Weekly update Clonakilty Dairy – 5 August 2014

Tetraploid swards (2.75 cows/ha)

Average farm cover (AFC) is 774 kg DM/ha (252 kg DM/LU)

Growth rate last week was 76 kg DM/ha per day

Stocking rate is 3.07 LU/ha and demand is 52 kg DM/ha per day

Grass growth was good last week and did not drop as we had anticipated. This meant that AFC increased and was above target so we have taken out 2 paddocks (7 and 14) for bales. Our AFC is still a bit high for the time
of year, but we will monitor growth and if we have to take out another paddock next week then we will.

5. Pre-grazing yield is 1500 and we are allocating 17 kg DM of grass per cow. No concentrate is being fed. Minerals are being given to the cows through the dosatron into the water. Cows are receiving Mg through the water.

**Diploid swards (2.75 cows/ha)**

1. Average farm cover 773 kg DM/ha (252 kg DM/LU)
2. Growth rate last week was 75 kg DM/ha per day
3. Stocking rate is 3.07 LU/ha and demand is 52 kg DM/ha per day
4. Grass growth was good last week and did not drop as we had anticipated. This meant that AFC increased and was above target so we have taken out 2 paddocks (7 and 14) for bales. Our AFC is still a bit high for the time of year, but we will monitor growth and if we have to take out another paddock next week then we will.

5. Pre-grazing yield is 1400 and we are allocating 17 kg DM of grass per cow. No concentrate is being fed. Minerals are being given to the cows through the dosatron into the water. Cows are receiving Mg through the water.

Whole farm update

1. Cows are currently milking 18.7 kg/day at 4.59% fat, 3.86% protein and 4.70% lactose. Milk solids per cow are 1.57 kg/day. Latest results from the processor 4.49% fat, 3.80% protein, 4.63% lactose 84 SCC and TBC is 4. Average bodyweight of milking cows is 511 kg and average body condition score is 2.88.

2. Average farm cover on the general area is 557 kg DM/ha (216 kg DM/LU). Demand is 38 kg DM/ha per day and growth rate on the general area last week was 56 kg DM/ha per day. Stocking rate is 2.58 LU/ha.

3. The calves are split into two groups with the larger calves just on grass and the smaller calves (n = 14) receiving 1 kg of ration per day.

4. Breeding started on the 20th of April with the stock bulls being removed last Monday, the 14th of July, after a 12 week breeding season. The heifers were scanned this week, 47 out of the 49 heifers are in-calf. The 2 that are not in-calf suffered embryo mortality as they were scanned in-calf after 30 days but were not in calf this week. The heifers were weighed and dosed. Their average BW was 421 kg which is right on target.