



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 31-07-2017

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4
Farm Cover: 682 kg DM/ha (200 kg DM/cow)
Growth Rate: 66 kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 57.8 kg DM/ha/day
Supplement: Concentrate 3.4 kg/cow/day
Average DIM: 160 (range 98-191)

Grass Supply:

AFC on 31st of July was 682 kg DM/ha (range 242 to 1427 kg DM/ha). We may need to top a couple of paddocks after grazing in this rotation to maintain quality in the sward.

Feed Budget

51 cows are now being fed 3.5 kg of concentrate, 8 cows are on 2.5kg with one remaining cow on 6 kg. Grass allowance remains at 17 kg DM per day giving us an overall demand of 57.8 kg DM/ha/day. Grass DMI last week was 15.2 kg at 16.75% DM on average.

Fertiliser:

210 kg/ha (170 units/acre) of Nitrogen has been spread on the MP to date. We will go out with another split of CAN across the MP this week.

Milk Production:

Average production is currently 27 kg/cow for the week 24th to 30th July, at 4.32% fat and 3.52% protein (2.1 kg MS). SCC is 76,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 19th July.

Breeding Season 2017:

Breeding started on April 24th and finished on July 23rd (13 weeks). 58% of cows were scanned in calf after 6 weeks of breeding. The final scan will take place in mid-September and a full review of the 2017 breeding season will be provided at that stage.

Weekly Notes during August: There will be no weekly notes during August but notes will be back in the 1st week of September.

