

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 22/05/2017

General details

Silage 2017 got under-way this week and we couldn't have asked for better weather. The quality versus quantity is always a great debate around silage time and was a question posed for the Derrypatrick Herd this week. Our area for 1st cut silage is a 50:50 split of grassland that was grazed before closing-up for silage and the other half is grassland that was unable to be grazed due to ground/weather conditions. Our original plan was to keep the un-grazed meadow as silage for the cow-herd and therefore, allow an extended period of growth for increased yield. However, due to the good weather we chose to mow this area (50 acres) to maximise silage quality while we had the opportunity. Areas that were grazed prior to closing for silage were not fit for cutting this week and will be left for another week. Excellent growing conditions this week has seen these areas thrive over the last number of days.

The stitching in of clover seed has again been delayed due to the firm ground conditions. Weather over the weekend is forecast to bring some rain so hopefully we can commence stitching in next week.

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
- 76% submitted for AI first 25 days

Grassland management

- Farm cover: 745 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 80 kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 80kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 9
- The combination of headlands, increased grass growth and paddocks returning to the grazing rotation will reduce the demand/ha over the coming weeks.

Weekly planner

- 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
- Clover a top priority
- Slurry to be applied on any ground for second cut