

## Teagasc Dairy Beef Programme

Update, Johnstown Castle

**Date of writing:** 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Covering period:** May - June 2018

The good weather and lower levels of rainfall in May meant that we had a good silage harvest at the end of the month. On the back of the late spring turnout and the increased grass growth, many fields became too strong and were cut for baled silage.

The month of June brought minimal rainfall and exceptionally warm conditions. Grass growth declined and the silage ground was slow to return back to rotation. Much of the fertiliser spread was unused due to lack of rain. Most of the second cut silage ground has now been grazed. Because of the poor spring, our 26 month steers were set back (they should have been killed in June). These have now been increased to 7kg concentrate/head at grass to finish them quickly and reduce the demand for grass on the farm.

	May 2018	June 2018
Rainfall (ml)	33.2	12.7
Mean temp (°C)	11.7	15.2
Mean 10cm soil temperature (°C)	13.0	18.2

### **Animal performance:**

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#### **2 year old steers**

- The cattle are performing well at grass. They have increased greatly in weight and form since being increased to 7 kg concentrate/head at grass.
- 45 steers have been selected for slaughter next week; 15 Angus, 17 Hereford, 13 Limousin.

	15 <sup>th</sup> May	01 <sup>st</sup> June	7 <sup>th</sup> July	ADG 3 <sup>rd</sup> Season
<b>High</b>	543	576	631	1.43
<b>Medium</b>	576	578	666	1.41
<b>Low</b>	567	569	655	1.47

#### **Weanlings**

- The yearlings were dosed for worms and given a fly/lice pour-on on the 21<sup>st</sup> June.
- They are performing well, averaging 1.05 kg/day ADG during their second season.

	17 <sup>th</sup> May	21 <sup>st</sup> June	ADG 2 <sup>nd</sup> season
<b>High</b>	336	379	1.12
<b>Medium</b>	337	374	1.06
<b>Low</b>	338	373	0.96

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#### Calves

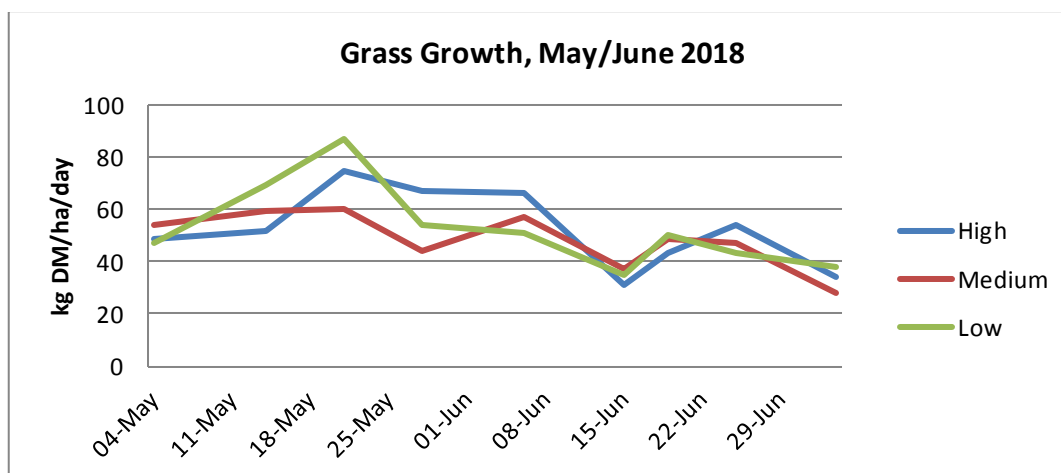
- This year's trial calves arrived into Johnstown Castle in three groups over the last few weeks.
- They received their second intramuscular IBR vaccine on arrival alongside 7ml of Norfenicol.
- The calves were graded into 3 groups according to size. They will be randomised into their treatment groups (high, medium, low) after a few weeks to allow them to settle in.
- So far, the calves are performing well. They are being fed 2.2 kg of a 16% CP concentrate ration at grass.
- The calves' FECs are monitored at grass, which is hugely important considering the high worm burden in Johnstown Castle. The first two groups of calves that arrived in on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June were weighed and dosed on the 5/6<sup>th</sup> July. They averaged 141 kg.

	No. Calves	Date of arrival	Av. DOB	Av. Weight on arrival	Av. Weight for age	Av. Age on arrival
<b>Group 1</b>	95	8 <sup>th</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2018	121.8 kg	1.08	113 days
<b>Group 2</b>	94	20 <sup>th</sup> June	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2018	123.8 kg	1.07	116 days
<b>*Group 3</b>	62	5 <sup>th</sup> July	-	115.1 kg	-	-

\* Waiting for some data from last group of calves.

#### Grass Management:

- Mid May, 8 very heavy paddocks were cut for bales.
- The first cut silage was cut on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May. 27 paddocks were cut with the average yield 7096 kgDM/ha at 22.7% DM.
- For June, the average paddock pre-grazing grass yield was under 1100kgDM/ha.
- Towards the end of June, grass DM increased to 28-30%. Grass growth is reducing each week on the farm, and will be down to teens and single figures if rain does not come soon.

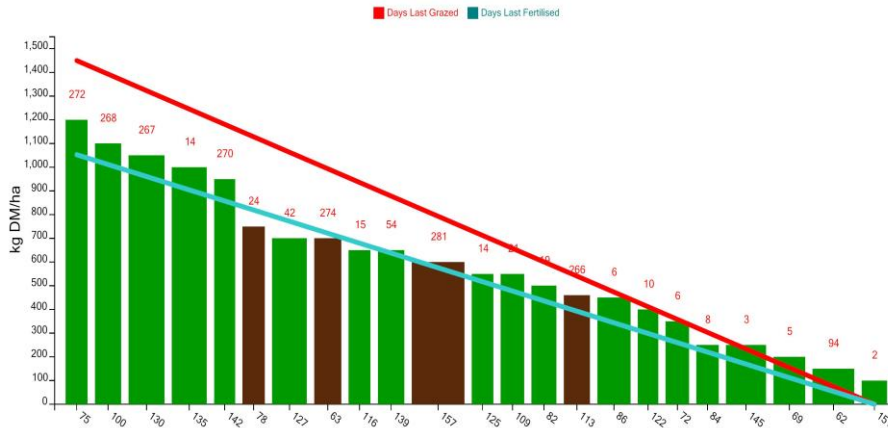


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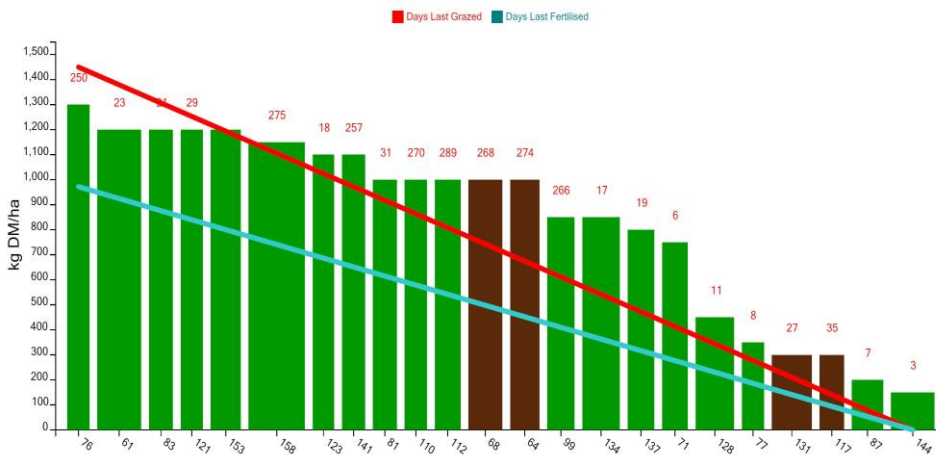
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- Consequently, grass is becoming tight across the 3 farmlets, especially the high stocking density, as can be seen from the grass wedges below (taken 25<sup>th</sup> June).

### High stocking density



### Medium stocking density



### Low stocking density

