

# Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 03/04/2017

## General details

The main focus this week was to graze as much of the silage ground as possible before the end of the week. We have managed to graze at 70% of the ground planned for first cut silage. The area not grazed is due to ground conditions and still remains soft underfoot. However, this ground was grazed tight last autumn and there is little or no dead material in the sward. Slurry is not suitable to spread on this area due to the cover of grass and therefore, sulphate of potash and urea will be spread. Paddocks that have been grazed this week and are due to be closed for 1<sup>st</sup> cut silage received slurry (3,000 gal/ac) and urea (2 bags/ac).

There have been a number of calves with potential pneumonia cases this week due to the weather conditions. Mild days followed by colder nights can often challenge the immune system of young stock and it is important to highlight any susceptible calves ASAP. If required, we bring calves in that need treatment and this has been the case with 3-4 calves. Calves return to grass as soon as the challenge to the immune system is gone.

Replacement heifers (21) were purchased and arrived on farm this week. All heifers were blood sampled for a disease profile and were subsequently vaccinated against BVD and leptospirosis. The replacement heifers were sourced from suckler and dairy herds and have an average replacement index of €134. All cows that have calved also received their pre-breeding BVD and leptospirosis booster.

## Calving

- Start date: 30/1/17
- Total calved: 70/86 = 81%
- Total live calves: 67
- Moralities 3 still births, 1 deformity
- Sections: 3
- Calf average birth weight: 43kg

## Grassland

- Farm cover: 1426 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 40kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 74kg DM/ha/day

The above information is a result of closing close to 50% of the farm for 1<sup>st</sup> cut silage. Due to the current grass cover on farm, we are planning on baling surplus grass next week, weather permitting.

## Weekly planner

- Ensure magnesium is being supplied via buckets and water
- Record cows expressing heat
- Focus to remain on cows that are due to calve
- Be vigilant for calves showing signs of ill health