

Heavy Soils Programme

Farmer comments on Summer 2017

Rossmore, Tipperary

The weather this summer has been the best since I started farming (10 years), we got loads of good dry spells and rain came when needed, could not ask for better.

Lisselton, Kerry

Great grass growing summer, silage first and second cuts done in perfect conditions, lots of surplus bales collected as well. Ideal conditions for breeding season. Recent wet weather has softened ground a lot resulting in having to move on cows faster to avoid poaching damage but leaving more grass behind than would like. Peat ground holding up much better than muddy ground.

Stradone, Cavan

Summer was excellent weather and steady growth rates and you are wondering how far you could expand and push the farm and then the constant rain, deluge's came and your brought back to reality and remember how a week can change things so much, picking paddocks now to avoid damaging and praying for no more rain

Athea, Limerick

Cows milked very well up to July but dropped quickly through July with fluctuating f+p. Plenty of surplus silage made. Great growth up to a week ago but persistent rain has made ground wet and cold. On heavier grounds growth has slowed considerably. Dryer paddocks gone yellow despite being OK for N. No damage done. Feeding 2 kg nut + some hulls this week.

Swanscross, Monaghan

Really good summer up here in Monaghan until the recent rains. Ground was dry; cows were milking well and got adequate rain when needed. Recent rain and more often downpours have started to leave ground tricky. Fields are just about holding up ok but we definitely would not any more heavy rain for a while or cows would

need to be housed. Would have enough grass ahead but would definitely see a slowdown in growth and temperatures a little on the cool side.

Ballinagree, Cork

It was a good summer, grass growth has been steady without ever reaching the highs it did last year, which was probably better off, and rain was welcome when it came.

Doonbeg, Clare

Been a great year up to about the 20th July with super growth rates. Things have turned completely and cows now damaging paddocks. Fertilizer not spread as ground is saturated. Grass is stressed looking and yellowish in colour. If we get much more rain cows will be housed. Upped meal to 4kgs for now. Field burnt off for drainage and reseeding a month ago can't be touched as is saturated.

Kishkeam, Cork

Good summer overall since mid-June. Pre grazing covers always where we'd like them to be. 2.5 bales per cow taken out in surplus. Early June difficult with rain delaying silage cut as well as about 25% of grazing platform of heavy covers in paddocks, this put pressure on PG Covers for a while. I've seen no adverse effects of recent rains, as yet! Farm seems to be in good position to build covers from here.

Castleisland, Kerry

Summer was great 250 surplus bales taken off the milking platform and more to do, 17 ac of silage ground reseeded, lot of rain in the past week, grazing conditions ok at the moment will struggle to graze and spray reseed's in the next week. For a brief moment we had forgotten about farming Heavy Soils!

