

## Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 28/08/17

- We've had a totally different week to that of the Northern half of the country (& even some of our own County), Rainfall of just 4.4mm for the past week (71mm total for August so far), soil temperatures rising up to a weekly average of 16.8°C, resulting in very good growth & grazing conditions.
- We will be drying off the remainder of the autumn calving cows within the next week, again a number of these are still milking well – we'll use the same procedure as earlier & restrict their diet for 5/6 days pre dry off. With the entire herd dry demand will drop even lower on the autumn herd, with the excellent growth we'll need to take out more silage later this week, we need to try keep peak pre-grazing covers down below 1800kgs for this herd when they start calving down in a month's time.
- The spring herd continue to perform well, with plenty of grass, we have taken out some silage from this herd also, but unlike the autumn herd, demand is still high & we're aiming to build up to a cover of between 350-400kgs/cow on this treatment by the end of September. We scanned the spring calved cows last week & overall we have a disappointing empty rate of ~22%. I need to have a closer look, but a number of these appear to be a consequence of the late calvers this April, we have adequate heifer replacements & decided not to breed any longer than the 13 weeks, but still disappointing after a very good breeding season for the autumn herd.

|                   | <b><i>This week (28/08/17)</i></b>      | <b>Autumn Calving Herd</b>             | <b>Spring Calving Herd</b>              |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Production</b> | % of Herd Milking                       | 42%                                    | 100%                                    |
|                   | Milk Kg                                 | 17.1                                   | 21.1                                    |
|                   | Fat %                                   | 4.50                                   | 4.46                                    |
|                   | Protein %                               | 3.96                                   | 3.66                                    |
|                   | Milk Solids kg                          | 1.43                                   | 1.71                                    |
| <b>Intake</b>     | Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)      | 16                                     | 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          | 1                                      | 1                                       |
| <b>Totals</b>     | <b><i>Lactation to date per cow</i></b> | Mean calving date 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Mean calving date 7 <sup>th</sup> March |
|                   | Days in Milk                            | 306                                    | 167                                     |
|                   | Milk kg                                 | 7503                                   | 4472                                    |
|                   | Milk Solids kg                          | 585                                    | 329                                     |
|                   | Concentrate Fed                         | 1190kg in parlour (1359kg total)       | 383                                     |
|                   |   |  |   |

Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms

Cover Date: 23/08/2017

Farm: Johnstown Dairy

Treatment: Autumn

**Management Decisions**

|                             |      |                      |                               |
|-----------------------------|------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rotation Length (days):     | 26   | Residual Height (cm) | 4                             |
| Target pre-gaze (kg DM/ha): | 1600 | Estimation Method:   | Visual Assessment - Available |

**Cover Parameters**

|                             |         |           |               |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------|---------------|
| Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):      | 1023.00 | Total LU: | 60.00         |
| Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):      | 304.00  | LU / ha:  | 3.37          |
| Growth / Ha (kg DM/ha/day): | 66.00   | Measured: | 27 (20.61 Ha) |
| Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day): | 48.00   | Reseeded: | 0 (0.00 Ha)   |
| Demand / day (kg DM/day):   | 845.00  | Silage:   | 4 (2.83 Ha)   |
| Days ahead:                 | 21.00   |           |               |
| Kg LWT / Ha:                | 1181.00 |           |               |

