

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 24/04/2017

General details

Breeding 2017 is due to commence 1st of May therefore, this week consisted of final checks for breeding. Selection of the appropriate sires for the intended replacement “balanced” sires vs. terminal sires resulted in the following panel of sires.

| Replacement “balanced” sires | | | Terminal sires | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| AI Code | Name | Breed | AI Code | Name | Breed |
| VMO | Voimo | CH | FSZ | Fiston | CH |
| CH4202 | Tombapik | CH | FWO | Fleetwood | CH |
| ZAG | Castleview Gazelle | LM | LM4050 | Wilodge Goldcard | LM |
| FTY | Lennon Frosty | LM | GWO | Castleview Gringo | LM |
| QCD | Cloondroon Calling | SI | RWV | Raceview Van Halen | SI |
| SI2152 | Curaheen Earp | SI | CQA | Curaheen Vio | SI |

Table 1. Sire selection for cows

| Replacement “balanced” sires | | | Terminal sires | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|----------------|-------------------|-------|
| AI Code | Name | Breed | AI Code | Name | Breed |
| RMK | Rosemead Karona | AA | TPX | Tonley Pele | AA |
| FPI | Friarstown Ideal Pete | AA | AA2037 | Bova Lord Bonanza | AA |

Table 2. Sire selection for heifers

Sires chosen as replacement sires were required to be 5* within breed, calving difficulty <8% (cows)/<4% heifers and have figures better than average for key maternal traits e.g. daughter milk and calving interval. Terminal sires were required to be 5* within breed, >80% reliability (cows) and <8% calving difficulty.

Calving

- Start date: 30/1/17
- Total calved: 82/84 = 98%
- Total live calves: 78
- Moralities: 4 still births, 1 deformity
- Calf average birth weight: 42kg

Grassland

- Farm cover: 1057 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 55 kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 70kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 14

Weekly planner

- Turn out vasectomised bull (without chin-ball) prior to breeding to allow them to settle
- Commence breeding and be extremely vigilant for expression of heat
- Ensure magnesium is being supplied via water for all cows
- Manage excessive and surplus grass accordingly
- Pre-breeding scan to be carried out on cows >30 days calved

