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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm cover (kg DM/ha)</th>
<th>Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)</th>
<th>Growth (kg DM/ha/day)</th>
<th>Days ahead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>1098</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>1030</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>1026</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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High Stocking Density

Medium Stocking Density

Low Stocking Density