

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 02/05/18

- We've had a very tough April in terms of grazing conditions and this has made it a really long winter. We had spells in April where ground was just coming ok, only to get a days heavy rainfall to set us back to square 1. This was the case again as recently as last night, with 12mm rainfall. (cows had to be housed last night). Hopefully with the good forecast we'll get a period of at least 10 days of no rain, which we really need. Total rainfall for April was 125mm with a monthly average soil temp of 8.7°C.
- Growth rates have been inconsistent over the past few weeks, we had super growth in the third week of April, but for the past week we're below normal – a combination of very cold nights, some fields saturated & holding water & some fields not getting their planned Phosphorus application has contributed to the problem, alongside this we have grazed covers heavier than we would have liked (~1900), these would be slower recovering as their white at the base. It will take a bit of work and grazing management to get all swards back producing the quality grass we want, hopefully we'll get a good burst of growth and a chance to clean up a couple of fields by taking out surplus.
- We have most of our silage ground closed & fertilised at this stage and we would still be targeting to harvest some 1st cut silage around the 20th May (some silage fields have not been grazed as they were too wet initially)
- Spring breeding has started just this week, despite the conditions, activity has been high pre-breeding.

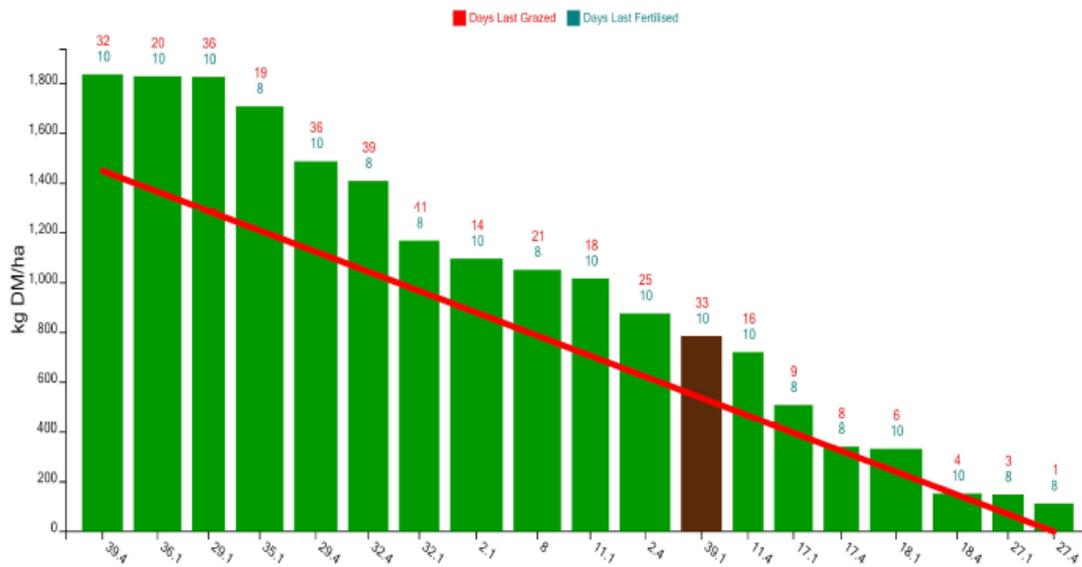
	<i>This week (30/04/18)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	100%
	Milk Kg	24.2	28..3
	Fat %	4.85	4.28
	Protein %	3.63	3.26
	Milk Solids kg	2.04	2.13
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	15kgs	15kgs
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	~ 2kgs, only if cows housed after evening grazing (21.00)	~ 2kgs, only if cows housed after evening grazing (21.00)
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow		
	Concentrate in TMR – kgs/dm/cow		
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	4	4
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 11 th October	Mean calving date 25 th Feb
	Days in Milk	200	64
	Milk kg	5230	1708
	Milk Solids kg	418	125
	Concentrate Fed	1108 in parlour (1563 in total)	302

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	20	Residual Height (cm)	4
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1450		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	980.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	246.00	LU / ha:	3.98
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	42.00	Grazing Area:	27 (20.61 ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	68.00	Reseed:	0 (0.00 ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	1020.00	Silage - Cut Later:	8 (5.54 ha)
Days ahead:	14.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0 (0.00 ha)
Kg LWT / ha:	0.00	Other:	0 (0.00 ha)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	177



- With both poor growth rates & grazing conditions this week, we're holding off on skipping any paddocks/closing extra silage ground, priority is to try keep cows out on grass fulltime without doing damage.