

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 08/05/2017

General details

Grazing conditions have been excellent over the past week with no issue achieving the desired post-grazing sward height of 4cm. Weather conditions have also been favourable for breeding with activity among cows very good (outlined below). While this period of sunshine/heat has been welcomed, the rain that is forecast for the end of the week will come just in time, as grass growth has suffered due to the lack of rain. Our silage ground is picture perfect, as most silage ground is following recent weather conditions, and should be of the highest quality when harvested around the target period of the end of May. Temptation was present to harvest some of the first cut silage during the period of exceptional weather; however, we were unable to do so as the herbicide applied requires a 4 week interval prior to harvest and this won't occur until the end of May.

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
- 40% submitted for AI first 11 days
- 10/21 heifers scanned cycling on arrival

Grassland management

- Farm cover: 800 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 40 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

- Cows >30 days calved not seen on heat to be scanned
- Heat check cows and heifers 5 times daily for 20 minutes each group
- Top up tail paint as required
- Top up paint in chin-ball of the teaser bulls as required
- Ensure magnesium is being supplied through water to help prevent grass tetany
- Weigh yearlings

