

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

04/01/16

Management Comments

- The autumn calving herd are milking well, currently averaging ~30kgs milk/cow @2.2kgs/MS/cow, with a mean calving date of 8th October, their on average 90 days in milk at this stage.
- We're gone past 3 weeks into the breeding season at this stage, 84% of cows have been submitted which is behind our target submission rate of at least 90%, all bar one of the maiden heifers have been served.
- All of the spring herd are still dry, our start of calving date for the spring is the 4th February, so we can expect calves anytime from the 25th Jan. All spring calvers have been on a diet of 2nd cut silage since drying off (~69DMD), based on the body condition score carried out this week, there are 40% of the cows with a B.C.S of 3.25 or greater, we've separated these out & are feeding a restricted diet, half straw/half silage, only a couple of cows are <2.75.
- See below for the final farm walk of 2015 & a met eireann summary of Johnstown's annual rainfall. The mild conditions in November & December (for Dec - soil temp 9.0°C v average of 5.6°C) resulted in covers continuing to increase, we have a lot of grass on the farm, quality is still good, but a dry spell towards the end of January would be ideal, to allow us graze out some of the heavy covers, those in excess of 1300-1400kgs/dm/ha are starting to go a bit in the base (very wet weather in Nov-Dec didn't help matters). But thankfully none of the land is prone to flooding.

Total rainfall in millimetres for JohnstownII

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2016	22.2												22.2
2015	77.7	47.2	61.8	21.9	145.0	35.0	116.6	54.2	59.8	72.0	105.2	270.2	1066.6
2014	145.1	175.1	94.6	67.1	63.6	35.2	35.5	128.0	16.3	196.7	154.0	43.5	1154.7
2013	115.9	46.4	89.2	44.0	45.5	44.4	29.9	56.1	30.0	189.6	46.1	142.6	879.7
mean	103.4	75.5	79.0	70.4	67.6	72.6	72.8	83.7	87.7	122.1	115.3	109.8	1059.9

Mean 10cm soil temperature for JohnstownII

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2016	7.4												7.4
2015	4.9	4.6	6.8	10.5	12.4	16.6	16.7	16.3	14.0	11.7	9.7	9.0	11.1
2014	5.3	5.6	7.3	11.1	13.5	18.4	20.1	16.3	16.4	12.3	8.5	5.8	11.7
2013	5.8	5.1	5.1	8.7	12.7	16.4	21.0	17.6	15.2	12.8	6.8	6.5	11.2
mean	5.0	4.8	6.2	8.5	12.1	15.0	16.7	16.0	13.7	10.4	7.4	5.6	10.1

Milk production and feed details

	Autumn Calving Section	Spring Calving Section
<i>This Week (04/01/16) – cows in milk</i>		
Milk Kg	31.5	
Fat %	3.74	
Protein %	3.45	
Milk Solids kg	2.22	
Parlour concentrate (kgs)/dm/cow	0.8	
Forage kg dry matter per cow	14.2	
Concentrate in TMR –kgs/dm/cow	7.9	
% of Herd Milking	100	All Dry
<i>Lactation to date</i>		2015 Lactation
Days in Milk	90	273
Milk kg	2292	6382
Milk Solids kg	172	488
Concentrate Fed	168 parlor & 447kgTMR	554kg parlor & 166kg tmr

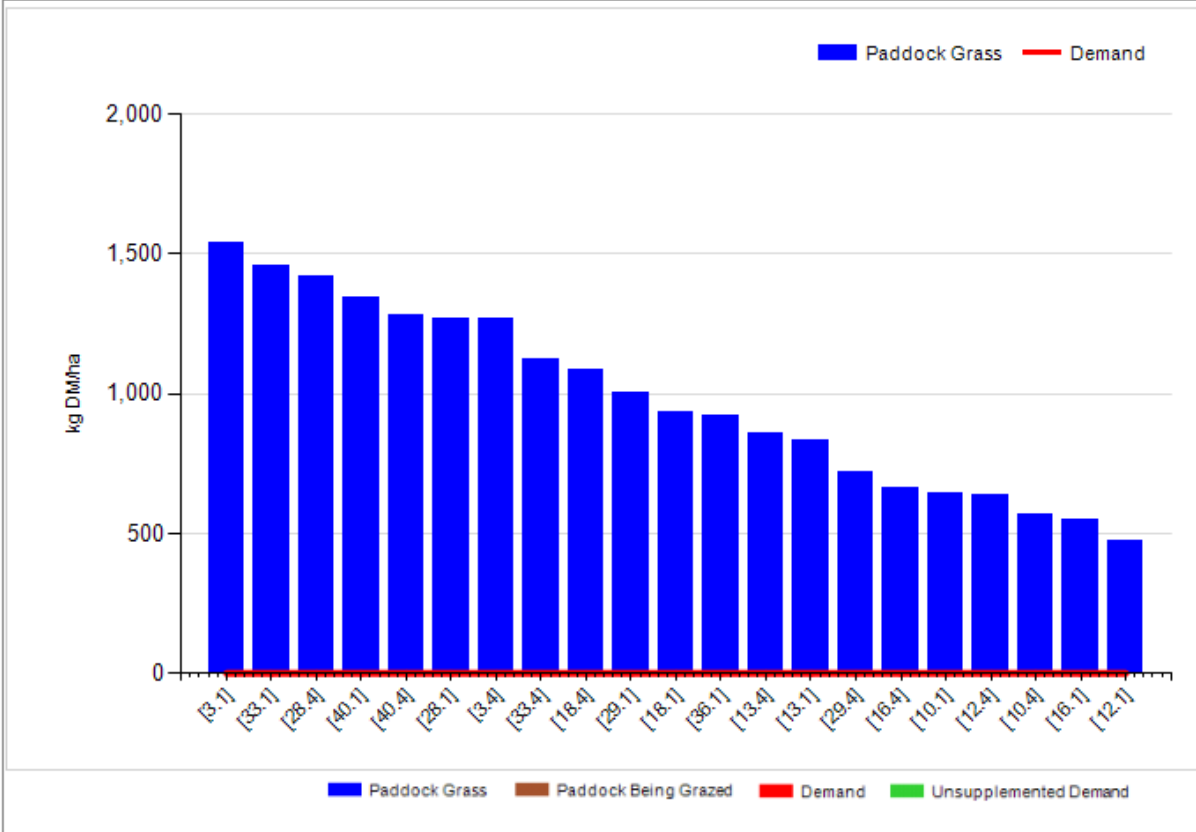
Coarse Blend	% as fed
Barley (rolled)	25.00
Beet pulp	25.00
Maize distillers	15.00
Soyabean meal 48% CP	35.00

Parlour Con

- 18 HE
- UFL 0.95+
- PDIE 125+
- 30% Cereal
- + Mins

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):		Growth Rate:	
Total Livestock (LU):	52.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	999	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	0
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	326	Days Ahead:	
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.06	LW/ha (Liveweight/ha):	205



Winter diet Autumn for milkers

	Kgs/DM per cow	Kgs per cow As fed
Parlour Nut	6.4	7.3
Maize Silage	4.7	15.0
Grass Silage	9.3	33
Coarse blend	2.4	2.8
Total	22.8	