

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 15/05/17

- We were delighted to see the rain arrive over the weekend (48mm from Friday to Monday, so we've enough now thanks!), Our pre-grazing covers are well below target and probably the rain arrived a week too late, we're hoping to get a burst of growth this week, but we might not get the explosion I had expected as the forecast is for cooler showery weather. We have increased concentrate to 4kgs/cow for a few days in the hope that this will hold rotation and carry us over the next week, stocking rate is low for the time of year, with reasonable weather I would expect things to turn around fast. We can already see the grass responding to the recent rain.
- We are very happy with the overall 3 week submission rate for the spring herd (83%). This figure on its own is not great, but of the 17% not submitted, 15% are April Calved & had no hope. We plan to go in with an 8 day cidr program on these late calvers later this week when all are calved 35days or greater.
- We will continue to blanket spread 30kgs/N/ha every 3 weeks for the next couple of months, response to the early May application was obviously disappointing due to soil moisture deficits, but it's there & working now. In a stable dry period losses are likely to be minimal & we will generally stick to the plan of regular applications (except in extreme cases of extended dry periods > 7 weeks). Next application due week of the 22Nd May.

	<i>This week (15/05/17)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	100%
	Milk Kg	24.1	29.3
	Fat %	4.22	3.88
	Protein %	3.91	3.33
	Milk Solids kg	1.95	2.11
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	15	17
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Concentrate in TMR – kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	4	2
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 10 th Oct	Mean calving date 7 th March
	Days in Milk	217	69
	Milk kg	5729	1804
	Milk Solids kg	438	133
	Concentrate Fed	1022kg in parlour (1204kg total)	190

Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms	Cover Date: 15/05/2017
Farm: Johnstown Dairy	Treatment: Autumn

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	22	Residual Height (cm)	4
Target pre-gaze (kg DM/ha):	1400	Estimation Method:	Visual Assessment - Available

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	571.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	166.00	LU / ha:	3.44
Growth / Ha (kg DM/ha/day):	38.00	Measured:	27 (20.61 Ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	52.00	Reseeded:	0 (0.00 Ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	900.00	Silage:	4 (3.19 Ha)
Days ahead:	11.00		
Kg LWT / Ha:	0.00		

