



# 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 28/04/2025

### Farm Details:

Area Available	13.12	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.68	LU/ha
Farm Cover	775	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	211	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	99	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	57	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	8	kg/day
Average DIM	70	days
Grass DM	20	%

### Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	33.96
Fat %	3.73
Protein %	3.44
MS (kg/cow)	2.52
SCC cells/ml	42

### Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 775kg on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, with growth rates of 99kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted weekly. 2.11ha was cut for silage on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April and yielded 23 bales.

Two paddocks (2.12 ha) were successfully sown with a Germinal Seeds reseed mix, including Aberclyde, Barwave, Aberwolf, Abergreen, and white clover. The clover component included Aberherald and Aberswan at a rate of 1.5 kg/acre (4 kg/ha), ensuring a balanced, high-quality sward aimed at improved productivity and persistence.

The diet consists of a grass allocation of 15.5kg DM and 8kg of concentrates.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Soil temperature measurements were taken on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, with the average recorded at 12.86°C. Between the 24<sup>th</sup> of April and 1<sup>st</sup> of May 5mm of rain fell on the platform.



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### **Comment:**

55 cows were BCS on the 2nd of May. 9% scored  $\leq 2.5$ , 20% scored 2.75, 38% scored 3.0, 27% scored 3.25 and 2% scored 3.5.