

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd Weekly Management Notes - 25/11/19

- Rainfall for the month of November so far has been 152mm, which is already well above average for the full month, rainfall for the year to date is 957mm, up until the autumn we had been well below on annual rainfall but the months of October & November have closed the gap - nearing our annual average of ~1060mm. Grazing for all groups finished up about a week ago, we would have liked to have kept our lower stocked autumn group & the spring herd grazing by day for a bit longer, but cows were only messing & getting very little benefit from grazing – hopefully we'll benefit more from this grass with a good spring. Cover on 25/11 is 770kgs/ha.
- Our autumn replacement weanlings, which will be served in mid-December were housed last week, these are a lovely even bunch of well grown heifers with an average weight of 370kgs, the lightest 340kgs & heaviest 410kgs, If they hold their own over the next few weeks during the housing transition period we'd be happy -our target bulling weight is 360kgs.
- Sires have been selected & ordered for the autumn breeding, similar criteria as previous years, minimum €100 fertility, with as high as possible kgs of milk solids – see summary of bulls weighted average – team of 10.
- Our spring replacement weanlings are still out at grass – we have plenty of grass for another 3 weeks, but due to ground conditions they'd be housed by now except their winter accommodation isn't ready just yet. Their wasting a certain amount of grass, but with the lighter animals there shouldn't be any permanent damage.
- The autumn herd are all calved at this stage, we're happy with how the season went with very few issues, a lot of cows seem to be cycling (tail-painting & recording heats for the next 3 weeks pre-breeding). Milk yield is back a couple of litres on same time last year, but is rising & cows are really only settling in on their full winter diet over the last week to 10 days. Silage & maize quality is good, we might need to increase ration by another bit, we'll see how they settle down over the next week.

| | <i>This week (25/11/19)</i> | Autumn Calving Herd | Spring Calving Herd |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|
| Production | % of Herd Milking | 100% | 84% |
| | Milk Kg | 26.4 | 15.3 |
| | Fat % | 4.56 | 4.20 |
| | Protein % | 3.43 | 3.69 |
| | Milk Solids kg | 2.11 | 1.21 |
| Intake Estimates | Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow | 0 | 0 |
| | Silage kgs/dm/cow | 5.0 | 8 |
| | Maize silage kgs/dm/cow | 9.0 | 7 |
| | Concentrate in TMR – | 4.25 | 2 |
| | Parlour concentrate | 2.55 | 1.60 |
| Totals | <i>Lactation to date per cow</i> | Expected Mean calving date 6 th October | Mean calving date 20 th Feb |
| | Days in Milk | 50 | 275 |
| | Milk kg | 1218 | 6290 |
| | Milk Solids kg | 97 | 490 |
| | Concentrate Fed | 248 (224 in parlor) | 895 |

2019 autumn bull team

| | EBI(€) | EBI Sub Index | | | | | | | PTA's | | | | | | CI days | SU % |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|-------|------|------|--------|------|------|---------|------|
| | | Milk (€) | Fert (€) | Calv (€) | Beef (€) | Maint (€) | Mmg (€) | Hlth (€) | M Kg | F Kg | P Kg | F+P Kg | F % | P % | | |
| All Cows in Herd | 158 | 53 | 66 | 39 | -6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 80 | 8.9 | 7.2 | 16.0 | 0.10 | 0.08 | -3.3 | 2.0 |
| Predicted 2020 Calves | 236 | 87 | 103 | 44 | -7 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 148 | 14.8 | 11.8 | 26.6 | 0.15 | 0.12 | -5.2 | 3.0 |
| Bulls Weighted Averages | 314 | 120 | 140 | 48 | -8 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 215 | 20.8 | 16.4 | 37.2 | 0.20 | 0.15 | -7.1 | 4.1 |

Maize Silage

| Item | Units | Normal Desirable Values | Result |
|---------------|-------|-------------------------|--------|
| Dry Matter | % | 22.0 - 35.0 | 31.1 |
| pH | - | 3.5 - 3.9 | 3.8 |
| ASH | % | 3.2 - 4.5 | 3.4 |
| NDF | % | 42.0 - 55.0 | 45.60 |
| Starch | % | 20.0 - 28.0 | 36.1 |
| ME | MJ/kg | 10.5 - 11.5 | 12.0 |
| Crude Protein | % | 6.5 - 10 | 9.5 |

Ist cut Pit silage

| Item | Units | Desirable Values | Result | Status |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|--------|----------|
| Dry Matter | % | 20 - 30 | 29.2 | - |
| pH | - | 4 - 4.7 | 4.4 | Good |
| Ammonia N | % of Total N | < 10.1 | 7.3 | Good |
| ASH | % | < 8.6 | 8.7 | Moderate |
| NDF | % | < 45.0 | 43.60 | Good |
| DMD | % | > 68.9 | 75.5 | Good |
| ME | MJ/kg | > 9.8 | 10.9 | Good |
| Crude Protein | % | 13.5 - 17 | 14.9 | Good |

| Item | Units | Normal Range | Result | Status |
|-------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| PDIN | g/kg | 65 - 102 | 88 | A |
| PDIE | g/kg | 58 - 83 | 83 | |
| PDIA | g/kg | 16 - 37 | 27 | |
| UFL | per kg | .65 - .90 | 0.86 | |
| UFV | per kg | .59 - .89 | 0.82 | |
| LACTIC ACID | % | 2 - 10 | 5.00 | |
| VFA | % | 1 - 9 | 2.70 | |
| WSC | per kg | 1 - 10 | 5.20 | |
| PAL | g/kg W ^{-0.75} | 500 - 1200 | 778 | |
| Fim Intake | g/kg W ^{-0.75} | 60 - 130 | 109 | |