

# Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

## Management Comments

08/02/16

- A tale of two halves last week, we got a few days grazing in reasonably good conditions early last week up till Friday, the autumn herd grazed out well in their 3- 4 hour stint, this was on the driest paddocks with a cover of ~1100/ha, closed in the middle of the last round - 22<sup>nd</sup> October. We had hoped to move to some of the heavier covers (1500-1600) this week. But the weekend has brought very mixed weather & a further 26mm rain. We haven't been out grazing at all the last two days.
- The autumn calving herd are holding well in terms of milk production, averaging ~29kgs milk/cow @2.2kgs/MS/cow. A slight drop in production probably a combination of being out to grass & natural drop.
- Beef stock bulls are running with the autumn herd, to hopefully mop up any cows, not yet in calf. Breeding with the autumn maiden heifers is now finished, any heifers not in calf after the seven weeks, will be sold.
- Spring calving is tipping along, but with no big burst only 41% of the spring herd calved, these are out grazing by day when conditions allow, but intakes are low with a high proportion <10days calved.
- We applied 32kgs/N/ha to most of the farm last Wednesday, skipping wet paddocks & those to be grazed in the next two weeks, as we hope to get slurry on these post grazing. Slurry went out on grazed ground last Friday, before the rain.

Spring Rotation Plan	Target	Actual
% farm grazed by 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8%	6.5%
Pre-grazing cover	1100	1100
Post grazing height (cm)	3.5	3.4
% grazed by 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	16%	

## Milk production and feed details

	<i>This week (08/02/16)</i>	Autumn Calving Section	Spring Calving Section
<b>Production</b>	% of Herd Milking	100	
	Milk Kg	28.5	
	Fat %	4.16	
	Protein %	3.52	
	Milk Solids kg	2.14	
<b>Intake</b>	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	7	6
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	6.5	4
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	4	0
	Concentrate in TMR – kgs/dm/cow	4	0
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	0.8	2.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b><i>Lactation to date</i></b>	Mean calving date 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	
	Days in Milk	125	
	Milk kg	3319	
	Milk Solids kg	248	
	Concentrate Fed	203 parlour & 762 kgTMR	