



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 17-7-2017

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65 ha
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4
Farm Cover: 726 kg DM/ha (213 kg DM/cow)
Growth Rate: 88 kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 57.8 kg DM/ha/day
Supplement: Concentrate 3.7 kg/cow/day
Average DIM: 146 (range 84-177)



Grass Supply:

AFC on 17th June was 726 kg DM/ha (range 89 to 1485 kg DM/ha). We will continue to measure twice a week to manage quantity, quality and allocations.

Growth remains quite strong at the moment but we are conscious of the drying ground so any possible move towards a drought situation is being closely monitored.

2 paddocks (1.94 ha) that were reseeded earlier in the summer (2nd June) were grazed out on Thursday last (13th July). They were grazed at a cover of 800kg DM/ha by the milking cows with no damage, we will graze again at a light cover.

Feed Budget

55 cows are now being fed 3.5 kg of concentrate with the remainder (5) on 6 kg. Grass allowance remains at 18 kg DM per day giving us an overall demand of 57.8 kg DM/ha/day. Grass DMI last week was 16.9 kg at 18% DM on average.

Fertiliser:

210 kg/ha (170 units/acre) of Nitrogen has been spread on the MP to date.

Milk Production:

Average production is currently 27.4 kg/cow for the week 10th to 16th July, at 4.48% fat and 3.50% protein (2.2 kg MS). SCC is 96,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 4th July.

BCS:

The average BCS on 10th July was 2.9, with a range of 2.5 to 3.5. 90% of the herd was in the range 2.75 to 3.25.

Breeding Season 2017:

Breeding started on 24th April and will continue until 23rd July (13 weeks). 39 cows (66%) are now scanned in calf after seven weeks of breeding.