

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

21/11/16

- We had a great couple of weeks in terms of getting the last few paddocks grazed off. The entire milking platform is now closed, with just the spring in-calf heifers & heifer calves still out grazing the replacement area. Rainfall for the past week just 5.1mm with a soil temp of 7.7°C average.
- The autumn herd finished up grazing last Friday (18th Nov), leaving a closing cover of 670kgs/dm/ha. The heaviest cover is coming in at ~1400kgs, which is fine – with the excellent grazing conditions for the last round all of the paddocks were well cleaned out with very little damage, this should benefit us in the spring
- Calving has slowed right up, we have 95% calved with the last few going to drag out for at least another 2, possibly 3 weeks, thankfully we had no serious calving difficulties & just the 2 mild cases of milk fever, so far.
- We still have 65% of the spring herd milking & their production has held up well on 1st cut silage plus 3kgs concentrate (spring herd housed fulltime on 15th Nov). We will probably dry off all the remaining spring herd in one batch ~ 30th November, as most of these will be due dry at that stage.
- Our silage results (see below) which we got back over the last couple of weeks, were a bit disappointing, we had been targeting a first cut of ~75 DMD, given that our cutting date was delayed from a target of 18th May to 26th May, we expected that we'd come in around 72-73 DMD, results we're below this -coming in around 70 DMD for 1st cut, with second cut not far behind at 68-69. We have a good number of quality surplus silage bales (75+dmd), which we plan to keep & use next spring if necessary. Below is the planned winter diet for the autumn milking herd, which will see only minimal changes, based on intake & dm% of forages.

Winter diet for autumn milking cows

	<u>Kgs/Dm</u> <u>per cow</u>	Kgs per cow As fed
Parlour Nut	6.0	7.0
Maize Silage	4.5	16.0
Grass Silage	9.0	41
Coarse blend	2.0	2.3
Total	21.5	66.3

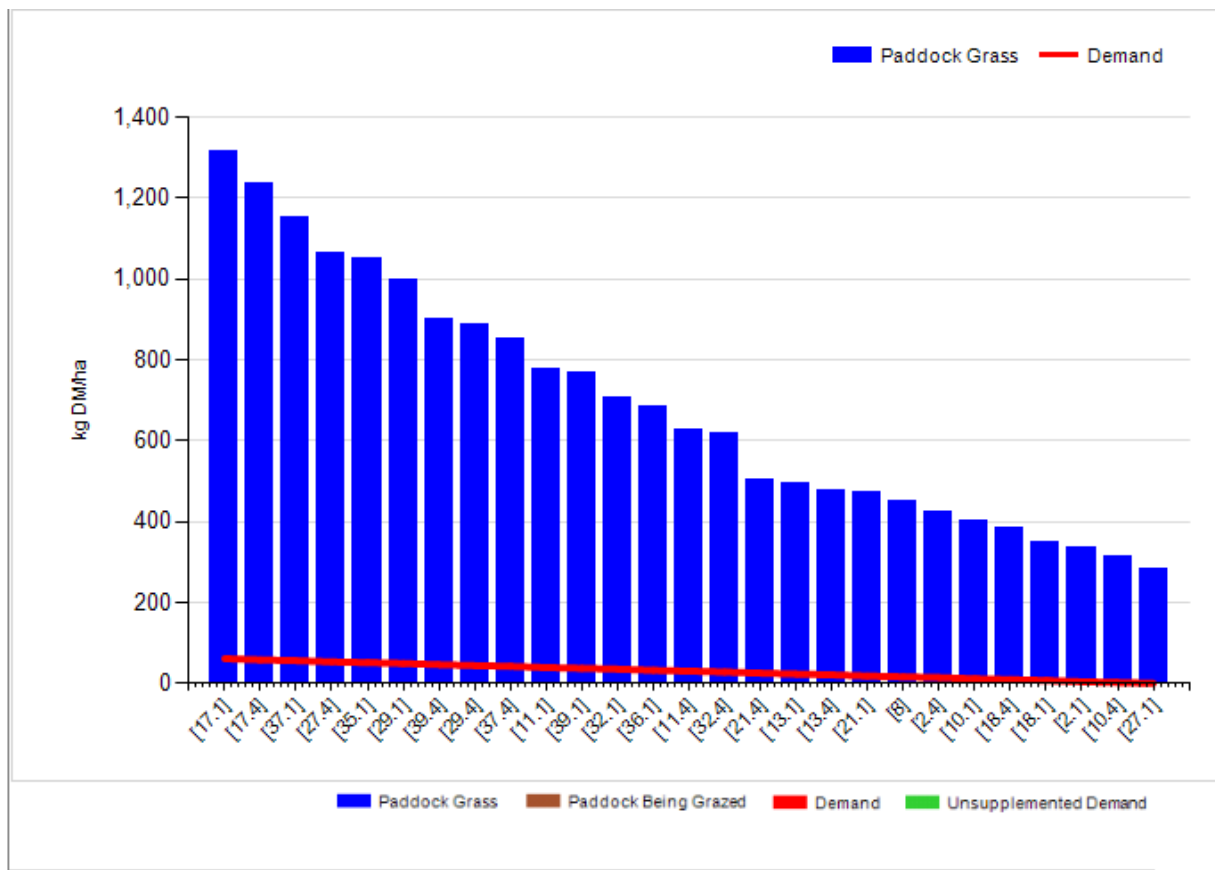
First cut silage for winter milk herd

Sample Receive Date: 27/10/2016		Return Date: 27/10/2016		Lab Reference: SE84183	
Item	Units	Desirable Values	Result	Status	
Dry Matter	%	20 - 30	27.6	-	
pH	-	4 - 4.7	3.9	Good	
Ammonia N	% of Total N	< 10.1	5.2	Good	
ASH	%	< 8.6	8.8	Moderate	
NDF	%	< 45.0	49.50	Moderate	
DMD	%	> 68.9	69.9	Good	
ME	MJ/kg	> 9.8	10.0	Good	
Crude Protein	%	13.5 - 17	13.5	Good	

Item	Units	Normal Range	Result	Status	
PDIN	g/kg	65 - 102	80	A	
PDIE	g/kg	58 - 83	74	B	
PDLA	g/kg	16 - 37	25	C	
UFL	per kg	.65 - .90	0.78	D	
UFV	per kg	.59 - .89	0.74	E	
SFU	per kg	1.04 - 2.81	1.75	F	
LFU	per kg	.95 - 1.89	1.38	G	
CFU	per kg	.96 - 1.92	1.39	H	
DM Intake Cattle	g/kg W ^{0.75}	70 - 130	96	I	
DM Intake Sheep	g/kg W ^{0.75}	60 - 140	88	J	

PREDICTED PERFORMANCE (silage ad lib no meals)		SUPPLEMENTATION	
<u>WITH GOOD MANAGEMENT</u>		Dairy Ration Protein %	20
Lactating Cows (Litres/Day)	9.9	Kg/Day for 27 litres	7.5
Dry Cows (Kg/Day)	0.6	Beef Ration Protein %	14
		Kg/Day for 1Kg/day Gain	5.53

Closing Farm cover - 670kgs/ha



	<i>This week (21/11/16)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	95%	65%
	Milk Kg	26.3	13.6
	Fat %	4.21	5.06
	Protein %	3.37	3.78
	Milk Solids kg	1.99	1.20
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	0	0
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	9	13
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	4.5	0
	Concentrate in TMR – kgs/dm/cow	2	0
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	6.0	3
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Expected Mean calving date 8 th Oct	Mean calving date 17 th Feb
	Days in Milk	41	277
	Milk kg	1099	5700
	Milk Solids kg	88	434
	Concentrate Fed	193	468kgs