

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes

16/01/17

- Rainfall for the past week was 3.3mm and the average soil temperature came in at 6.2°C. Thankfully we escaped without any of the forecasted snowfall last week, and soil traffic ability is quite good, so we have identified some paddocks for slurry application. We plan to spread the remaining paddocks with 25kgs/N/ha this week. We'd expect that soil temperatures for the coming week will be back up to above 7.0°C
- The first farm cover of this year was measured last week – (see below for the autumn herds details), excellent growth on the paddocks re-seeded last August, these are on the heavier soils & we'll have to graze these in good conditions, we only averaged between 3 to 4kgs grass growth/day over the winter period so far on the whole farm.
- All the autumn replacement calves (born from 15th Sept to 4th Nov) have now been fully weaned, average weight on the 10/1/17 was 109kgs. They will remain on 2.3kgs of a calf munch along with silage ad lib until turnout, which hopefully will be in Mid-February. We had a good % of heifers for this block (55%), resulting in a surplus of autumn replacements at this stage. All non-replacement calves have been sold, so calf housing has been cleaned & will be power-washed out before the arrival of the spring batch in February.
- Five weeks into the breeding season; activity has slowed down, which is good given that we have only a couple of cows yet to be served. An Angus stock bull is now running with the heifers.

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	3.0	3.5
Total	22.5	67.5

	<i>This week (16/01/17)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	All Dry
	Milk Kg	29.4	
	Fat %	4.18	
	Protein %	3.36	
	Milk Solids kg	2.20	
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	3.0	0
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	6.0	0
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 10 th Oct	2016 Lactation Yield
	Days in Milk	98	288
	Milk kg	2618	5983
	Milk Solids kg	201	458
	Concentrate Fed	509 in parlour (604kg total)	528kgs

Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms	Cover Date: 11/01/2017
Farm: Johnstown Dairy	

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	100	Residual Height (cm):	4
Target pre-gaze (kg DM/ha):	1400		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	815.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	280.00	LU / ha:	2.91
Growth / Ha (kg DM/ha/day):		Measured:	27 (20.61 Ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	0.00	Reseeded:	0 (0.00 Ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	6.00	Silage:	0 (0.00 Ha)
Days ahead:			
Kg LWT / Ha:	0.00		

