

## **Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 29/05/2017**

### **General details**

The incorporation of clover into our existing swards commenced this week using an Einbock pneumatic seeder. Clover to be sown on farm includes the varieties Chieftain and Aberherald and will be over-sown at a rate of 2kg/acre. Sowing will be carried out post-grazing, once a tight grazing is achieved and post-silage harvest where the paddock has been allocated to the clover trial. Ground conditions were very suitable for sowing clover this week following the recent rainfall and enabled us to sow clover in 7 of the targeted 34 paddocks.

The remainder of our first cut silage was harvested on Thursday of this week. As previously discussed, this area was grazed before the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and was only fit to cut this week due to a combination of nitrogen levels, herbicide residue and yield. Following a dry-mowing, all staff worked tirelessly to cover the pit before any rain fell. The last few tyres were only settling on the pit as the heavens opened and brought a shower of rain. A successful first cut in Grange for 2017 and here's hoping the silage quality matches the effort made to harvest and cover before the rain arrived.

### **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
- 80% submitted for AI first 32 days

### **Grassland management**

- Farm cover: 775 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 98 kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 62kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 13
- The combination of headlands, increased grass growth and paddocks returning to the grazing rotation has reduced the demand/ha

### **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
- Weigh 16 month bulls