

Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 27/02/2017

General details

Following the two still births early in the calving season, we are happy with the way calving has unfolded subsequently with 36% of cows calved in just over 4 weeks. Expected mean calving date is 12th of March so there should be plenty of calving activity over the coming period. Calves to date have been lively at birth with the majority suckling the dam within an hour, unassisted. This week brought our first caesarean section and was carried out on a 2nd calver.

Cows are being drafted to the calving unit as required. Cows and calves, at least 10 days of age, are drafted moved to slatted creep areas until turnout to facilitate more cows in the calving unit. Calves are being vaccinated for IBR and pneumonia at 2 weeks of age.

Weather conditions have prevented us from turning any stock to pasture.

Calving

- Start date: 30/1/17
- Total calved : 31/86 = 36%
- Total live calves - 29
- Mortalities: 2 still-births
- Calf average birth-weight: 39kg

Grassland

- Farm cover: 870kg DM/ha
- Rainfall has delayed turnout
- As soon as ground conditions allow, yearlings will be turned out to grass

Fertiliser

- Soil samples returned this week revealing a large number of paddocks at index 1 and index 2 for P and K.
- We decided to sample at individual paddock level in order to maximise soil fertility and subsequently grass production
- Our soil fertility status will be taken into account when deciding spring fertiliser applications