

Teagasc Johnstown Castle
Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 02-10-2017

Animal Performance: *Yearlings*

- Heifers have begun concentrate feeding for finishing, with the aim to have the majority killed November/December.
- All heifers and steers are being housed today due to poor ground conditions and grass scarcity. They will be housed in the new shed in their stocking density groups, in groups of nine (8 pens per stocking density group; 4 pens of steers, 4 pens of heifers).
- Heifers will be finished on ad lib good quality silage plus ~5 kg concentrates/day. We hope to slaughter our first group of heifers towards the end of November.
- Steers will be fed good quality silage over the winter only and will be turned out in the Spring (March/April) and finished off grass according to the 26/27 month production system.
- Cattle will be weighed today (2nd Oct) and re weighed in four days. (6th Oct).



Animal Performance: *2017 calves*

- Calves are being left to graze for another few weeks.
- The aim to continue to graze them on swards of ~1100kgDM/ha, and not allow the grass to get too strong ahead of them. They continue to be supplemented with ~1kg concentrate/day.
- Calves will be housed sometime in November (weather permitting) and will be kept on good quality



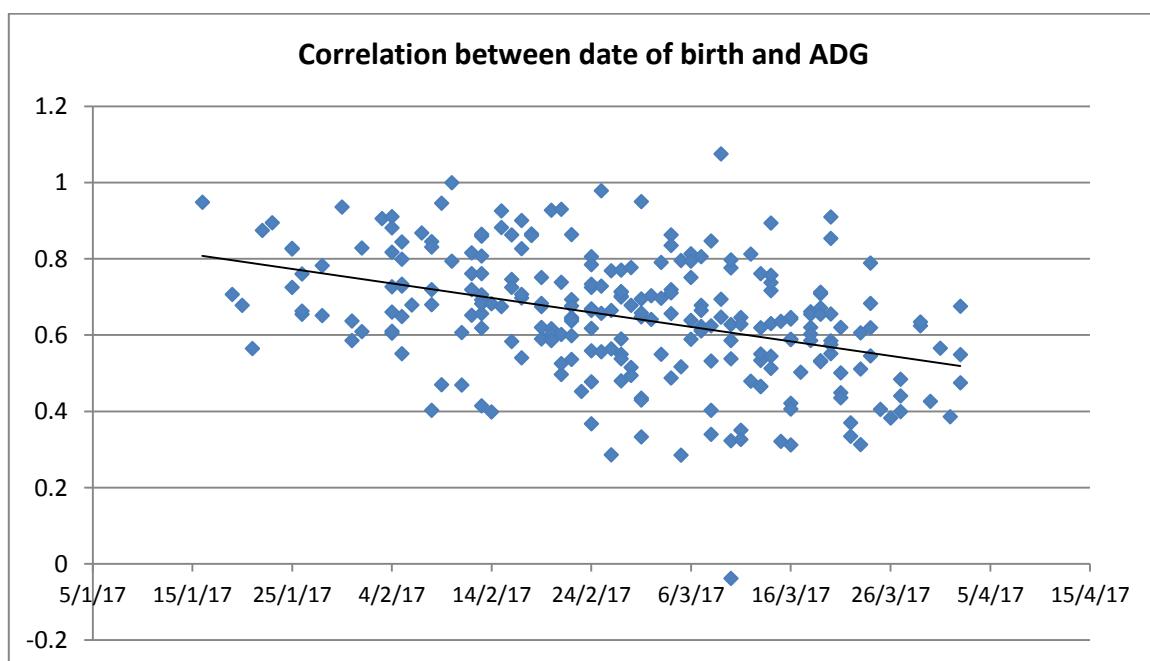
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silage and 1-2kg of concentrate/head/day (dependent on silage quality).

- A number of small calves (25) were housed 10 days ago.
- Calves in the larger grazing groups are doing well and will be weighed next week.

Health

- Three of the housed calves have died, two of which have been sent for post mortem.
- Post mortem results from one calf that died last month have shown evidence of lung damage and consolidation, which is deemed to be associated with historic health issues.
- The housed calves have received another worm dose, coccidiosis treatment and Grovit.
- We are looking at all avenues to try find a cause and a solution to the health issues of this year's calves.
- From looking at the calf records, it appears that the majority of the poor performing and sick calves are later born and came in to Johnstown castle in the second batch of calves (of the calves that came on the 13th July, 82% of these are poor (63 out of 77)). The data suggests a correlation between week of birth and the calves' average daily gains.



Grassland Management

- Grass growth is averaging 31 kg DM/ha/day, including the commercial ground.
- September was an extremely wet month, with approximately 161ml of rain. Because of this, we have housed cattle early (cattle housed 27th October last year).

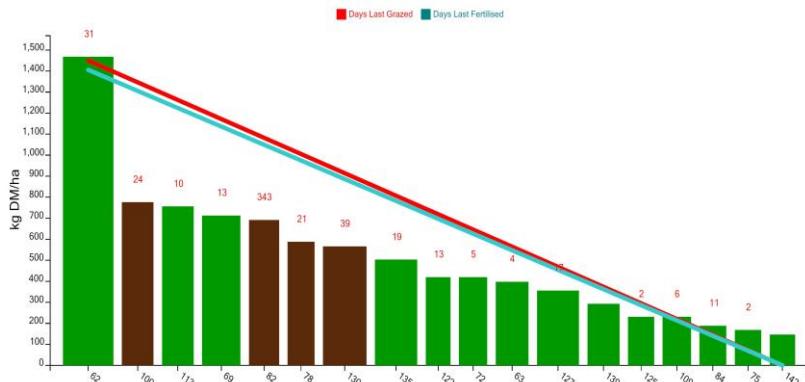


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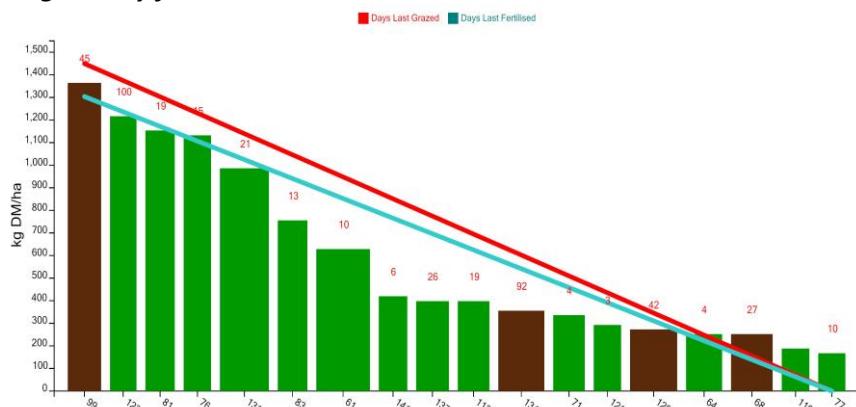
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Date of cover: 28-09-2017	High	Medium	Low
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	541	578	497
Cover/LU (kg DM/LU)	152	175	152
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	29	29	27
Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	43	40	40
Days ahead	13	14	12
Reseed (ha)	2.04	2.30	2.47

High stocking density farmlet



Medium stocking density farmlet



Low stocking density farmlet

