



## 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 06-11-2017

#### Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65  
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4  
Farm Cover: 543 kg DM/ha (160 kg DM/cow)  
Growth Rate: 13.8 kg DM/ha/day  
Demand: 27.2 kg DM/ha/day  
Supplement: Concentrate 4.1 kg/cow/day  
Average DIM: 259 (range 197-290)

**Grass Supply:** AFC on 6<sup>th</sup> November was 543kg DM/ha (range 28 to 1072 kg DM/ha). Cows continue to graze out well while ground conditions are good in the paddocks left to graze.

Cows have been in by night since Wednesday last (November 1<sup>st</sup>). Cows are being allocated 6kg DM of grass silage and 7kg DM of grass per day.

Current silage quality is as follows: 33%DM, 78 DMD, 13.7% Protein, 0.89 UFL.

We began closing paddocks on the MP on the 8<sup>th</sup> October with a target to be fully closed by 21<sup>st</sup> November. To date (6-11) we have grazed 83% of the block. Having a high % closed combined with lower than ideal pre-grazing covers means we will likely be housed full time next week.

**Feed Budget:** Cows are being fed an average of 4.1 kg of concentrate. 31 cows are on 4kgs, 14 on 2.5kgs and 15 cows have moved to 6kgs as they reached 270 DIM. Grass DMI last week was 7.2kg at 14.4% DM on average. Silage DMI last week was 5.14kg at 33% DM.

**Milk Production:** Average production is currently 15.6 kg/cow at 4.73% fat and 3.95% protein (1.36 kg MS). SCC is 86,500. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 25<sup>th</sup> October.

Average Milk solids output to date is 528kgs (550 kgs for cows and 454 kgs for heifers). Concentrate input to date is 1270 kgs per cow.

**Body Condition Score:** Herd was body condition scored (BCS) on Wednesday last, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. The herd average BCS is 2.9 while the average BCS for first lactation cows is 3. Within the herd there are 9 thin cows (BCS=2.5) and 4 fat cows (BCS=3.5).

#### Herd EBI September 2017:

EBI	Milk	Fert	Calv	Beef	Maint	Health	Mgt
124	40.36	47.58	37.74	-8.89	5.19	0.77	1.25

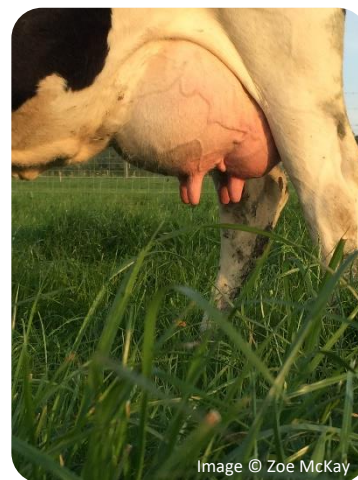


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