

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 10/04/2017

General details

Preparation for breeding was a major focus for the Derrypatrick Herd this week. All cows that were at least 30 days calved (40) were scanned to determine uterine status i.e. any cows with endometrial infection and identify whether these cows had begun cycling post-calving. We also took this opportunity to apply tail paint for ease of determining heats prior to the onset of the breeding season in three weeks' time.

Replacement heifers were purchased over a fortnight ago and were blood sampled on arrival to the farm, these results returned this week. All breeding heifers were tested for; BVD, IBR, Leptospirosis, Neospora, Johnes and Salmonella. The only major concern was 1 heifer from 21 showed positive for Neospora and the fate of this heifer will be determined once veterinary consultation occurs.

Last weekend saw one of our vasectomised bulls take a turn and resulted in fatality. Following veterinary inspection it was deemed this may have been caused by a blockage in the digestive tract however, the bull was sent to the laboratory for a post-mortem. To ensure we have sufficient vasectomised bulls for heat detection, a replacement has been sourced. Upon arrival, this vasectomised bull will undergo a similar blood analysis as did the breeding heifers.

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: 1485 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 48kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 68kg DM/ha/day

The above information is a result of closing close to 50% of the farm for 1st 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
- Manage excessive and surplus grass accordingly
- Ensure correct sires and semen is sourced for breeding 2017

