

Teagasc Johnstown Castle Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 25-02-2019

Animal Performance:

Older cattle

- The bullocks are still indoors on 30kg silage and have been brought back to 1kg concentrates in preparation for turnout.
- It is hoped to turn them out in the next weeks as long as conditions remain dry.
- A number of bullocks performed very well over the winter. Because of this we body condition scored them last week and 43 are fit to be killed. These will be killed on the 4th March. The remaining 65 bullocks will be put out to grass with no meal and killed off grass as they become fit, with a finishing period of 60 days on 3 kg meal beginning mid-April.

Yearlings

- The yearlings were reduced to 1kg of concentrates (with 17 kg silage) for one week prior to turnout on the 14th February.
- At turnout they averaged 324 kg (empty weight).
- They were turned out in groups of 24 into paddocks of ~1300 kg DM/ha that were easily accessible to the main yard. Strip wiring is being used to reduce the paddock area to avoid trampling and ensure the paddocks were grazed out well.



Yearling performance (Average results)

	Live weight @ turnout (kg)	ADG 1 ST Winter (kg/day)
High	328	0.79
Medium	321	0.71
Low	323	0.75

- The yearlings will be put into 6 groups of 36 (instead of 9 groups of 24) next week, weather permitting.

Grassland Management:

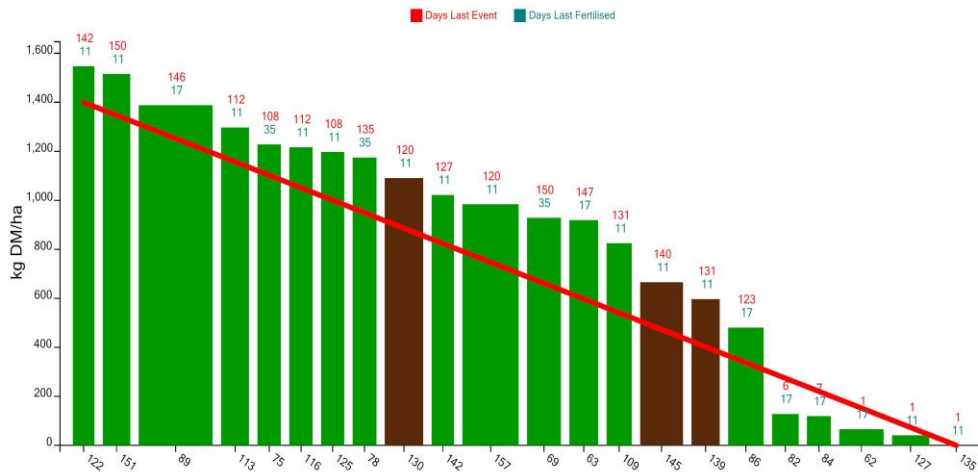
- A farm cover was completed on the 11th February pre turnout. Average farm cover was 996 kg DM/ha.
- The entire farm received its first round of fertiliser (KAN, 65kg/ha) by the 11th February.

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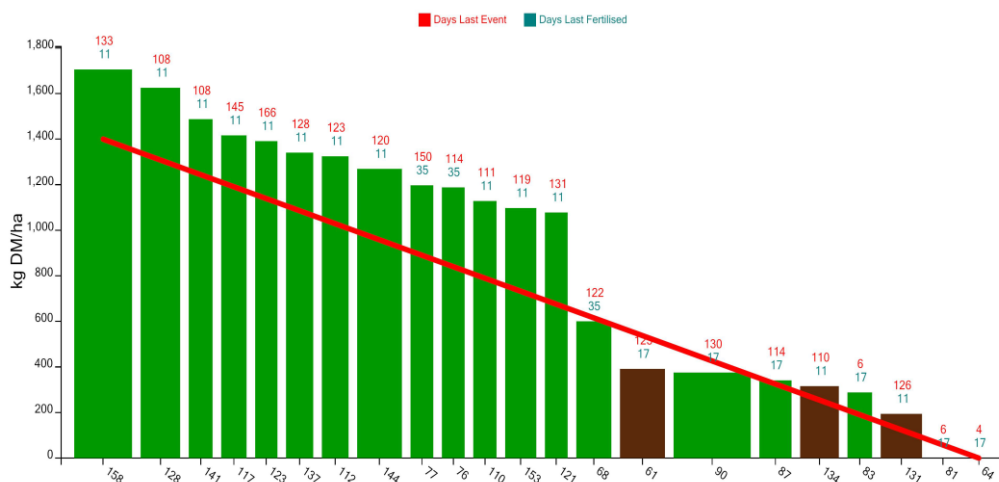
- The latest farm cover was completed on the 22nd February, with an average farm cover of 896 kg DM/ha. With the mild weather conditions, the re growth on grazed paddocks is excellent, with growth rates of 30 kg DM/ha/day.

	Growth/ha	Demand/ha	Farm Cover	Grazing Area	Total LU	LU/ha	Days Ahead
	Kg DM/ha/day	Kg DM/ha/day	Kg DM/ha	Ha			
High	21	32	825	22.32	50.4	2.26	39
Medium	38	29	865	24.26	50.4	2.08	46
Low	31	27	988	26.76	50.4	1.88	58

High stocking rate farmlet



Medium stocking rate farmlet



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Low stocking rate farmlet

