

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd- Weekly Management Notes - 25/06/18

- Similar to much of the country, we are in a drought situation in Johnstown, given the forecast for the coming week, I expect conditions will deteriorate further before getting better. Rainfall for all of June to date is just 12.1mm with average soil temperatures of 19.1 °C.
- Growth rates for the past week averaged ~ 30kgs/dm/ha, we had a couple of the drier paddocks where we actually lost grass, I expect there to be very little growth in the coming week so we plan to continue with a rotation of somewhere between 18-20 days (allocate 5% grazing area/day), feed ~ 4kgs of a summer grazing nut & fill the daily deficit with baled silage if needed (shouldn't need to feed silage on the autumn herd until the weekend I expect - we decided to graze some more of the drier paddocks which we'd targeted for 2nd cut silage as they have a reasonable cover of grass(1600-1800), the paddocks we picked were beginning to stop growing/loose grass. We now have only 15% of the farm closed for second cut (should be ~40%), this will have serious implications for winter forage reserves unless we can catch it up later.
- Grass quality (the small bit that is there!), is quite good, as we have been cleaning out paddocks well for the past 2 rotations, cows are very content on what appears to be low grass covers, plenty of water probably as important as grass supplies at the moment. Cows are still milking well, but again this is coming at a cost (4kgs conc/cow versus maybe none at this stage in a normal year).
- We have considered drying off some of the autumn herd (a month earlier than targeted), but they would still be grazed on the milking platform & would not reduce demand to any great extent, so we'll milk on for another couple of weeks. The Spring herd are performing well also, but covers are lower here & we are starting to supplement with some baled silage (4kgs/cow), sweeper bulls are running with the herd for the past two weeks, but activity levels seems to be low.

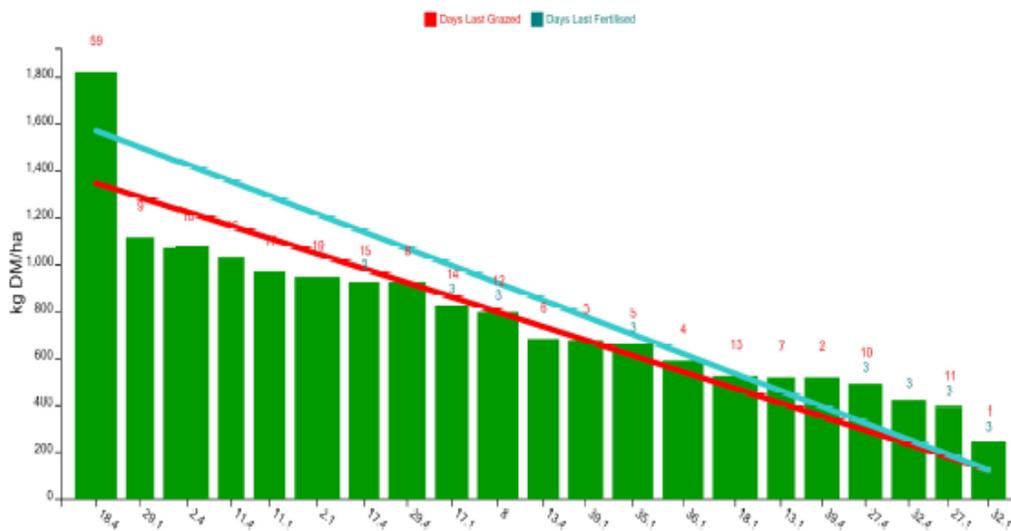
	<i>This week (25/06/18)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	100%
	Milk Kg	21.1	25.8
	Fat %	4.15	3.75
	Protein %	3.82	3.44
	Milk Solids kg	1.67	1.86
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	14 kgs	10kgs
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	<i>Might need to introduce at the weekend, ok for now</i>	<i>~4kgs</i>
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow		
	Concentrate in TMR –		
	Parlour concentrate	2Kg last week, 4kg from today	4kgs
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 11 th October	Mean calving date 25 th Feb
	Days in Milk	256	120
	Milk kg	6463	3210
	Milk Solids kg	516	236
	Concentrate Fed	1224 in parlour (1680 total)	473

Autumn Herd grass wedge

Rotation Length (days):	20	Residual Cover (cm)	5
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1350		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	781.00	Total LU:	60.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	213.00	LU / ha:	3.66
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	61.00	Grazing Area:	27 (20.61 ha)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	59.00	Reseed:	0 (0.00 ha)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	980.00	Silage - Cut Later:	6 (4.23 ha)
Days ahead:	13.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0 (0.00 ha)
Kg LWT / ha:	0.00	Other:	0 (0.00 ha)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	52



(Actual growth rates closer probably ~ 25-30kgs/day, introducing some 2nd cut silage paddocks onto the wedge seems to have sqewed a few of the figures)