

Teagasc Johnstown Castle Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 10-07-2018

There has been no rain in Johnstown Castle so far this month; the last rain to fall was mid-June. Grass growth has declined due to the drought conditions. With the 27/28 month steers, the 15/16 month old cattle and this year's calves all on the ground, the demand for grass is high. The aim is to get the steers finished in the next 2-3 weeks in order to reduce the grass demand on the farmlets.

	Animal Numbers
27/28 Month steers	108
15/16 Month old cattle	216 (+20 spares on commercial ground)
Calves	216 (+35 spares)

Numbers of experimental cattle in Johnstown Castle

Animal Performance:

26 Month steers

- The steers are being fed ~7 kg concentrate/head/day at grass. This has helped to reduce the demand for grass. We hope to have all the steers killed within the next month.
- The steers were weighed and body condition scored on the 7th July, they averaged 651 kg liveweight with an ADG of 2.3 kg since their last weighing on the 1st June.
- The target BCS was 3.6, which should correlate to a 3-/3+ factory fat score.
- 45 steers have been selected for slaughter next week; 15 Angus, 17 Hereford, 13 Limousin.

	Liveweight (kg)	ADG 3 rd Season at grass
High	631	1.43
Medium	666	1.41
Low	655	1.47

Yearlings

- The yearlings were weighed on the 21st June. They averaged 376 kg.
- The yearlings were dosed for worms (injectable) and given a fly/lice pour-on.

	Liveweight (kg)	ADG 2nd Season at grass
High	374	1.12
Medium	375	1.06
Low	379	0.96

Calves

- The second load of calves (94) arrived on the 20th June. Their average birth date was 23rd February, making them 116 days (16.5 weeks) of age on arrival. The average liveweight of the calves was 123.8 kg.
- The last group of calves (62) arrived on the 4th July. Their average liveweight was 115 kg.

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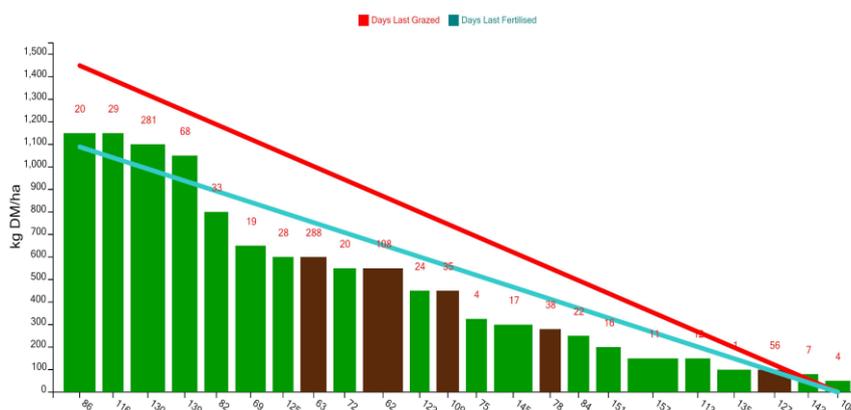
- The calves were given their second intramuscular IBR vaccine and 7ml Norfenicol.
- The calves are being fed ~2.2 kg concentrate at grass, going into covers <1100kgDM/ha.
- The calves are doing well at grass; the first two groups of calves were weighed and dosed for worms on the 5/6th July. They averaged 141 kg.

Grass Management:

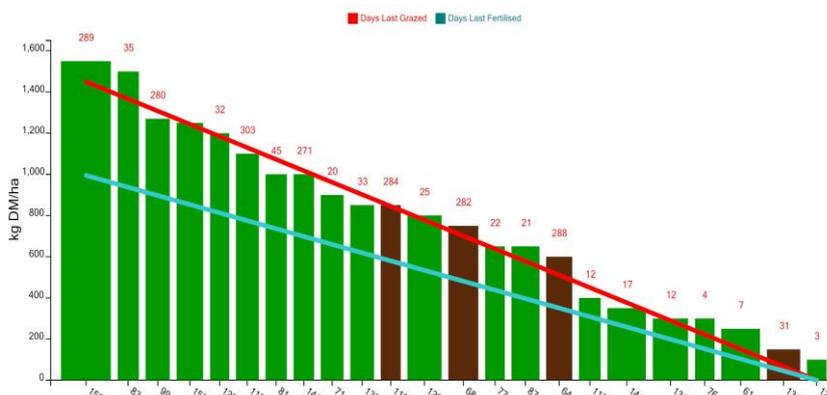
- The latest farm cover was taken on the 9th July. Grass growth rates have decreased again, with an average growth figure of 24 kgDM/ha across the three farmlets.
- Paddock pre-graze grass yields are averaging <1200 kgDM/ha, with grass DM 31.9%.

	Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	LU/ha	Days Ahead
High	21	35	476	4.32	14
Medium	28	32	766	3.98	24
Low	23	36	651	3.74	18

High stocking density



Medium stocking density



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Low stocking density

