

Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- May 28th

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

- 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 holding steady at 23.5kg at 1.85kg solids, at 240 days in milk (see table). Max milk yield in group is 27.2 litres. Weekly yield average remains 83% of peak, giving a characteristic flat supply curve.
- 4.5 kg concentrate being fed flat to arrest slide in pasture cover per cow which had declined from 179kg per cow to 146kg DM per cow over 1 week.
- Concentrate is a high energy, 14% crude protein commercial dairy ration
- Supplements fed at a flat rate based on grass cover, not fed to individual yield.
- Grazing to 4.4cm in excellent conditions. Pre grazing yield is 1287kg

Milk Yield details for 28th May

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 29-MAY-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)	4.5
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	23.5
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.85
Fat Composition (%)	4.24
Protein Composition (%)	3.66
Lactose Composition (%)	4.62
Body Weight (kg)	542
Body Condition Score	
Cumulative Production to date	
Days in Milk (days)	240
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	465
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	5989
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	454
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	4.01
Protein Composition (%)	3.58
Lactose Composition (%)	4.64

