

## Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- June 19<sup>th</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.
- **Supplement Feeding:**
  - Herd is 261dim so milk demand easily met on pasture-only diet
  - Use supplements to correct deficits in pasture availability
  - Feeding decisions should be driven by pasture covers.

### **Current Situation**

- Current milk yield is steady at 21.2kg at 1.68kg solids, at 260 days in milk (see table). Max milk yield in group is 25.6 litres.
- 3.5 kg concentrate continues to be fed to balance growth rate and herd demand. A growth rate of 55kg requires 15kg to balance demand per ha of 70kg per day.
- Post grazing residual and rotation length must be maintained when supplements are fed, to minimize feed substitution.
- Grass covers is now 178kg per cow, up from a low of 125kg 2 weeks ago. Concentrate feeding will be dropped as soon as possible
- Concentrate is a high energy, 14% crude protein commercial dairy ration with high maize meal content
- 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 1240kg

## Milk Yield details for 19<sup>h</sup> June

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 19-JUN-11	
Feed System	
Genotype	4.0
Mean calving date of cows calved	03-OCT
Farmlet size (ha)	
Farmlet stocking rate (cows/ha)	
<b>Production Data This Week</b>	
Supplementation (kg/cow/day)	3.5
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	21.9
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.68
Fat Composition (%)	4.01
Protein Composition (%)	3.65
Lactose Composition (%)	4.53
Body Weight (kg)	
Body Condition Score	
<b>Cumulative Production to date</b>	
Days in Milk (days)	261
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	550
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	6480
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	490
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	4.01
Protein Composition (%)	3.58
Lactose Composition (%)	4.64

