



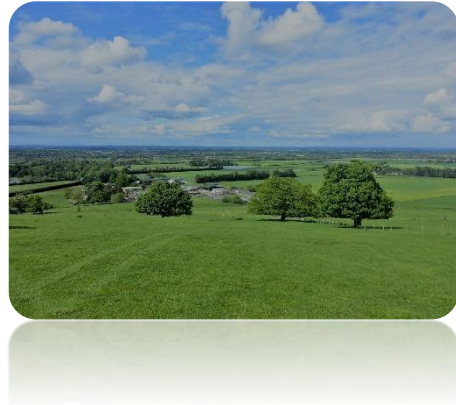
Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes

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 11-9-17

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4
Farm Cover: 1082 kg DM/ha (318 kg DM/cow)
Growth Rate: 66 kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 47.6 kg DM/ha/day
Supplement: Concentrate 2.5 kg/cow/day
Average DIM: 204 (range 140-223)



Grass Supply

AFC on 11th of September was 1082 kg DM/ha (range 58 to 1836 kg DM/ha). Cows are cleaning out paddocks very well with PGSH of 3.5-4cm being achieved. We continue to build covers as growth remains ahead of demand although expected cold weather may check growth slightly later in the week.

Feed Budget:

All cows are being fed 2.5 kg of concentrate. Grass DMI last week was 15.6 kg at 14.1% DM on average. For the next feed delivery, protein will be increased to 18%, using soya and we have requested the addition of biotin to the nut. The protein increase is to help with our performance target, the biotin is to increase hoof hardness.

Fertiliser:

260 kg/ha (210 units/acre) of Nitrogen has been spread on the MP to date. Our final split of CAN was applied on Wednesday last, September 6th.

Milk Production:

Average production is currently 20.66 kg/cow at 4.56% fat and 3.75% protein (1.72 kg MS). SCC is 79,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 30th August.

Breeding Season 2017:

The final scan will take place in early October and a full review of the 2017 breeding season will be provided at that stage.