

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 04/06/18

- No Rainfall for the past week, this coupled with just 33mm for all of May (nearly all of which fell in the first 10 days) has left ground very dry, water table is still high for the time of year, but the top 6" has dried out & is starting to impact on growth. Soil temperatures for the past week were 19.4 °C.
- Despite all the good weather, it has been a difficult period to maintain good leafy pre-grazing swards, we have taken out ~ 20% of the grazing area for surplus over the past 3 weeks, this along with a couple of paddocks being pre-mowed this week hopefully will see quality improve if we get some moisture (with a drop in growth rates & no rain forecast we can't afford to take out any more surplus paddocks). A higher than usual post grazing height on some of the paddocks during the wet period was going to leave a "stubble" unless we used a blade on it. We are continuing to spread Nitrogen @ 30kgs/ha every 3 weeks.
- Cows are continuing to perform well and are content in the fine weather, the autumn herd are beginning to drop off a little in yield, but milk solids are still good and most of these are coming into their last 60-90 days of lactation. The spring herd are milking well and are gaining slightly in B.C.S, milk protein % on the spring herd is a bit behind last year & we'd like it higher, hopefully if we can get good leafy pastures ahead of them we'll see a lift. We're breeding since 1st May & all bar one cow has been served. The bad spring does not seem to have impacted badly on the cows, but they were well fed throughout – just not with grass all the time!

	<i>This week (04/06/18)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	100%
	Milk Kg	20.8	26.0
	Fat %	4.52	4.04
	Protein %	3.81	3.45
	Milk Solids kg	1.73	1.95
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow (estimate)	18 kgs	17kgs
	Silage kgs/dm/cow		
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow		
	Concentrate in TMR –		
	Parlour concentrate kgs/dm/cow	1.5	2
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 11 th October	Mean calving date 25 th Feb
	Days in Milk	235	99
	Milk kg	6026	2670
	Milk Solids kg	481	196
	Concentrate Fed	1186 in parlour (1641 total)	422

Farm: Johnstown Dairy

Treatment: Autumn

Management Decisions

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

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	685.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	187.00	LU / ha:	3.66
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	50.00	Grazing Area:	27 (20.61 ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	66.00	Reseed:	0 (0.00 ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	1080.00	Silage - Cut Later:	6 (4.23 ha)
Days ahead:	10.00	Silage - Cut Now:	2 (1.91 ha)
Kg LWT / ha:	0.00	Other:	0 (0.00 ha)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	23

