

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd - Management Notes

17/02/20

- Total Rainfall for February to date is 98.4mm – this is already above the total monthly average of ~75mm, with the past week being particularly difficult. Soil temperatures for the month so far are 5.7°C – close to one degree warmer than the monthly average. Grazing over the past fortnight has been very limited with on/off grazing the best we can manage & even very little of that in the past week.
- Our “Intensive” autumn herd are finishing up on their maize feed this week (we had targeted to finish towards end of Feb, with the expectation that they’d be at least out by day fully at this stage), they’ll transition to a forage diet forage of silage only with grass on the days we can get out to graze – we’re upping the blend by over a kilo, to compensate for losing the maize out of the diet. We’d be happy with their production performance over the winter period ~ 2.2kgs milk solids.
- Breeding season finishes up within the next week (12 week season), activity with the bulls seems to be reasonably quite over the past week-10 days so hopefully most cows are back in calf. Spring calving will slow up from here in (more than 2/3 herd calved in February with the final third going out from March to 10th April.
- We’re well behind target area grazed for this week (not much more than 10% grazed yet), if we can get reasonable conditions we can catch up quickly on the autumn treatments with a very high demand (potentially>60kgs/day). Demand on the spring herd will have ramped up a bit by next week too, with 2/3 of the herd calved & good appetite, we’re looking at a demand of 25-35kgs/dm/day.

	<i>This week (17/02/20)</i>	Autumn Herd (Intensive)	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	62%
	Milk Kg	27.1	
	Fat %	4.48	
	Protein %	3.58	
	Milk Solids kg	2.18	
Intake Estimates	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	6 (when they get out!!)	7 (varies between 0 & 10)
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	4 (increasing to >10)	7
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	6.0 (dropping to zero)	0
	Concentrate in TMR –	5.5	1.5
	Parlour concentrate	2.6	3
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 6 th October	Expected Mean calving date 20 th Feb
	Days in Milk	134	
	Milk kg	.3562	
	Milk Solids kg	283	
	Concentrate Fed	905kgs – (454 parlor + 451 blend)	

Cover Date: 20/02/2020	
Farm: Johnstown Castle Dairy	Treatment: Autumn Reds

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	70	Residual Cover (cm)	4
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1500		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	929.00	Total LU:	44.0
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	233.00	LU / ha:	3.98
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	14(13)	Grazing Area:	11.05 ha (14)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	24.00	Reseed:	0.00 ha (0)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	264.00	Silage - Cut Later:	0.00 ha (0)
Days ahead:	39.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0.00 ha (0)
Kg LWT / ha:	0.00	Other:	0.00 ha (0)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	135

