



Lyons Dairy Systems Research Herd Notes 2025

Project Objectives

- To develop a profitable high-output grass-based spring milk production system
- To incorporate the most recent advances in grassland management for dairy farms into a high- output system
- Use a type of dairy cow that has good genetic indices for both milk production and fertility
- Employ the best practices from nutrition research and dairy cow husbandry
- Incorporate nutritional studies into a high-output system
- To incorporate management technologies and system attributes that enhance the sustainability of dairy production



For more details on the High Output Systems Research Herd visit <https://www.ucd.ie/agfood/about/lyonsresearchfarm/lyonsdairyherd/>

Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 30/07/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	14.22	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.87	LU/ha
Farm Cover	846	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	219	kg DM/day
Growth Rate	61	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	66	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	6.75	kg/day
Average DIM	133	days
Grass DM	19	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	25.66
Fat %	3.71
Protein %	3.52
MS (kg/cow)	1.79
SCC cells/ml	45

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 846kg on the 30th of June, with growth rates of 61kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted twice weekly. 1 paddock has been taken out for silage (1.01ha). The average pregrazing cover between the 23rd and 30th of June was 1391Kg DM/ha.

The diet consists of a grass allocation of 17kg DM, 6kg of concentrates from parlour and on average 0.75 kg/hd/day of concentrates from Greenfeed machines (used to measure methane).

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 25th of June and 1stth of July 11mm of rain fell on the platform.



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Comment:

All 55 cows were scanned on the 26th of June. Thirty nine cows were scanned in calf, resulting in a 71% conception rate by the 9th week of the breeding season (this is preliminary data based on early-stage scanning). 4 of the 55 cows were PG at this time and have since been served.

The 2nd intake run of the new research trial into investigating the effects of reducing crude protein content in concentrates and also methane emissions from the herd will conclude on the 4th of July.

Milk production has dropped recently, and we are conducting a review into possible factors that could be responsible for the recent decrease in production.