

Teagasc Johnstown Castle
Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 18-05-2018

Animal Performance:

Older cattle

- The steers were weighed on the 15th May. They are gaining 0.526 kg/day since turnout, which is good to see considering they came off a high concentrate diet indoors onto first rotation grass in poor conditions.
- The hereford steers remain heavier (574 kg), on average, than the angus (572 kg) and limousin (544 kg) steers. Overall the cattle averaged 561 kg.
- Meal feeding at grass will begin shortly, with the aim to finish the steers in July.

	26/04/2018 Turnout	01/05/2018	15/05/2018
High	526	535	543
Medium	573	574	580
Low	560	558	568



Yearlings

- The yearlings are doing well since they went out to grass, averaging 0.9 kg/day since their 4-day reweigh following turnout at the end of April.
- The yearlings are now grazing in their groups of 72.

	17/05/2018 (kg)	ADG second season (kg/day)
High	334	0.899
Medium	339	1.022
Low	338	0.884

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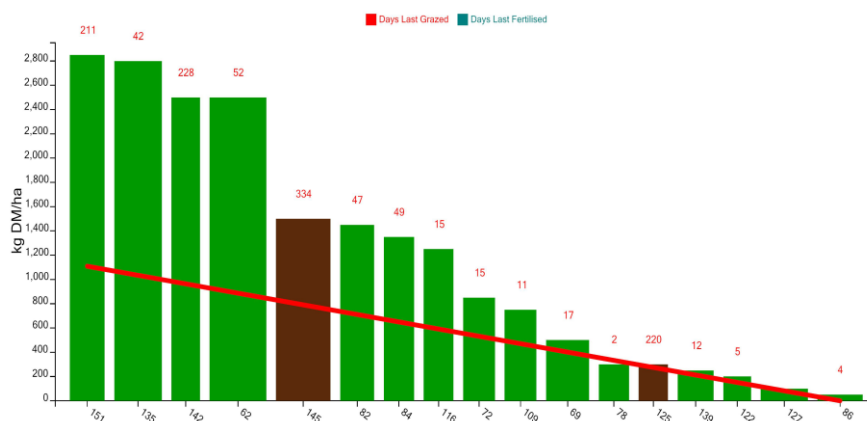
Grass Management:

- On the last farm cover, grass growth averaged 60 kgDM/ha across the three farmlets.
- 22 paddocks (23.27 ha) have been assigned for grass silage (cut later).

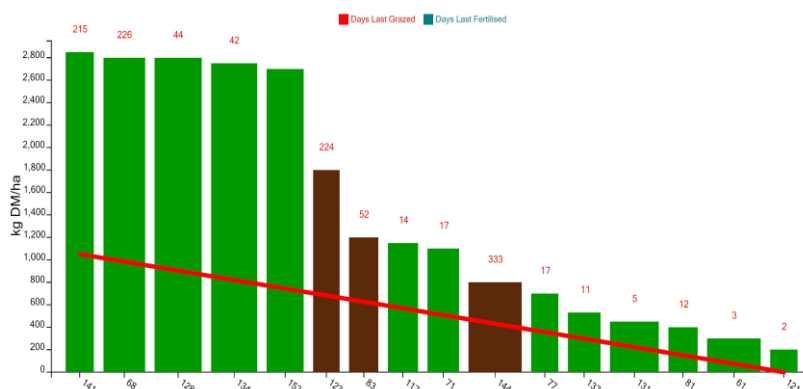
	Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	LU/ha	Days Ahead
High	52	56	1200	5.6	21
Medium	59	53	1428	5.31	27
Low	60	53	1498	5.37	28

- Since the cover was taken, 8 of the very heavy paddocks (see in edges below) were cut for baled silage as they became too strong to graze and we needed to get the paddocks back into rotation. We are expecting this year's trial calves to arrive in the next 3 weeks, so they will be able to graze the after grass.
- The paddocks cut for silage averaged 4657 kg DM/ha at 20.3% DM.

High stocking density



Medium stocking density



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Low stocking density

