

Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- March 6th

Introduction

These management notes refer to the high stocking rate group in the Johnstown Winter Milk Experiment. This herd has:

- 100% autumn calving
- A mean calving date of October 8th. Calving commences in early September and continues until early December.
- A Holstein Friesian base with an EBI of €92. Aim is a 50:50 balance for milk and fertility
- Whole farm stocking rate of 4.0 cows/ha

The aims of the system are to produce 30,000 litres per hectare utilising >12 tonnes of forage on the grazing block

Management Issues

- Feeding Management- Manage TMR allowance to achieve correct post grazing heights
- Mastitis – pre-foaming and post spraying. Maintain cubicle hygiene
- Spring Rotation- Stick to the targets for 1/3 grazed by early March, 2/3 grazed by March 17th

Current Situation

- 32% of farm area grazed by this week. Grazing conditions have been excellent. See spring rotation plan below.
- Pre-grazing yield approx 1100kg DM, therefore offering approx 4.5kg grass DM per cow, grazing by day.
- Details of the TMR diet listed below. TMR allocation reduced from 21kgDM to 17kgDM when cows grazing by day. Concentrate ingredients are included as a coarse blend in the wagon mix. 1kg of 18% nut fed in the parlour. Allocation is reduced by feeding the same TMR mix but for fewer cows per day
- Soil temp 7 degrees
- Sires being used were SOK, UPH, RXR, LLK, LZD and some remaining RDU straws. (SOK and LLK on maiden heifers)
- Feeding flat rate to a yield of 26 litres on a UFL basis.
- Total TMR diet is 16.3% crude protein with a PDIE/PDIN balance of 103g / 106g. Diet provide adequate protein for 34 litres @ this PDI content

Milk Yield details for 6th Mar

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 06-MAR-11	
Feed System	
Genotype	4.0
Mean calving date of cows calved	03-OCT
Farmlet size (ha)	
Farmlet stocking rate (cows/ha)	
Production Data This Week	
Supplementation (kg/cow/day)	
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	24.5
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.92
Fat Composition (%)	4.22
Protein Composition (%)	3.61
Lactose Composition (%)	4.63
Body Weight (kg)	579
Body Condition Score	
Cumulative Production to date	
Days in Milk (days)	157
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	231
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	3935
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	300
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	4.08
Protein Composition (%)	3.54
Lactose Composition (%)	4.63

Diet Details for TMR diet.

		kg as fed	kg DM	€ /t	Analysis (/ kg DM)	Dairy in Milk (Early Lactation)	
Feed Ingredients for Selection	Ingredients						
	Dairy 18% CP	1.00	0.9	€ 190	DM %	38.9	25-40
	Soyabean meal 48% CP	2.00	1.7	€ 330	UFL	0.95	0.90-0.95
	Barley (rolled)	1.60	1.4	€ 185	UFV	0.91	-
	Maize	0.50	0.4	€ 180	Cr. protein g	162	165-180
	Beet pulp unmolassed	1.20	1.1	€ 145	PDIN g	106	100-110
	Rapeseed meal	1.10	1.0	€ 170	PDIE g	103	100-110
	Trafford Gold	3.50	1.9	€ 95	PDIA g	52	
	Fat (vegetable)	0.20	0.2	€ 400	Starch g	169	120-200 max
	Minerals	Dairy Maize/beet 25kg/ton	0.25	0.2	€ 650	Sugar g	48
Forages		kg DM	kg as fed		Cr. Fibre g	185	170-200
	Grass silage 74 % DMD	5.00	20.8	€ 22	Oil g	37	Less than 50
	Maize silage 25% starch	7.00	21.9	€ 38	Ca g	6.1	6.5-7.5
	Straw- barley	0.50	0.6	€ 60	P g	5.4	3.5-4.5
					NDF g	406	280+
Wet Feeds & Brassica Crops					RSVConc	175	200.0
					ADF g	230	210+
					Se mg	0.58	0.35-0.45
					Mg g	2.61	2.2-2.8
					Tot. UF Intake	20.2 UFL	19.3 UFV
Tonne mix ration					Tot. PDI Intake	2256 g PDIN	2182 g PDIE
	jc mix 09		0.0		Cost	€ 3.50 / day	
	Total Intake / day	21.3 kg DM	54.6 kg				
	Chosen Intake as % of BW	3.3 %	20.5 kg DM				
	Need to allocate	-0.8 kg DM	more feed		Enter animal category	Milking cows	
					Animal live weight	620 kg	
					Target Intake as % of LW	3.0-3.5	

Spring Rotation plan for TMR Group

Total Area ha	6.0
Turnout	10-Feb
Magic Day	08-Apr

Week Start Date	Area ha Grazed by weekend	% Farm grazed by weekend
10-Feb	0.4	7
17-Feb	0.9	15
24-Feb	1.4	23
03-Mar	2.0	33
10-Mar	2.6	44
17-Mar	3.4	56
24-Mar	4.3	72
31-Mar	5.4	90
07-Apr	6.9	115

Notes

- The main aim is to extend the first grazing round to set up farm for second grazing round.
- Plan is to turn out herd by day on Feb 10th and have 7% of farm grazed by the end of week. This gives a long growing interval to second grazing. Delaying until grass builds up would result in too short of a first grazing round and a shortage of grass in April
- Total area is 6.0 ha for 24 cows- stocking rate 4.0 cows per ha. Herd feed demand is high at 72kg dry matter per ha
- Grass allowance will be small in the early weeks but the balance will be made up by balancing with TMR feeding indoors
- Post grazing residuals managed to 3.5 - 4cm. TMR allocation will gradually be reduced as grass allowance increases
- Offer at least 4-5kg DM per grazing bout. Stick to % area grazed per week. We housed cows for 2-3 days in the early weeks last year to achieve this- no significant problems with unsettled cows etc.