



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 13-11-2017

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4
Farm Cover: 450 kg DM/ha (132 kg DM/cow)
Growth Rate: 9.2 kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 23.8 kg DM/ha/day
Supplement: Concentrate 4.1 kg/cow/day
Average DIM: 266 (range 204-297)



Grass Supply: AFC on 13th November was 450kg DM/ha (range 108 to 1248 kg DM/ha). Cows have been in by night since November 1st and will be housed full time on Tuesday, November 14th. Once housed cows will be allocated 13kg DM of silage along with concentrate in the parlour.

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

Feed Budget: Cows are being fed an average of 4.6 kg of concentrate. 29 cows are on 6kgs as they reach 270 DIM, 25 cows are on 4kgs and 6 cows continue on 2.5kgs as they have yet to reach 240 DIM. Grass DMI last week was 7.3kg at 16.1% DM on average. Silage DMI last week was 6kg at 33% DM.

Milk Production: Average production is currently 15.3 kg/cow at 4.67% fat and 3.95% protein (1.32 kg MS). SCC is 114,600. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 8th of November.

Herd Lameness: A lameness assessment of the herd on Thursday last, November 9th, shows 15% lameness (locomotion score 3&4) within the herd.

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