

Teagasc Johnstown Castle Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

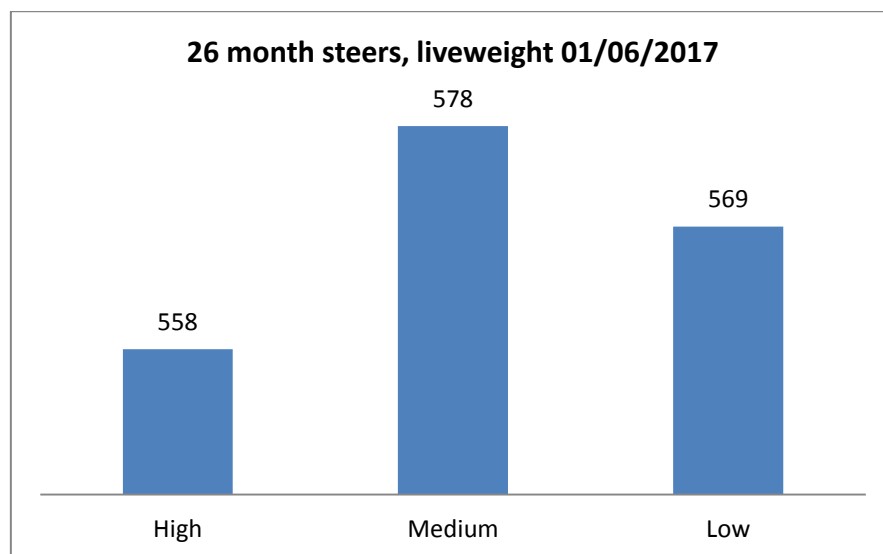
Update: 01-06-2018

It has been difficult to manage grass so far this summer. A lot of paddocks became too strong to graze due to the wet spring and the late turnout. Grass was cut for baled silage the middle of May in order to get some paddocks back into rotation quicker, and the first cut pit silage was brought in last week. This has meant that grass has become tight, on the medium farmlet especially. However, with the strong grass growth this should rectify itself over the coming few days.

Animal Performance:

Older cattle

- The steers were weighed on the 1st June, averaging 568 kg. The steers were dosed with Endospec for worms and given Spotinor pour-on for flies and lice.
- Meal feeding began on the 29th May, starting at 2.5 kg/head/day. This has now increased to 3.5 kg/head/day.
- The steers were body condition scored (BCS) on the 1st June, however most were not reaching a score of 3.00 and the target is 3.5 for slaughter fitness. BCS will be repeated in two weeks' time.



Yearlings

- The yearlings are performing well at grass and grazing paddocks out well.
- They will be weighed next week and dosed for worms.



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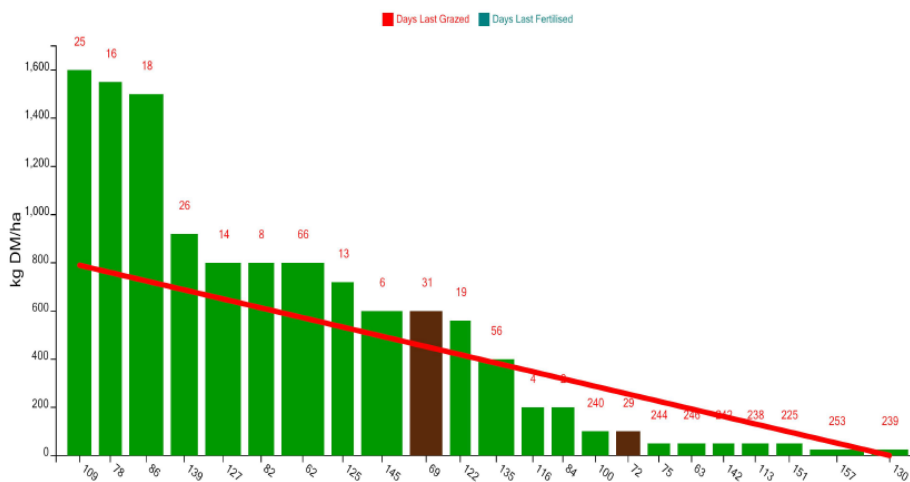
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Grass Management:

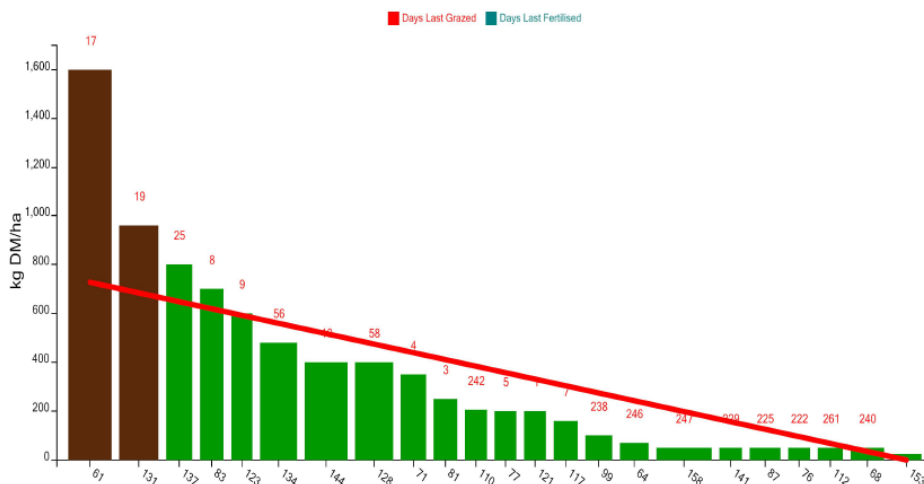
- On the last farm cover, grass growth averaged 55 kgDM/ha across the three farmlets.
- 27 paddocks were cut for pit silage on the 23rd May.
- The average yield from these paddocks was 7096 kgDM/ha at 22.7% DM.

	Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	LU/ha	Days Ahead
High	67	40	505	3.99	13
Medium	44	36	371	3.67	10
Low	54	33	347	3.34	11

High stocking density



Medium stocking density



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Low stocking density

