

Derrypatrick Herd Farm Notes Week Beginning 28/05/18

General Details

- 96 cows and 97 calves, 29 replacement heifers, 99 weanlings currently at grass
- Eight groups being managed at grass; 4 groups of cows and calves and replacement heifers, and 4 groups of weanlings
- All cows have been tail painted one colour (yellow) and after AI, the tail paint is changed to blue
- Minerals are being distributed through the water to prevent grass tetany
- 1st cut silage was harvested on 25th May. The average yield for 1st cut was 4.8 t DM/ha
- All ground harvested for 1st cut and destined for 2nd cut received 2000 gallons/acre slurry, 3 bags/acre CAN and 1 bag/acre 0-7-30
- 86% of the herd (86 cows and 21 heifers) have been AI'd in the first 30 days of the breeding season (breeding season started Wednesday 2nd May)
- One cow has been treated for photosensitivity. This is an adverse reaction to sunlight. She was displaying signs of restlessness (twitching, flicking of ears and tail, irritability, stomping and kicking at self, swelling around the eyes, hair loss, reddening, thickening, and peeling of affected skin)

Breeding

- Start date : 02/05/18
- As the breeding season is now in week 5 (week 5 commenced 30th May), cows and replacement heifers are being closely monitored for 3 week repeats
- One teaser bull with chin-ball harness per 24 cows and 7 or 8 replacement heifers depending on group
- Tail paint, AM: PM heat detection and AI
- Cows and replacement heifers observed 4 times per day

Grass

- The 2nd rotation started Monday 14th May
- Two paddocks (1.68 ha in total) were taken out this week for surplus bales as they had gone too strong for grazing >2000 kg DM/ha
- Farm was walked on Monday and the covers on each treatment were adequate. Since Monday, there has been a big increase in grass growth. The decision was made to walk the farm again today and a number of paddocks have been earmarked to be taken out next week as they will be too strong for grazing. This is due to silage headlands being grazed at the moment
- Data from PastureBase Ireland estimates paddocks with a cover less than 600 kg DM/ha are growing at 43kg DM/ha, covers between 600 - 1000 kg DM/ha are growing at 74kg DM/ha, covers greater than 1000 kg DM/ha are growing at 105kg DM/ha. Derrypatrick paddocks are closely reflecting this trend

Grassland management

The details below are for the full Derrypatrick farm:

Cover taken 01/06/2018	
Average farm cover (kg DM/ha)	764
Cover/LU (kg DM/LU)	147
Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	95
Demand (kg DM/day/day)	64
Days ahead	12
DM content (%)	20

- 25 units of N being spread after each paddock is grazed

Weekly planner

- Monitor all cows and replacements heifers regularly for heat detection and repeats
- 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
- Monitor the cow with photosensitivity



Picture shows a surplus paddock (0.84 ha; cover of 2500 kg DM/ha) being taken out.