

Dermot O Connor 3 year review Farm Walk

Dermot Farms in **Shanagolden, Co Limerick** with his wife Hazelle and children. Dermot's Father Tom supports the farm on a part time basis. Additional labour is employed in Spring to ease the workload and free up more time for family.

Dermot has been in the Monitor farm programme since 2016

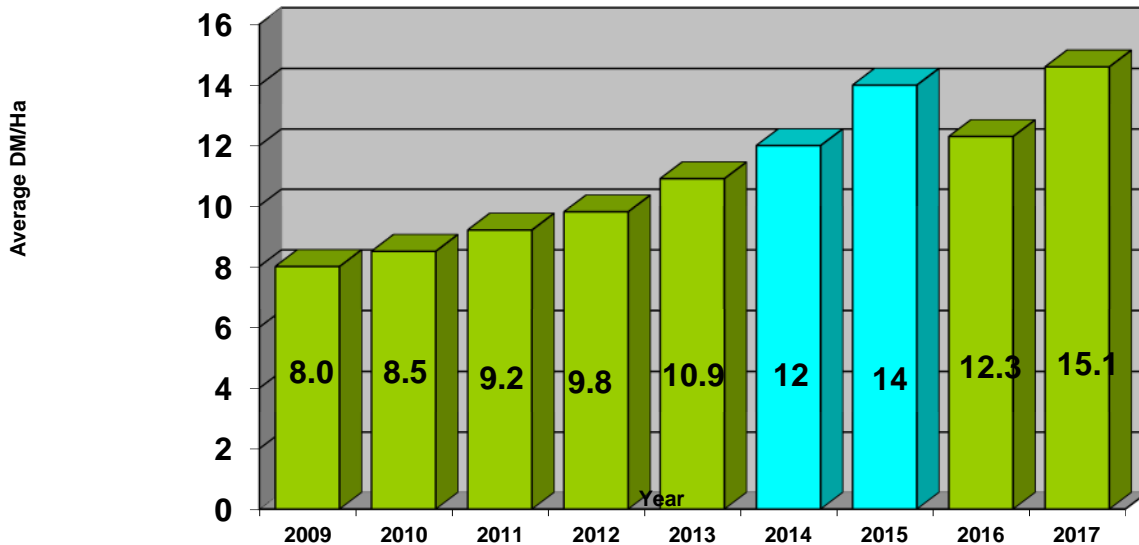


Teagasc/Kerry Agribusiness
Farm Walk Tuesday April
30th 2019 @11am
Eircode V94KF1C

- Farming 82 Ha
- Milking platform of 60 Ha
- Cow Numbers have increased from 150 cows in 2016 to **200 cows in 2019** with all replacement stock reared on farm
- Whole farm stocking rate in 2018 was 2.56 Lu/Ha compared to 2.11 lu/ha in 2016
- Milk Solids produced have increased from 64000 kgs in 2015 to 88000 kgs in 2018 .(+38%)
- Infrastructural development has taken place at a steady pace to meet requirements of an expanding herd

Grass Grown

Annual Tonnes DM grown/Ha



Dermot has focused on increasing grass grown to support the higher stocking rate. This has been achieved through:

- Increased investment in P/K build up fertilisers
- Annual reseedling programme using high PBI varieties
- Weekly grass measurement
- 290 days at grass-The focus on Spring grazing management has increased the annual tonnage grown.
- In 2018 the drought impact reduced farm grass production by 3 tonnes DM/ha to 12.3 tonnes/ha.
- This increased conc supplementation from 770kgs/cow in 2017 to 1500kgs/cow in 2018.

Labour efficiency

Dermot feels that a dairy System where the herd calves compactly to grass and the farm achieves its full grass production potential leads to a system that's easier to run. Work can be blocked into different time specific tasks eg calving/breeding/calf rearing. These are all predictable tasks with well-defined time requirement which need to be matched to the overall labour supply. A definite finishing time each evening helps to focus the mind in getting tasks achieved in a timely manner.

Other labour saving features

1. Calving camera connected to the phone
2. Automatic calf feeder installed in the calf house
3. Only three cows needed calving assistance in 2019

Breeding

Dermot has focused on lifting herd genetics for fertility and Milk Solids production. Dermot has moved to breeding Jersey sires to increase milk solids production and breed a cow that is easier to maintain and durable within his system.

Herd EBI 2019-€150

2018 milk production data

Kgs Milk Solids/Cow-500kgs

Milking Block Stocking rate -2.9Lu/Ha

Kgs Milk Solids /Hectare Milking Block-1450kgs

% Protein-3.61%

%B/Fat-4.18%

6 week calving rate-81%