

Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- August 7th

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

- Drying off- Criteria for drying are 60 days from expected calving date or <10 litres per day. Using antibiotic and teat sealer. Stockholm tar spray applied as insect repellent.
- Grazing management- Manage grass allowance to achieve post grazing height of <4cm using dry cows.
- 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 305 days in 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

- 55% of herd dry this week. Dry cows are grazing behind milking herd, approximately 8-10kgDM allowance in 1st weeks dry.
- Current milk yield is steady at 17.9kg at 1.46kg solids. Milk protein 3.82%
- Pasture cover per cow is 165kgDM. Drying off cows has reduced demand to approximately 45kg DM.
- Further surpluses will be removed through August, by grazing with young stock or baling off, to reach between 800- 850kgDM/ha by mid-September
- Herd is 305 days in milk, 563kg solids per cow delivered to date. Milk protein has averaged 3.60% for lactation to date.

Milk Yield details for 7th August

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 07-AUG-11	
Feed System	
Genotype	4.0
Mean calving date of cows calved	06-OCT
Farmlet size (ha)	
Farmlet stocking rate (cows/ha)	
Production Data This Week	
Supplementation (kg/cow/day)	
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	17.9
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.48
Fat Composition (%)	4.30
Protein Composition (%)	3.82
Lactose Composition (%)	4.48
Body Weight (kg)	463
Body Condition Score	
Cumulative Production to date	
Days in Milk (days)	308
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	582
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	7312
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	563
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	4.08
Protein Composition (%)	3.62
Lactose Composition (%)	4.64

