

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 10/04/2017

General details

This week we took the opportunity to remove surplus grass in the form of silage bales. Unfortunately, the desired sunshine never arrived however, mowing took place in dry conditions and the crop was baled in suitable conditions so we are hopeful of good quality. The reason for removing this area (2ha) was due to the excessive days ahead from our previous grass walk. Removing surplus grass will incorporate these paddocks back into the rotation while maximising quality of grass consumed.

All yearling animals were weighed this week. Current live-weight for all yearling animals is ahead of 2016 figures for the same time period; bulls (+15kg), steers (+33kg) and heifers (+15kg). We are happy with bulls, which were this week moved from the slatted house to straw bedding, and steer performance. However, we are slightly disappointed with the ADG of our heifers. Interestingly, heifers, in a combination with cows, have been used to graze heavy covers due to the size of the group (43) compared to the smaller steer group (20) and this may be influencing ADG performance.

Group	LW (kg)	ADG housing – 18/4/17	ADG ad-lib – 18/4/17
16M Bulls	581	1.3	1.7
	LW (kg)	ADG 10/3/17 (turnout) – 19/4/17	
Steers	467	1.4	
Heifers	410	0.9	

Calving

- Start date: 30/1/17
- Total calved: 77/86 = 90%
- Total live calves: 74
- Moralities 3 still births, 1 deformity
- Sections: 3
- Calf average birth weight: 42kg

Grassland

- Farm cover: 1201 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 52kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 68kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 12

Weekly planner

- Ensure magnesium is being supplied via buckets and water
- Manage excessive and surplus grass accordingly
- Record cows expressing heat
- Ensure correct sires and semen is sourced for breeding 2017
- Pre-breeding scan to be carried out on cows >30 days calved

