

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 20/03/2017

General details

This week brought a period of unsettled weather forcing all animals to be moved at least every 12 hours for the first half of the week. Achieving the target post-grazing sward height of 3.5cm-4cm was unmanageable as ground conditions were not suitable. The morning of Wednesday 22nd March saw the farm covered in snow and the decision was made to house all animals in order to prevent ground damage and ensure calves had a dry lie. In total, 33mm of rain fell in Grange on Wednesday 22nd March.

Calves were treated with Cevazuril this week with the aim of reducing coccidia shedding in housed calves. All calves continue to be subject to IBR intranasal application, pneumonia vaccination and disbudding prior to 2 weeks of age.

Calving

- Start date: 30/1/17
- Total calved : 58/86 = 67%
- Total live calves - 56
- Mortalities: 3 still-births
- Sections: 3
- Calf average birth-weight: 42kg

Grassland

- Farm cover: 1,320 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 32kg DM/ha (from previous cover) Grange growth: 21kg DM/ha
- Farm cover is currently well above target and decisions will be made over the coming weeks on how best to manage

Weekly planner

- Be extra vigilant for pneumonia/scour in calves as stock are housed following short period outdoors
- 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