

Teagasc Dairy Beef Research Programme

Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford

Update: September 2019

Animal Performance:

2.5 year old steers

- The sixteen 2017 born bullocks have yet to be killed due to factory backlogs. These have now all gone over the 30 months of age.
- They remain on 5 kg of 14% crude protein beef finisher concentrate/head/day.

Yearlings (18 month old)

- The yearlings were weighed on the 2nd September, averaging 476 kg.
- The cattle were dosed with Taurador, a doramectin-based pour-on product, on the 2nd September at a rate of 1ml per 10kg bodyweight. This is a new product that covers gastrointestinal roundworms, lungworm, biting and suckling lice among other parasites.
- The heifers were drafted out and began meal supplementation at grass on the 5th September. They received 2 kg of a 14% crude protein beef finisher ration per head daily to start, and were built up to 5 kg per head.
- The steers remain on grass only, and will stay at grass as long as weather permits before being housed for their second winter.

	Heifers	ADG (kg/day)	Steers	ADG (kg/day)
High	452 kg	0.78	513 kg	0.93
Medium	453 kg	0.78	490 kg	0.84
Low	452 kg	0.79	506 kg	0.88

Spring born calves

- The calves were weighed and dosed with Taurador pour-on on the 5th September.
- The calves averaged 186 kg, gaining 0.62 kg per day on average since arrival in July. This is a low rate of gain for calves during their first season, but these calves suffered a setback on arrival and so this was not unexpected.
- The calves were also genotype-tagged and sorted into their treatment groups on the 5th September. They remain on 2 kg of a 16% Crude protein calf ration per head daily.
- Towards the end of September, a few calves began to lose condition rapidly. They appeared empty, dehydrated and lethargic, however veterinary worm tests showed no signs of Osteragia or Cooperia. Additionally, from a number of visits to sick calves, the veterinarian does not suspect coccidiosis to be the cause of the health problems.
- Blood and faecal samples, as well as a post mortem of one of the very sick calves who died, were sent to the laboratory and results are still pending. In the meantime, the sick calves have been removed from their respective grazing groups to an isolated paddock and have been treated

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with electrolytes, Vecoxan and Albex to cover dehydration, coccidiosis and intestinal worms, respectively.

Grassland Management:

- Grass grew well for the month of September averaging 48 kg DM/ha/day. Despite some heavy rainfall towards the end of the month, the ground held up well and cattle continued to graze out paddocks with minimal wastage or damage. The average post grazing height was 3.53 cm.

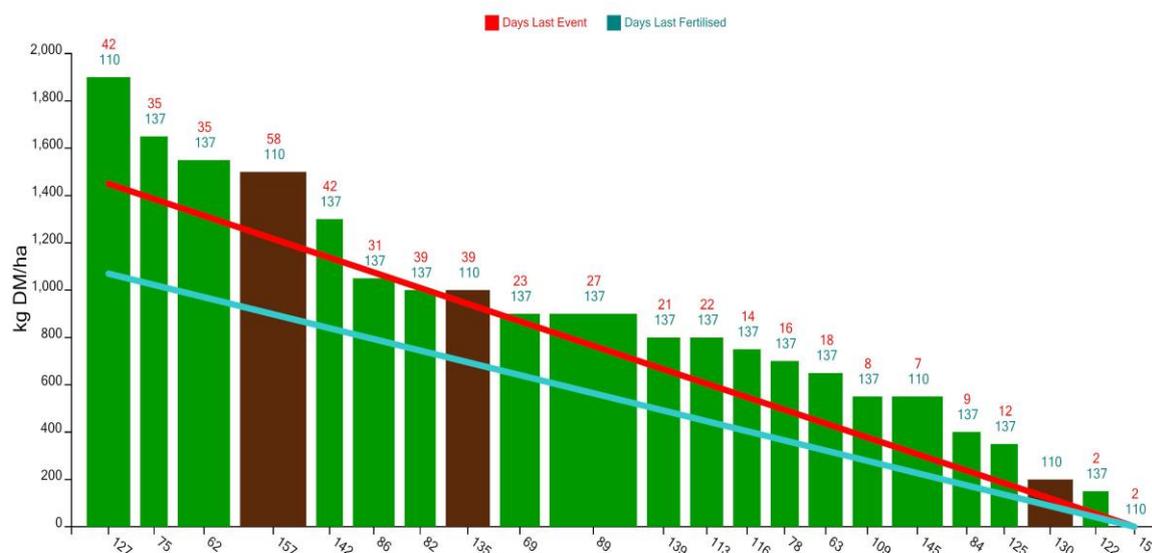
Total rainfall (ml)	89.1
Mean temperature (°C)	13.8
Mean 10cm soil temperature (°C)	14.1

- The average pre grazing yield for September was 2000 kg DM/ha, with cattle entering heavier covers and calves grazing lighter covers to ensure maximum utilisation. Strip grazing is being used on larger paddocks and paddocks with heavy covers (>2000 kg DM/ha).
- The average grass DM was 16.5 % for the month of September.

Farm Cover September 23rd 2019

	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	36	38	901	22.32	77	3.45	24
Medium	50	34	919	24.26	77	3.17	27
Low	48	31	1040	26.76	77	2.88	34

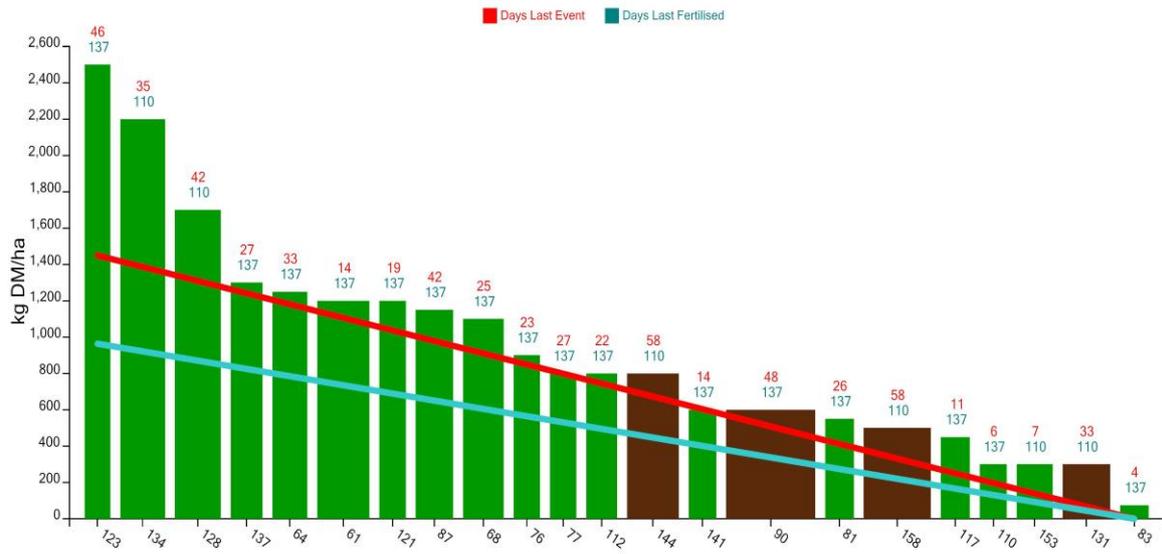
High stocking rate farmlet



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Medium stocking rate farmlet



Low stocking rate farmlet

