

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

19/12/16

- The autumn herd are very steady in terms of milk yield, our solids percentage has dropped a bit, we had hoped to hold bf% @ ~ 4.2% & protein @ 3.4% for the indoor period, but we're back closer to 4.0% & 3.3% on the last couple of tests. Probably the primary reason for this is our poorer quality 1st cut silage compared to the past few years (~70DMD v 74DMD). DM intakes seemed to have increased a little over the past two weeks so we increased the balancer ration fed through the TMR to 3kgs dm/cow, which hopefully might help compensate for the poorer silage.
- We had significant rainfall over the past week – 72.4mm, along with a soil temperature average of 8.6°C. The heavy rainfall isn't causing any problems, as all stock are housed. The one issue we need to be aware of is that the dry matter of the forages (both silage & maize) tends to be lower at the feed face, due to surface rainfall, so on days where we think the silage is wetter we'll increase allowance by ~5%.
- Cow health is good in general, with the only problem being a couple of mastitis incidence (1 case of e-coli). We're just the one week into the autumn breeding season, with close on a third of the cows submitted. The maiden heifers have been slow with only 25% submitted, the remaining 75% were injected with a prostaglandin product yesterday as planned, which hopefully will result in all heifers being submitted for AI by this Thursday.
- The spring herd which have all been dried off are just using up some of the baled silage made in September (good quality, but not as good as the surpluses made during the main grazing season which will be kept for feeding at grass next spring if required). The dry cows will move onto 2nd cut pit silage within the next 10 days or so, this tested ~68DMD, & given our body condition score should be suitable to feed ad lib, without supplementation.

Winter diet for autumn milking cows

	Kgs/Dm per cow	Kgs per cow As fed
Parlour Nut	6.0	7.0
Maize Silage	4.5	16.0
Grass Silage	9.0	41
Coarse blend	3.0	3.5
Total	22.5	67.5

	<i>This week (19/12/16)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	All Dry
	Milk Kg	28.0	
	Fat %	4.06	
	Protein %	3.33	
	Milk Solids kg	2.07	
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	3	0
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	6.0	0
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 10 th Oct	Mean calving date 17 th Feb
	Days in Milk	70	288
	Milk kg	1774	5983
	Milk Solids kg	137	458
	Concentrate Fed	298 in parlor (336kg total)	528kgs

Replacement Weights

Group	Autumn 2013 D.O.B: 8/10/13 Avg EBI: 206	Spring 2014 D.O.B: 25/02/14 Avg EBI: 205	Autumn 2014 D.O.B: 3/10/14 Avg EBI: 221	Spring 2015 D.O.B: 17/02/15 Avg EBI: 230	Autumn 2015 D.O.B: 01/10/15 Avg EBI: 232	Spring 2016 D.O.B: 09/02/16 Avg EBI: 253
Birth	38	39	39	36	41	37
28-May-14	216					
22-Jul-14	284	155				
22-Sep-14	335	226				
11-Dec-14	377 (breeding)					
6-Feb-15		297				
21-Apr-15	468	391 (breeding)	186			
28-Jul-15	562	471	288	158		
31-Aug-15	597	518	317	191		
30-Sep-15		549	351	220		
11-Dec-15		589	381 (breeding)	267	93	
20-Jan-16		615	403	294	136	
30-Mar-16			441	330	183	
25-Apr-16			445	351 (breeding)	203	
10-Jun-16			503	404	258	129
12-Jul-16			527	417	279	166
24-Aug-16			579	471	309	208
10-Oct-16				508	345	258
3-Nov-16				548		280
12-Dec-16				553	370 (breeding)	303