



Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes

Background: The main aim of the **Systems Research Herd** at UCD Lyons Farm is to evaluate the feasibility (including profitability) of a higher input/output grazing system within a limited land holding scenario. The focus is on maximising milk solids output from the existing land holding which involves high output from individual cows and high stocking rates on the MP. This will occur most efficiently through maximising the use of grazed grass/home grown forage in the system and the strategic use of supplementation thereafter. Such a system might facilitate the successful expansion of the farm business without the need to buy or rent extra land, to buy stock, to acquire extra labour or to provide extra cow facilities. For the study purpose, stocking rate and concentrate inputs are fixed. For more details on the Systems Research Herd visit <http://www.ucd.ie/agfood/welcomemessage/systemsresearchherd/>.

Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 09-10-2017

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4
Farm Cover: 873 kg DM/ha (257 kg DM/cow)
Growth Rate: 24 kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 47.6 kg DM/ha/day
Supplement: Concentrate 2.9 kg/cow/day
Average DIM: 231 (range 169-262)



Image © Zoe McKay

Grass Supply: AFC on 9th of October was 873 kg DM/ha (range 142 to 2350 kg DM/ha). Cows continue to clean out paddocks very well while ground conditions remain good. However, growth has slowed down significantly and we will be monitoring the farm cover closely in the coming days as buffer feeding may be required.

Feed Budget: Cows are being fed an average of 2.9 kg of concentrate. Cows move to 4kg as they reach 240 DIM. Grass DMI last week was 14.4 kg at 14.4% DM on average.

Milk Production: Average production is currently 18.5 kg/cow at 4.9% fat and 3.93% protein (1.63 kg MS). SCC is 147,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 13th September.

Breeding Season 2017: The final scan took place on the 4th of October. Despite a reasonably good start to the breeding season where conception rates for the first 3 weeks were just above 50% and the submission rate was 89%, the fertility results are disappointing. It is apparent from our initial checking that we have had weeks where conception rates completely crashed. We are hoping to investigate this fully. Two cows that were earlier scanned in calf have lost pregnancies.

Cows calved	60
Cows eligible for breeding	59
Submission rate (3 wk)	89%
6-week in calf rate	54%
Empty rate (13 wk)	15%

Herd EBI September 2017:

EBI	Milk	Fert	Calv	Beef	Maint	Health	Mgt
124	40.36	47.58	37.74	-8.89	5.19	0.77	1.25

Herd Lameness: The results of a herd locomotion score from Thursday last, October 5th showed 12% lameness (locomotion score 3 and above).