Weekly update Clonakilty Dairy – 17 November 2014

Tetraploid swards (2.75 cows/ha)

1. Average farm cover (AFC) is 831 kg DM/ha (378 kg DM/LU)
2. Growth rate last week was 20 kg DM/ha per day
3. Stocking rate is 1.75 LU/ha as we dried off another 3 cows from this group last week due to low yields and low BCS (11 cows out of 30 are now dry in this group). Demand is 17 kg DM/ha per day. We will dry another 8 cows from this group this week.
4. AFC is 831 kg DM/ha, which is above target (see budget below). We grazed half of paddock 1 last week and we have half of paddock 3 left to graze (very heavy cover (2800 kg DM/ha). When paddocks 1 and 3 is grazed we will have an AFC of 700 kg DM/ha (growth rate increased to 20
kg DM/ha per day last week which caused AFC to increase due to our low demand). This is a small bit high for closing but we will have a high demand for grass next spring so we are happy enough to close at this cover.

5. Pre-grazing yield is 2800 and we are allocating 10 kg DM of grass, 5 kg DM of baled silage and 1 kg of concentrate per cow. Cows are housed by night and out by day. Minerals are being given to the cows through the dosatron into the water.

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

1. Average farm cover 708 kg DM/ha (405 kg DM/LU)
2. Growth rate last week was 18 kg DM/ha per day
3. Stocking rate is 1.75 LU/ha as we dried off another 3 cows from this group last week due to low yields and low BCS (11 cows out of 30 are now dry in
this group). Demand is 17 kg DM/ha per day. We will dry another 8 cows from this group this week.

4. We grazed paddocks 1 and 3 last week. Average Farm Cover is 708 kg DM/ha which is slightly our target closing AFC, as growth rate increased to 18 kg DM/ha per day last week. This is a small bit high for closing but we will have a high demand for grass next spring so we are happy enough to close at this cover. We now finished grazing on the diploid farmlet.

![Tetraploid Autumn/Spring Feed Budget Targets](image)

**Whole farm update**

1. Cows are currently milking 11.2 kg/day at 5.58% fat, 4.18% protein and 4.50% lactose. Milk solids per cow are 1.08 kg/day. Latest results from the processor 5.12% fat, 4.16 % protein, 4.53% lactose, 93 SCC and TBC is 3. Average bodyweight of milking cows is 538 kg and average body condition score is 2.88. We have 63 cows dried off and we will dry off another 40 this week so we will have 60 cows milking at the end of this week. WE sold 10 cull cows to the factory 2 weeks ago.

2. Average farm cover on the general area is 771 kg DM/ha. Demand is 11 kg DM/ha per day and growth rate on the general area last week was 0.67 kg DM/ha per day. Stocking rate is 0.67 LU/ha. All incalf heifers and heifer calves were housed last week during the wet weather on Thursday and Friday. They will stay inside now. General cows are receiving 1 kg concentrate/day 5 kg silage and 10 kg of grass. Cows are housed by night and out by day.

3. Breeding started on the 20th of April with the stock bulls being removed on Monday, the 14th of July, after a 12 week breeding season. 47 out of the 49 heifers are in-calf. Overall empty rate for the herd is 10.5% this year.