

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 06/03/2017

General details

Cows with calves, that are at least 10 days of age, at foot remain housed in slatted pens with a straw bedded creep area available to calves. We are hopeful of letting these animals out to grass early next week, if ground conditions allow. One calf in this group is being treated with a course of Synulox for a swollen navel, assured by the vet this is not a joint-ill issue, the calf should be fine following the course of antibiotics.

This week brought a small surprise in the form of a pre-mature (3 weeks) calf weighing 23kg at birth. Requiring help to suckle, the calf required a lot of attention in the first few days of life but has since developed and is now suckling without any aid.

There was one bull from the group destined for slaughter at 16 months removed from the slatted pen following a leg injury. It is believed this injury occurred following mounting activity in the pen. The injured bull is now in a straw bedded pen and receiving treatment for the injury. Returning to the slatted pen is not an option for the injured bull.

Weather conditions improved this week bringing our first two consecutive dry days in over a month. The combination of no damage last autumn at housing and no damage this spring, aided the improvement in ground conditions. Yearling animals will be turned out to grass today (10/03/17) once they are weighed and vaccinated against clostridial diseases (Covexin 10).

Calving

- Start date: 30/1/17
- Total calved : 43/86 = 50%
- Total live calves - 41
- Mortalities: 3 still-births
- Calf average birth-weight: 40kg

Grassland

- Farm cover: 1,211 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 15kg DM/ha
- Yearlings average pre-grazing cover @ turnout: 1,100kg DM/ha with 24 hour allocations

Weekly planner

- Important not to lose focus on remaining cows to calve as stock go to grass
- Clean out & disinfect calving pens
- Aim to turnout cows and calves early next week
- Have a balance between medium grass covers and driest paddocks when turning stock out
- Ensure fencing and drinkers (minerals) are suitable for cows going to grass
- Disbudding and intranasal IBR application to calves at 2 weeks of age

