

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd

Weekly Management Notes - 12/03/19

- The first two weeks of March has brought significant rainfall totalling 84.8mm, this is higher than the total monthly 10 year average for March. As a result, grazing conditions have been challenging over the past week, we've been getting out most days for at least 1 x 3 hour grazing bout (two on the good days), ground is holding up pretty well once its dry overhead whilst grazing. Soil temperatures are also back down to around average at 6.4°C.
- We've started to slip a little bit behind our target areas grazed (should be near the 70% by Patricks Day, looking more like 60% now). We're in a changeover year in terms of experimental treatments on both autumn and spring herds, so some grazing figures etc. might be a little bit off until the re-randomisation settles down. We'll go into more detail on the new treatments later on. We'll still be running an exclusively autumn calving herd and a spring herd.
- 86% of the spring herd are calved at this stage, everything has gone very smoothly with the spring herd so far this year (small numbers overall – 66 cows). The autumn breeding season finished with the bulls coming out on the 3rd March (little over 11 week breeding season). No scanning details yet, but activity after the first 6 weeks seemed low so we're hopeful of good results.
- Production performance of both herds has been good so far, our milk solids % & kgs for the winter months would have been running a little ahead of the past couple of years – grass in the diet most days since 10th January probably contributed to this, along with easing the pressure on tight forage supplies. Hopefully the weather will settle down a bit over the coming week in order to maximise the good grass ahead.

	<i>This week (12/03/19)</i>	Autumn Calving Herd	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	86%
	Milk Kg	25.7	27.1
	Fat %	4.63	4.26
	Protein %	3.60	3.40
	Milk Solids kg	2.11	2.03
Intake	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	9.0 kgs	10 kgs
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	3.0 kgs	2 kgs
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	2.0 kgs	
	Concentrate in TMR –	2.0 kgs	
	Parlour concentrate	4.0 kgs	4 kgs
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 10 th October	Expected Mean calving date 24 th Feb
	Days in Milk	152	16
	Milk kg	4318	708
	Milk Solids kg	345	57
	Concentrate Fed	886kg in parlor (1154 kgs total)	

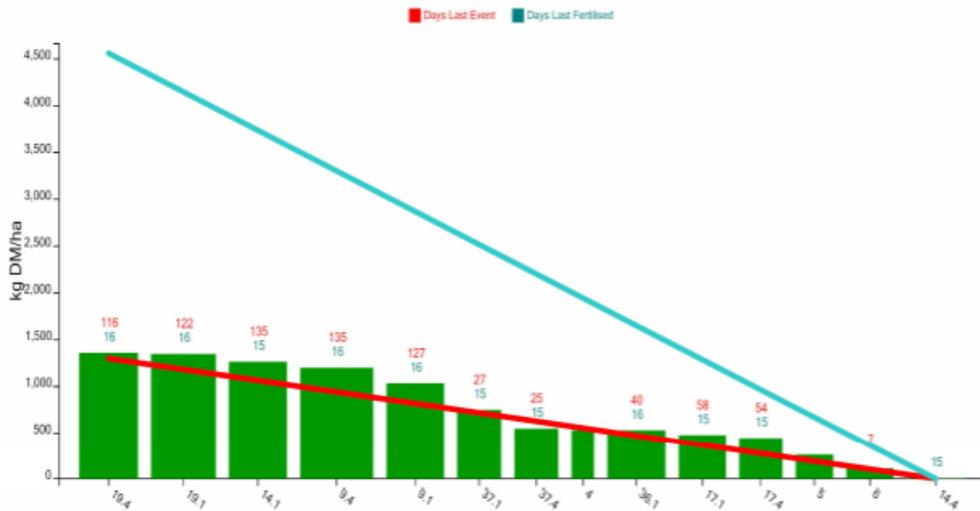
Cover Date: 13/03/2019	
Farm: Johnstown Dairy	Treatment: Autumn Reds

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	60	Residual Cover (cm)	4
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1300		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	763.00	Total LU:	40.00
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	211.00	LU / ha:	3.62
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	24(21)	Grazing Area:	11.05 ha (14)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	36.00	Reseed:	0.00 ha (0)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	400.00	Silage - Cut Later:	0.00 ha (0)
Days ahead:	21.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0.00 ha (0)
Kg LWT / ha:	0.00	Other:	1.41 ha (2)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	131



Cows just marking the surface, but avoiding any damage by on/off grazing, when necessary

