

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd Weekly Management Notes

13/01/20

- Total Rainfall for 2019 was 1060mm – exactly on the 10 year average figure, soil temperatures for the year came in at 10.6°C – warmer than the 10 year average of 10.1. January has been quite timid with us so far (except for a few hours of storm Brendan yesterday) with soil temperatures 2°C above the average @ 7.6 °C. & 47mm rain for the month so far.
- Field conditions are still quite soft, we'd be hoping for some good drying conditions to allow us go with slurry on some of the later grazed paddocks. We'll be targeting a late January application of protected urea on paddocks which don't receive slurry, weather permitting.
- Production on the Intensive autumn herd has been very consistent over the Christmas/New Year period levelling off at around 28L/cow, the extensive system (grass silage & concentrate only) are running about 2L behind this group.
- We're coming up to about 1 month into the breeding season, all of the heifers have been served along with 94% of the cows (we had about 10% of cows not served after 24 days, these were examined last week, with most found to be cycling & requiring just a shot of Prostaglandin, response to this has been slow enough so far but were down to small numbers now so we'll see how they go. We'll be switching to beef sires within the next week as we should have adequate replacements generated.

	<i>This week (13/01/20)</i>	Autumn Herd (Intensive)	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	0
	Milk Kg	27.9	
	Fat %	4.48	
	Protein %	3.52	
	Milk Solids kg	2.22	
Intake Estimates	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	5.4	14
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	10.5	0
	Concentrate in TMR –	4.25	0
	Parlour concentrate	2.6	0
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Expected Mean calving date 6 th October	Mean calving date 20 th Feb
	Days in Milk	99	288
	Milk kg	2590	6478
	Milk Solids kg	206	515
	Concentrate Fed	628kgs – (352 parlor + 276 blend)	895