



## 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 19-06-17

### Farm Details:

Area available: 15.71 (1.94 ha closed for reseeded)  
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.82  
Farm Cover: 659 kg DM/ha (172 kg DM/cow)  
Growth Rate: 75 kg DM/ha/day  
Demand: 68.5 kg DM/ha/day  
Supplement: Concentrate 4.7 kg/cow/day  
Average DIM: 118 (range 56-150)



### Grass Supply:

AFC on 19<sup>th</sup> June was 659 kg DM/ha (range 180 to 1400 kg DM/ha). We will continue to measure twice a week to manage quality and allocations.

7 ha of second cut silage was cut on the out block last Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. We are grazing our 6<sup>th</sup> rotation on the MP and we topped 2 paddocks out of 13 on the 5<sup>th</sup> rotation.

In the year to date the MP has grown 6.61t DM/ha of grass, which is ahead of our accumulative growth (6.3t DM/ha) to the end of June 2016.

### Feed Budget

31 cows are now being fed 3.5 kg of concentrate as they have reached 120 DIM, with 29 cows now receiving 6 kg of concentrates. This step down coincides with the passing of the most important period of the breeding season. Grass allowance has been increased to 18 kg DM per day to try and challenge the cows to eat as much grass DM as possible. Grass DMI last week was 16.7 kg, at 17.5% DM.

### Fertiliser:

185kg/ha (151 units/acre) of nitrogen has been spread on the MP to date.

### Milk Production:

Average production is currently 30.1 kg/cow for the week 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June, at 4.10% fat and 3.39% protein (2.3 kg MS). SCC is 88,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 7<sup>th</sup> June.

### BCS:

The average BCS on 9<sup>th</sup> June was 3.0, with a range of 2.5 to 3.5. 88% of the herd was in the range 2.75 to 3.25.

### Breeding Season 2017:

Breeding started on April 24<sup>th</sup> and will continue for 12 weeks. By the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> week of breeding, 98% of eligible cows have been served.

Cows were scanned 13<sup>th</sup> June, covering the first three weeks of breeding. 24 cows out of 50 that were eligible at MSD scanned pregnant (48%), meaning 40% of the total herd are now confirmed pregnant after three weeks of breeding.