

Johnstown Castle Weekly Farm Notes- May 28th

Introduction

These management notes refer to the Johnstown Winter Milk Herd in Co Wexford. 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 €119 (see page 3). Aim is a 50:50 balance for milk and fertility

The herd produces approximately 45% of annual supply from October to February inclusive. This includes 20% of annual supply in December and January.

A new experiment commenced in October 2011, comparing different concentrate feeding systems at similar stocking rates (3.25 cows per ha). Briefly, the systems compared are:

Feed to budget (GREEN): Maximizes the proportion of quality forage in the milking diet. Supplements used to balance feed availability and demand at a herd level. Flat-rate concentrate feeding at pasture and during housing.

Feed to yield (RED): Meets the daily nutritional demands of the cow while maximising quality forage in the diet. Concentrates offered on an individual cow basis, depending on yield and the base diet.

There are 42 cows per group. For reference, management notes will refer to the flat rate (GREEN) group

Management Issues

- Hold rotation length at 20 days in accelerated grass growth scenario
- Harvest silage plus surpluses
- Maintain grass intake of 18kgDM
- Post grazing residuals- targeting 4cm
- Remove pasture surpluses as silage / baled silage
- Target pre-grazing yields 1400kgDM

Current Situation

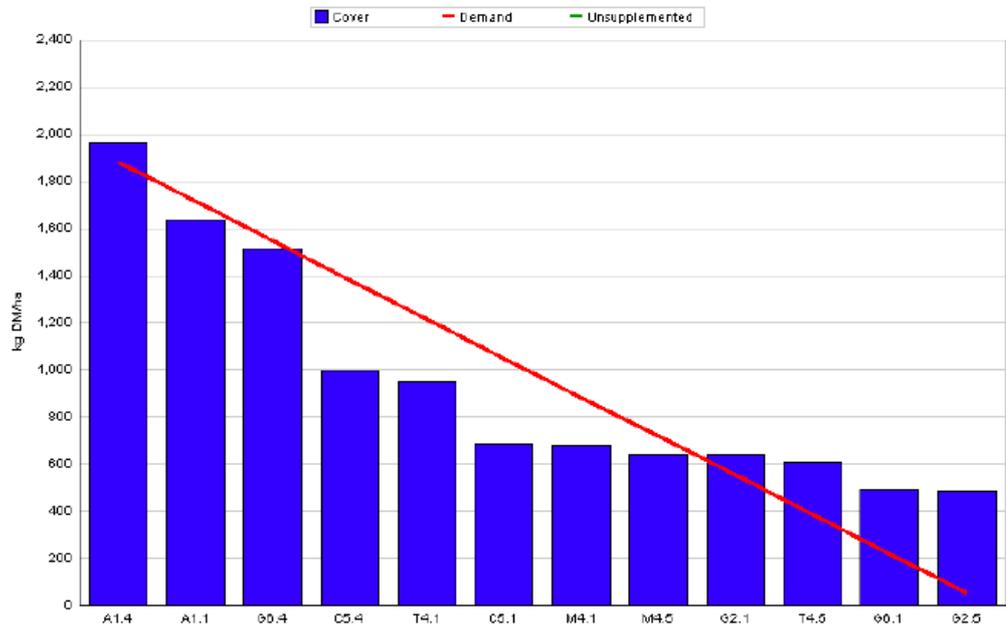
- Pasture growth was 56kg this week. Farm is stocked at 4.2 cows per ha. Meal feeding 1kg to be reduced to 0kg.
- Holding rotation length at 20days by grazing less 5% of available area per day.
- **Silage :** All paddocks had been grazed at least once this spring. The plan was to close up 30-35% in late March but this did not happen as growth was slow. 10% of the farm was closed in early April & spread (46 N). A further ~10% was closed in early May. This was also only grazed once but due to split fertilizer applications it was available for grazing until such time as covers exceeded grazeable yield. Both these areas were cut May 27th. Paddock M1 is

now also closed for silage This was grazed twice (late March & late April & was only closed as supply came in line with demand. This will probably cut in around 10 days time with a cover of around 4500kgs. It is likely that a further ~10% area will be removed as surplus next week. The net effect of grazing some of the silage area is therefore a split harvesting of planned first cut area, and a likely increase in area baled out as surpluses in the next few weeks.

- Pre-grazing yields have risen sharply. Cover per cow is 190kg DM. Currently grazing paddock A1 which is at 1800kg pre-grazing. Second half of this area will be skipped and baled in 2-3 days, reducing pre-grazing yield to 1600kgDM
- Grazing conditions have been good which is helping to achieve post grazing heights (current 4.2cm).
- Current yield is satisfactory at 23.6kg, 3.59% fat and 3.76% protein (1.76kg MS). Cumulative milk solids per cow stands at 456kg at 232 days in milk On target to exceed herd average 525kg MS per cow.
- Milk fat % is lower than protein % - this is not a major concern. The 3.59% level for fat is not particularly low, cows are healthy and eating satisfactorily and there is adequate fibre in the grass offered.
- There have been no recorded cases of health problems in the herd this week.

		Split calving feeding trials	
Farm :	Johnstown Castle Farm	Treatment :	Feed to Budget
Date :	28-MAY-12		

Rotation Length :	20	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	19
Number of Cows :	49	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	920
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) :	19	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	191
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	.8	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	4.82
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	57
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	92
Residual Height :	4.2	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1881
Total Livestock (LU) :	49		



Weekly production sheet for week ending May 28th

Detailed Data Update to week ending: 27-MAY-12	
Feed System	Au
Genotype	Feed
Mean calving date of cows calved	10-OCT
Farmlet size (ha)	
Farmlet stocking rate (cows/ha)	
Production Data This Week	
Supplementation (kg/cow/day)	1.1
Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)	23.6
Milk Solids (kg/cow/day)	1.73
Fat Composition (%)	3.59
Protein Composition (%)	3.72
Lactose Composition (%)	4.72
Body Weight (kg)	600
Body Condition Score	
Cumulative Production to date	
Days in Milk (days)	232
Supplement fed (kg/cow)	1054
Milk Yield (kg/cow)	6115
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	456
Milk Solids (kg/ha)	
Fat Composition (%)	4.00
Protein Composition (%)	3.46
Lactose Composition (%)	4.72

HERD EBI Johnstown Castle , January 2012

Data Exported: 29/10/2011

1. EBI Herd Summary

Average EBI for all dairy cows with: (i) a known sire (or milk recorded progeny with a known sire) and (ii) are currently on your farm.

* Missing Sires can be added through the 'Record Events' section of the HerdPlus website or by contacting the HerdPlus office - 1850 600 900

Animal Group	Num of Cows	Milk Kg Fat Prot	% %	Surv% CI Days	Milk % Contrib	Fertility % Contrib	Calving % Contrib	Beef % Contrib	Mainten. % Contrib	Health % Contrib	EBI €
Cows with EBI	118	178			€ 40	€ 68.7	€ 17.4	€ -8.1	€ 1.3	€ -0.2	€ 119
Missing a Sire*	1	7.5	0.02	2.1	29.5%	50.6%	12.8%	-6%	1%	-0.1%	
Total Cows	119	7.7	0.04	-3.7							
1st Lactation	45	213			€ 41.2	€ 58.1	€ 18.7	€ -11.5	€ 1.5	€ -0.6	€ 107
		7.6	-0.01	1.7	31.3%	44.1%	14.2%	-8.7%	1.1%	-0.5%	
		8.4	0.03	-3.2							
2nd Lactation	20	161			€ 38.3	€ 69.5	€ 20	€ -6.1	€ -0.9	€ -0.1	€ 121
		8.7	0.05	2.2	28.4%	51.5%	14.8%	-4.5%	-0.7%	-0.1%	
		7.1	0.03	-3.6							
3rd Lactation	17	154			€ 50	€ 77.2	€ 15	€ -9	€ 2.6	€ -0.4	€ 135
		9.6	0.07	2.3	32.4%	50.1%	9.7%	-5.8%	1.7%	-0.3%	
		8.6	0.07	-4.2							
4th Lactation	15	130			€ 32.3	€ 84.5	€ 19.5	€ -4.9	€ 1.9	€ -0.3	€ 133
		6.2	0.03	2.5	22.5%	58.9%	13.6%	-3.4%	1.3%	-0.2%	
		6.0	0.03	-4.6							
5th Lactation (+)	21	170			€ 36	€ 72.6	€ 12.8	€ -4.4	€ 1.5	€ 0.6	€ 119
		5.3	-0.02	2.2	28.1%	56.8%	10%	-3.4%	1.2%	0.5%	
		7.4	0.03	-3.9							

2. Dairy Youngstock

11 Calves	37	153			€ 49.3	€ 93.9	€ 22.3	€ -10.3	€ 0.6	€ 2.5	€ 158
Missing a Sire*	0	9.6	0.07	2.6	27.6%	52.5%	12.5%	-5.8%	0.3%	1.4%	
Total Calves	0	8.5	0.07	-5.2							
10 Calves	45	145			€ 52.3	€ 80.4	€ 20.9	€ -14.3	€ 2.7	€ 0.8	€ 143
Missing a Sire*	0	9.8	0.09	2.2	30.5%	46.9%	12.2%	-8.3%	1.6%	0.5%	
Total Calves	37	8.9	0.09	-4.5							

