

Teagasc Johnstown Castle
Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 22-03-2018

Animal Performance:

Older cattle

- The 2 year old steers remain on ad lib silage with the hope of turn out to grass as soon as weather and ground conditions pick up.
- Due to the building of the new crush facilities, limited weighing has been able to be completed this spring.

Yearlings

- 107 yearlings were turned out to grass on 21st March. They are grazing in small groups of <20 animals in order to limit poaching.
- These yearlings averaged 314 kg at turnout.
- The average daily gain for their first winter was 0.74 kg/day.
- Last year all yearlings were turned out on the 15th March (average 298 kg).

Grass Management:

- Soil temperatures have remained below 4.5°C, which, combined with heavy rainfall, has limited spring grass growth.
- Average growth rates have not risen above 5 kg DM/ha/day for March thus far.
- On the 24th March 2017, grass growth was 18 kg DM/ha/day.
- Farm cover was taken on 16th March 2018.

	Farm cover (kg DM/ha)	Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	Days ahead
High	1098	45	-	24
Medium	1030	41	-	25
Low	1026	38	-	27

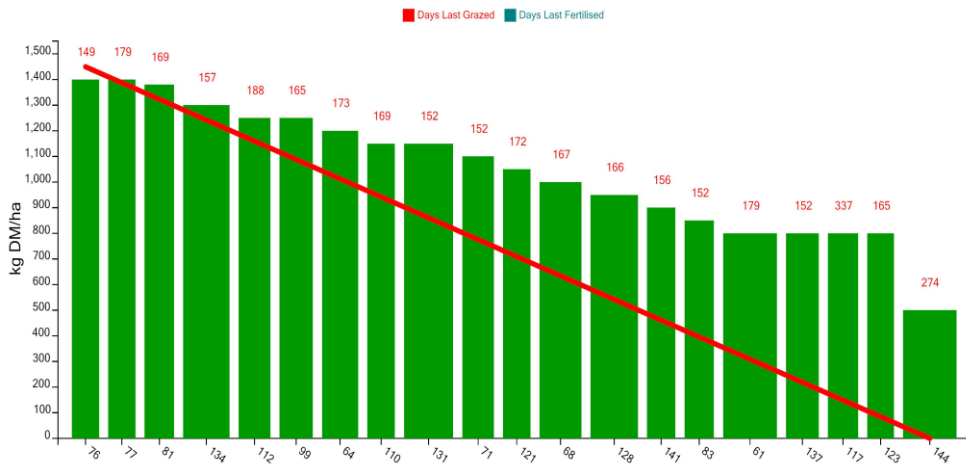
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High Stocking Density



Medium Stocking Density



Low Stocking Density

