

Derrypatrick Herd Farm Notes Week Beginning 14/05/18

General Details

- 96 cows and 97 calves, 29 replacement heifers and 99 weanlings at grass
- The herd is being managed in 8 different groups
 - 4 groups of 24 cows with calves at foot and 7 replacement heifers (8 replacement heifers in one group) and there is a teaser bull in each of these groups
 - 4 groups of weanlings (25 weanlings in 3 groups, 24 weanlings in remaining group)
- Body condition score at calving was 2.8
- 96 cows and 29 heifers available for breeding
- 56% of the herd (55 cows and 15 heifers) have been AI'd in the first 16 days of the breeding season (breeding season started Wednesday 2nd May)
- All cows have been tail painted one colour (yellow) and after AI, the tail paint is changed to blue and will be monitored closely in 3 weeks' time for repeats
- Minerals are being distributed through the water to prevent grass tetany
- Calves received their booster shot of IBR live marker and Bovilis bovipast on Wednesday 16th May
- All weanlings groups were weighed Tuesday 15th May
- All cow groups were weighed Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th May

Grass

- 2018 turnout date was Tuesday 17th April; 5 weeks later than 2017 turnout
- 66 cows and calves, and 100 yearlings were turned out to grass on Tuesday 17th April
- The remaining cows and calves were turned out on Friday 20th April
- Silage paddocks were not grazed in spring
- Cows and calves entered paddocks with an average pre-grazing cover of 1350 kg DM/ha and yearlings entered paddocks with an average pre-grazing cover of 1440 kg DM/ha
- Post-grazing sward height target is 4cm. Once this is reached, groups are moved to the next paddock
- The 2nd rotation started Monday 14th May
- Two paddocks (1.09 ha in total) were taken out this week for surplus bales as they had gone too strong for grazing >2000 kg DM/ha

Grassland management

The details below are for the full Derrypatrick farm:

Cover taken 17/05/2018	
Average farm cover (kg DM/ha)	909
Cover/LU (kg DM/LU)	160
Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	71
Demand (kg DM/day/day)	71
Days ahead	13
DM content (%)	20

- 55% of total farm area has been closed for 1st cut silage
- 25 units of N being spread after each paddock is grazed

Animal

- Average weanling (steers, heifers) weight: 370 kg
- Average daily gain of weanlings from turnout to 15th May: 1.12 kg

Breeding

- AM: PM heat detection and AI
- Cows and heifers observed 4 times per day
- Teaser bull fitted with chin-ball harness and topped up when required
- A number of cows and heifers were seen in heat the week prior to breeding

Calving

- Start date: 10/02/2018
- Mean calving date: 12/03/2018
- Total calved: 96/100
- Total live calves: 97
- Mortalities: 3 abortions, 1 calf lost at calving
- Two Caesarean sections
- Calf average birth weight: 47.2 kg

Weekly planner

- Monitor all cows and heifers regularly for heat detection
- Keep tail paint up to date
- Keep the teaser bull's chin ball harness topped up with paint
- Do weekly grass covers and monitor grass growth closely
- Take out surplus paddocks if required; anything above 1800 kg DM/ha will be skipped





Pictures show Derrypatrick weanlings going into a cover of 1500 kg DM/ha. Average daily gain from turnout to 15th May was 1.1 kg/day.