

Johnstown Castle Winter Milk Herd - Management Notes 04/05/20

- Total Rainfall for the month of April came in at 50.5mm, we got enough of it when we needed it, mostly in a couple of heavy rainfall days but without impacting on grazing conditions, so ideal really. Soil temp for April averaged 9.8°C, above the monthly average and after a slow start the second half of April gave us above average growth for the time of year.
- Breeding for the spring herd is just kicking off this week, a few cows who had been handled at calving/retained afterbirth were checked out by the vet two weeks ago & should be ready for breeding during the first round. Heifers will be served to observed heat for first week followed on day 7 by injection of prostaglandin to all heifers not yet served.
- Our silage ground has really started to “bulk up” over the past week, we still have a provisional plan of cutting around 15th May. Approx. 30% of the spring multi-species ground was cut over the weekend (this was not grazed in spring, due to late turnout – cover of 3400 to 4700kgs/ha), with ~15% of the spring grass group coming out. Grazing ground is blanket spread @ 28kgs/Ha every 3 weeks for the next couple of rounds (P & Ks spread as straights on fields that show a requirement.
- We’re happy with the milk performance on all groups at present, cows have dropped off in yield but concentrate has reduced to 2kgs/cow as we have adequate grass. The autumn cows are over 200 days in milk & have close to 450kgs of solids done so far – but at a cost! – 1320kgs concentrate.

	<i>This week (04/05/20)</i>	Autumn Herd (Intensive)	Spring Herd (Grass/Clover)
Production	% of Herd Milking	100%	100%
	Milk Kg	24.4	27.9
	Fat %	4.27	4.16
	Protein %	3.78	3.43
	Milk Solids kg	1.95	2.12
Intake Estimates	Grazed Grass kgs/dm/cow	18	17
	Silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Maize silage kgs/dm/cow	0	0
	Concentrate in TMR –	0	0
	Parlour concentrate	2	2.0
Totals	<i>Lactation to date per cow</i>	Mean calving date 6 th October	Mean calving date 19 th Feb
	Days in Milk	211	74
	Milk kg	5533	2049
	Milk Solids kg	441	154
	Concentrate Fed	1356kgs–(742 parlor + 614 blend)	253

Cover Date: 05/05/2020

Farm: Johnstown Castle Dairy

Treatment: Autumn Reds

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	21	Residual Cover (cm)	4
Target Pre-Grazing (kg DM/ha):	1400		

Cover Parameters

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	734.00	Total LU:	44.0
Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):	170.00	LU / ha:	4.33
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day):	54(60)	Grazing Area:	10.15 ha (13)
Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day):	82.00	Reseed:	0.00 ha (0)
Demand / day (kg DM/day):	836.00	Silage - Cut Later:	0.90 ha (1)
Days ahead:	9.00	Silage - Cut Now:	0.00 ha (0)
Kg LWT / ha:		Other:	0.00 ha (0)
		Rotation Length Back (Days):	26

