Grassland management

- Farm cover: 820 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 50 kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 70kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 10
- 18:6:12 being spread following grazing with the aim to raise P levels for clover, rate is soil index dependent

Weekly planner

- Heat check cows and heifers 5 times daily for 20 minutes each group
- Top up tail paint as required
- Commence clover incorporation when ground conditions/weather permits
- Scan cows >30 days calved
- Ensure magnesium is being supplied through water to help prevent grass tetany

