

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 22/01/18

- Total rainfall for January to date was 94mm, with an average soil temp of 5.7°C. Last week's totals were 34.7mm, with a soil temp of 4.9°C, thankfully we're escaping the worst of the rain, but we're not getting the few consecutive dry days which would give us a chance of spreading some slurry or fertiliser.
- 5 weeks into the breeding season and we still have a few cows not served, 3 late calvers and 3 more that didn't respond as expected to a prostaglandin injection. Return rate is very low so far on those served in the first 3 weeks – a bit too good to be true.
- On the grass walk last week (see below for cover), it was noticeable that a number of the paddocks had yellowed a bit in colour, probably due to the cold wet weather, hopefully getting out with fertiliser (and a few dry weeks!!) will help to green up pastures again, growth over the December/January period averaged ~5-6kgs/dm/ha, which is pretty normal winter growth rate for us.
- Production performance of the winter herd continues to be good, we've dropped back slightly from 2 weeks ago, this is probably partially due to the change of silage (see attached sheet for analysis of silage being fed at present) and we're over 100 days into lactation at this stage, so a bit of a drop back isn't surprising, hopefully getting some grass in the diet within the next 2 weeks will help to hold them.
- We might get till the end of this week before we have any spring calvers, 1st February is the first due date so we'd be expecting a few over the next week.

| | <i>This week (22/01/18)</i> | Autumn Calving Herd | Spring Calving Herd |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| Production | % of Herd Milking | 100% | All Dry |
| | Milk Kg | 29.2 | |
| | Fat % | 4.30 | |
| | Protein % | 3.39 | |
| | Milk Solids kg | 2.22 | |
| Intake | Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate) | | |
| | Silage kgs/dm/cow | 9.5 | 13 |
| | Maize silage kgs/dm/cow | 6.0 | |
| | Concentrate in TMR – kgs/dm/cow | 2.5 | |
| | Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow | 5 | |
| Totals | <i>Lactation to date per cow</i> | Mean calving date 11 th October | Mean calving date 25 th Feb 2018? |
| | Days in Milk | 103 | |
| | Milk kg | 2748 | |
| | Milk Solids kg | 219 | |
| | Concentrate Fed | 571 in parlour (763 in total) | |

Grass silage for winter milking herd

| Farmer: PO-200221540 | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| Sample Receive Date: 11/01/2018 | | Return Date: 11/01/2018 | | Lab Reference: SE88847 |
| Item | Units | Desirable Values | Result | Status |
| Dry Matter | % | 20 - 30 | 21.5 | - |
| pH | - | 4 - 4.7 | 4.3 | Good |
| Ammonia N | % of Total N | < 10.1 | 6.5 | Good |
| ASH | % | < 8.6 | 8.7 | Moderate |
| NDF | % | < 45.0 | 48.10 | Moderate |
| DMD | % | > 68.9 | 74.6 | Good |
| ME | MJ/kg | > 9.8 | 10.8 | Good |
| Crude Protein | % | 13.5 - 17 | 15.2 | Good |

| Item | Units | Normal Range | Result | Status |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| PDIN | g/kg | 65 - 102 | 90 | 4 |
| PDIE | g/kg | 58 - 83 | 85 | |
| PDLA | g/kg | 16 - 37 | 28 | |
| UFL | per kg | .65 - .90 | 0.84 | |
| UFV | per kg | .59 - .89 | 0.81 | |
| SFU | per kg | 1.04 - 2.81 | 1.80 | |
| LFU | per kg | .95 - 1.89 | 1.41 | |
| CFU | per kg | .96 - 1.92 | 1.43 | |
| DM Intake Cattle | g/kg W ^{0.75} | 70 - 130 | 94 | |
| DM Intake Sheep | g/kg W ^{0.75} | 60 - 140 | 86 | |

Cover Parameters

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------|---------------|
| Farm Cover (kg DM/ha): | 715.00 | Total LU: | |
| Cover / LU (kg DM/LU): | | LU / ha: | 0.00 |
| Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day): | 3.00 | Grazing Area: | 27 (20.61 ha) |
| Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day): | | Reseed: | 0 (0.00 ha) |
| Demand / day (kg DM/day): | | Silage - Cut Later: | 0 (0.00 ha) |
| Days ahead: | | Silage - Cut Now: | 0 (0.00 ha) |
| Kg LWT / ha: | | Other: | 0 (0.00 ha) |

