



Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes

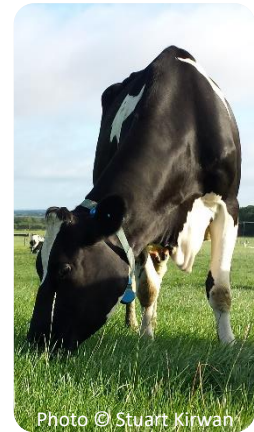
Background: It is widely recognised that grass-based systems offer a competitive advantage and will predominate in Ireland. However, grazing systems that have been developed to utilise large quantities of grazed grass have in the main been based on low-output per cow. In this scenario, high levels of profitability are possible through avid cost control and comparatively high stocking rates for grazing systems. There are now reasons to consider the development of grazing systems that are based on high-output per cow. These reasons include (i) concerns about increasing dairy cow numbers and environmental emissions, (ii) facilitating farm expansion post EU-milk quota removal for land limited and fragmented farms, (iii) lack of available skilled labour on farms to deal with expanding animal numbers. The rationale for this research is that a high output grass-based spring milk production system can be profitable when built on a foundation of good grassland management and meeting both milk and fertility targets and has a place in a sustainable Irish dairy industry.

For more details on the High Output Systems Research Herd visit <http://www.ucd.ie/agfood/welcomemessage/systemsresearchherd/>.

Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 08/10/2018

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65 ha
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.34 cows/ha
Farm Cover: 994 kg DM
Growth Rate: 35 (39) kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 47 kg DM/ha/day
Average Concentrate Supplement: 4 kg/head/day
Average DIM: 234.5
Cows Milking: 59



Daily Feed Budget: Cows are being allocated 14 kg DM of grass, 4 kg of an 18% in-parlour concentrate.

Grazing Plan: AFC on the 8th of October was 994 kg DM/ha (range 91 to 2201 kg DM/ha) with a cover/LU of 298 kg DM. Average grass growth was 35 kg DM/ha/day this week. Average grass DM last week was 16.9%. The final rotation started on Sunday (the 7th of October) and paddocks have started to be closed off for the winter period. A target of 0.51 ha must be grazed per day, with an aim to have 70% of the farm grazed by the 1st of November and the farm being closed, with 100% grazed, by the 17th of November.

Milk Production: Average production is 18.7 kg/cow/day, as of the week ending 7th of October, at 4.70% fat and 3.88% protein (1.60 kg MS). Average production this time last year as 17.3 kg/cow/day, at 4.71% fat and 4.01% protein (1.51 kg MS). SCC is currently 94,500. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 26th of September.

Breeding Season 2018: The breeding season started on Monday 30th of April and ended on the 22nd of July. Pregnancy scans were done weekly, at approximately 30 and 60 days post A.I. Pre-breeding, the decision was made not to breed 5/60 for various reasons, including lameness, temperament and high SCC, therefore, only 55/60 cows were submitted for breeding. Submission rate in the first 3 weeks was 96% (53/55 cows) with all cows being submitted by week 5. The final scan took place last week. Conception rate to first service was 69% (38/55). The 6 week in calf rate was 84% (46/55 cows). In total, 52/55 cows have been confirmed in calf with an empty rate of 13% (8/60, 5 of which were not bred).