

Teagasc Johnstown Castle
Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 29-03-2019

Animal Performance:

Older cattle

- The remaining 65 steers were let out to grass on the 29th March, one month earlier than spring of 2018.
- The steers averaged 570 kg at turnout; however it is important to remember that the heaviest of the steers were killed earlier this month.
- One steer has been kept in on straw for a few days having come down with pneumonia.

	High	Medium	Low
Live weight @ turnout	561	572	562
ADG 2nd Winter	0.67	0.77	0.54

Yearlings

- The yearlings were turned back out to grass in groups of 36 on the 20th March.
- Following the herd TB test on the 25th March, they were put back into grazing groups of 72.
- They will be weighed next week.

Grassland Management:

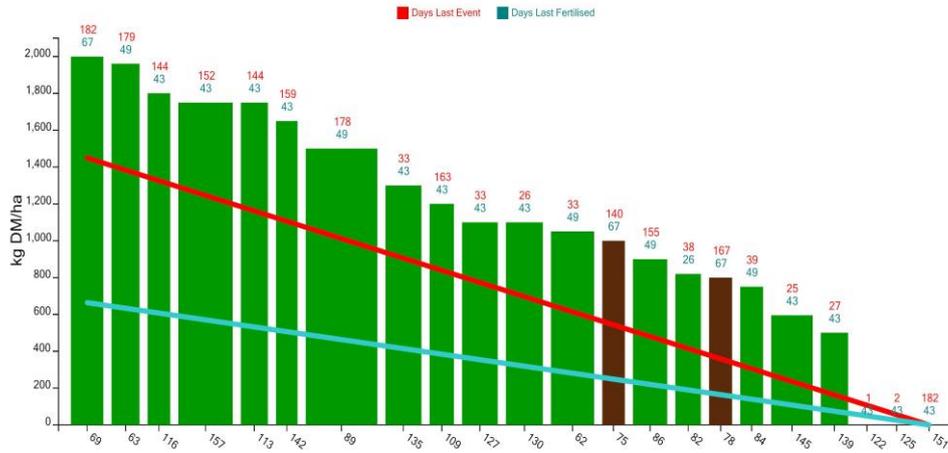
- A farm cover was completed on 26th March; average grass growth was ~35 kg DM/ha.
- Three paddocks (two of which are due to be cut for silage) have become too strong to graze and will be cut for bales next week.
- Cattle are grazing out the fields that are to be cut for first cut silage this week. These paddocks will be closed and will receive slurry in the next ten days.
- The heavier covers are being tightly strip grazed to increase grass utilisation. Paddocks with heavier soils are also being strip grazed to avoid damage and trampling.
- A number of paddocks that were grazed out end of February are being sprayed for docks.

	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	17	33	1136	21.48	50.4	2.26	34
Medium	13	31	1168	24.26	50.4	2.08	38
Low	16	28	1121	24.78	50.4	1.88	40

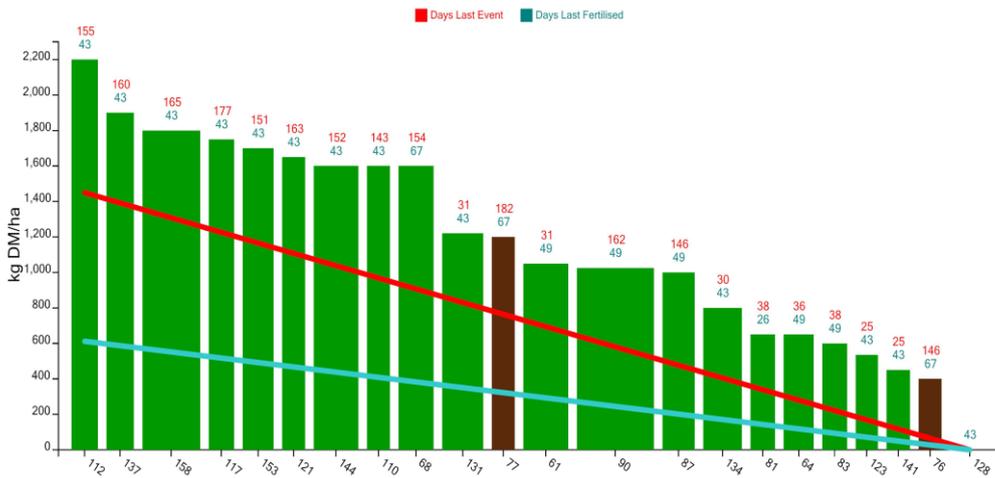
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High stocking rate farmlet



Medium stocking rate farmlet



Low stocking rate farmlet

