

## Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- May 1<sup>st</sup>

### **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 8<sup>th</sup>. 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**

- Grazing management- Manage grass allowance to achieve post grazing height of 4cm
- Rotation length- target graze 5% of farm area each day to achieve a 20-day rotation.
- Pre-grazing yield- target 1400kgDM pre grazing yield.
- Use supplements to correct deficits in pasture availability. Feeding decisions should be driven by pasture covers.

### **Current Situation**

- Current milk yield is 23.3kg at 1.86kg solids, average 205 days in milk (see table). Max milk yield in group is 29.4 litres. Weekly yield average is 85% of peak
- Supplements fed at a flat rate based on grass cover, not fed to individual yield. Currently feeding 1kg meal to cover Calmag
- Grazing to 4cm in excellent conditions. Approx 10% of area will be closed for silage to bring grazing stocking rate to 4.5 cows per ha, holding pre grazing yield at 1400kg

## Milk Yield details for 1<sup>st</sup> May

| Detailed Data Update to week ending: 01-MAY-11 |        |
|--|--------|
| Feed System                                    |        |
| Genotype                                       | 4.0    |
| Mean calving date of cows calved               | 03-OCT |
| Famlet size (ha)                               |        |
| Famlet stocking rate (cows/ha)                 |        |
|  |        |
| <b>Production Data This Week</b>               |        |
| Supplementation (kg/cow/day)                   | 1.1    |
| Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)                        | 23.3   |
| Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)                       | 1.67   |
| Fat Composition (%)                            | 3.57   |
| Protein Composition (%)                        | 3.60   |
| Lactose Composition (%)                        | 4.70   |
| Body Weight (kg)                               | 450    |
| Body Condition Score                           |        |
|  |        |
| <b>Cumulative Production to date</b>           |        |
| Days in Milk (days)                            | 212    |
| Supplement fed (kg/cow)                        | 392    |
| Milk Yield (kg/cow)                            | 5336   |
| Milk Solids (kg/cow)                           | 404    |
| Milk Solids (kg/ha)                            |        |
| Fat Composition (%)                            | 4.01   |
| Protein Composition (%)                        | 3.56   |
| Lactose Composition (%)                        | 4.64   |

