



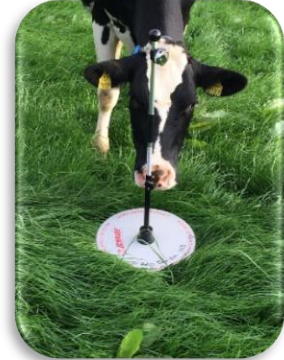
## Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes

**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 10-07-2017

#### Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65  
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4  
Farm Cover: 620 kg DM/ha (182 kg DM/cow)  
Growth Rate: 78 kg DM/ha/day  
Demand: 61.2 kg DM/ha/day  
Supplement: Concentrate 3.9 kg/cow/day  
Average DIM: 139 (range 77-171)



#### Grass Supply:

AFC on 10th July was 620 kg DM/ha (range 111 to 1334 kg DM/ha). We will continue to measure twice a week to manage quality and allocations.

We will take out a 0.9ha paddock (5% of MP) for bales this week in order to retain quality in the sward.

Paddocks that were reseeded on the June bank holiday weekend are growing very well now and we aim to graze them when they reach a cover of about 800 kg DM/ha, they are currently 350 kg DM/ha. The reseed was sprayed with Hyflux post emergence spray at a rate of 0.75l / ha last week.

#### Feed Budget

50 cows are now being fed 3.5 kg of concentrate with the remainder (10) on 6 kg. Grass allowance remains at 18 kg DM per day giving us an overall demand of 61.2 kg DM/ha/day. Grass DMI last week was 16.9 kg at 18% DM on average.

#### Fertiliser:

210 kg/ha (170 units/acre) of Nitrogen has been spread on the MP to date.

#### Milk Production:

Average production is currently 26.7 kg/cow for the week 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July, at 4.20% fat and 3.52% protein (2.1 kg MS). SCC is 84,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 21st June.

#### BCS:

The average BCS on 10th July was 2.9, with a range of 2.5 to 3.5. 90% of the herd was in the range 2.75 to 3.25.

#### Breeding Season 2017:

Breeding started on April 24th and will continue for 12 weeks, until the 16<sup>th</sup> July. We will continue using AI for the full 12 weeks. At the end of the 11th week of breeding, all eligible cows have been served. 34 cows (58%) are now scanned in calf after six weeks of breeding. This is significantly lower than our target 6-week conception rate, which we will examine fully when the breeding season is complete.