**Project Objectives**

* To develop a sustainable high-output grass-based spring milk production system
* To incorporate the most recent advances in grassland management for dairy farms into a high- output system
* Use a type of dairy cow that has good genetic indices for both milk production and fertility
* Employ the best practices from nutrition research and dairy cow husbandry
* Incorporate nutritional studies into a high-output system
* To incorporate management technologies and system attributes that enhance the sustainability of dairy production

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| **Farm Details Week 10th– 16th July 2023** | |
| **Stocking rate on MP (LU/ha)** | **3.27** |
| **Farm Cover (kg of DM/ha)** | **731** |
| **Growth Rate (kg of DM/ha/day)** | **59** |
| **Demand (kg of DM/ha/day)** | **56** |
| **Average grass DM (%)** |  |
| **Average Concentrate fed (kg/day)** | **3.6** |
| **Average DIM** | **161** |

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| **Cow Details Week 19th - 25th June 2023** | |
| **Yield (kg/cow/day)** | **31.5** |
| **Fat (%)** | **4.54** |
| **Protein (%)** | **3.62** |
| **MS (kg/day)** | **2.58** |
| **SCC** | **59,000** |

**Grassland Management:**

Grass growth has really responded to fertiliser seeing steady increase in growth rate just ahead of demand. The 5kg DM/ cow of silage was removed from the diet on Tuesday the 25th July as cover/ LU has risen above 220 kg DM/LU (224 on Monday 31st July walk). To date 42 grass walks have been completed on the systems platform since January. The grass quality is being reflected in the tank with a raise in litres from the previous week.

**Comments**:

The cow which was ear marked as a pre-breed cull due to poor udder conformation was dried off on Friday 26th July. She had been milking in only 3 quarters and had developed chronicle mastitis in one of the remaining 3 Quarters. She was in her 7th Lactation so had served her time well on the systems project. She averaged 7492 kg Milk over her 7 lactations

| **Lact** | **Milk Kg** | **Fat Kg** | **Prot Kg** | **Fat%** | **Prot%** | **F+P Kg** | **Days** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7 | 48588 | 2275 | 1777 | 4.68 | 3.66 | 4052 | 1910 |

We will take a break for August from the notes and will recommence in September again