



Lyons Dairy Systems Research Herd Notes 2025

Project Objectives

- To develop a profitable 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



For more details on the High Output Systems Research Herd visit <https://www.ucd.ie/agfood/about/lyonsresearchfarm/lyonsdairyherd/>

Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 14/04/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	12.56	Ha
Current SR (MP)	4.3	LU/ha
Farm Cover	955	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	222	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	54	kg DM/ha
Demand	73	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	8	kg/day
Average DIM	56	days
Grass DM	21.5	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	32.18
Fat %	4.28
Protein %	3.53
MS (kg/cow)	2.62
SCC cells/ml	49
Cows Calved	55/56

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 955kg on the 14th of April, with growth rates of 54kg of DM/ha. Our second rotation began on the 13th of April. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted weekly.

The diet consists of a grass allocation of 17kg DM and 8kg of concentrates.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Soil temperature measurements were taken on the 14th of April, with the average recorded at 9.68°C. Between the 11th of April and 14th of April 0mm of rain fell on the platform.

Calving:

Calving started on the 15th of January and there are currently 55/56 of the cows calved as of the 16th of April.



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Comments:

54 cows were mobility scored on the 9th of April. 33% scored 0, 56% scored 1, 7% scored 2 and 3.7% scored 3.

A prebreed exam was conducted on the 2nd of April. 30/56 cows had a CL present, 3/56 cows had a dominant follicle, 13/56 had no significant structures, 4/56 were fresh and need to be rechecked. One cow had a follicular cyst and was administered GnRH.