

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd - Management Notes 06/04/20

- Total Rainfall for the month of March finished up at 48mm, so no rain for the last week of March. April to date is just 5.7mm resulting in excellent grazing conditions. Soil temp for March averaged 5.9°C a bit below normal for the month. Growth has been slow for the past two weeks, a persistent Easterly breeze hitting grass hard given our location. Hopefully the coming week will give the rise in temperatures that are forecast with not much rain.
- We start our second round on the high SR Autumn herd tomorrow; this herd has a potential demand of ~70kgs/day. Pre-grazing yields are only 900-1000kgs, we will have to introduce some silage along with upping the concentrate level to 8kgs, hopefully just for a few days. This isn't surprising as we had pulled the silage quickly when grazing conditions got good around 20th March so that we could graze through the first round (some of which had heavy covers). Cover/Lu is critically low on this treatment but with the right conditions things can change very quickly at this time of year – Hopefully!
- Autumn Cows have held their own in terms of milk volume over the past two weeks. Due to Covid restrictions no individual milk sampling carried out over the past two weeks, but bulk tank figures suggest that the autumn herd are still doing over 2.1kgs of solids.
- All cows are calved since 31st March, giving us the full month of April for the herd to settle down & clean up any issues before our start of breeding around 1st May. The spring herd still have another week of the first round remaining - If growth explodes we'll probably skip a couple of the paddocks & take them out for silage in a few weeks without grazing – all area can be accessed for grazing, so we have options in what fields will be closed for main crop silage. All fields got 40kgs/N/ha around 24th March, once we're sure of silage fields we'll top these up, probably with no more than another 40/50Kgs as I expect we'll be cutting silage early.
- Thankfully all our staff are healthy at present, in line with government restrictions, we have minimised staff attending for work & only essential farm work is being conducted at present.

	<i>This week (06/04/20)</i>	Autumn Herd (Intensive)	Spring Calving Herd
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	100%
	Milk Kg	26.9	30.4
	Fat %	4.20	4.15
	Protein %	3.74	3.42
	Milk Solids kg	2.13	2.30
Intake Estimates	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	14 (silage intake will be ~10/11)	16
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	Silage re-introduced last 2 day (4kg)	0
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Concentrate in TMR –	2	0
	Parlour concentrate	6	3.0
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 6 th October	Mean calving date 19 th Feb
	Days in Milk	183	46
	Milk kg	4803	1080
	Milk Solids kg	384	83
	Concentrate Fed	1230kgs–(616 parlor + 614 blend)	168

Cover Date: 07/04/2020	
Farm: Johnstown Castle Dairy	Treatment: Autumn Reds

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	21	Residual Cover (cm)	4
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1300		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	511.00	Total LU:	44.0
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	128.00	LU / ha:	3.98
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	21(29)	Grazing Area:	11.05 ha (14)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	64.00	Reseed:	0.00 ha (0)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	704.00	Silage - Cut Later:	0.00 ha (0)
Days ahead:	8.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0.00 ha (0)
Kg LWT / ha:	0.00	Other:	0.00 ha (0)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	185

