

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 07/10/2024

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.43	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.27	LU/ha
Farm Cover	735	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	225	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	22	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	16	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	4	kg/day
Average DIM	252	days
Grass DM	18.6	%

Cow Details:

YIELD	17.3	kg/cow/day
Fat	5.5	%
Protein	4	%
MS	1.56	kg
SCC	75.7	Cells/ml milk

Grazing plan:

The AFC is currently at 735 kg DM/ha, with grass growth rates at 22 kg DM/ha/day. The herd's diet consists of 7 kg DM of silage, 8 kg DM of grass, and 4 kg DM of concentrate, which will be reviewed as necessary to maintain average farm cover.

Comments:

The ground conditions are favourable, enabling effective cleanouts of paddocks before closing. Paddocks will be selected strategically based on their location on the platform and current ground conditions, as well as considerations for spring.

When comparing the performance of the cows this year to last year at this time, there are notable differences in milk solids and protein & fat percentages. Last year, the herd was producing 1.77 kg of milk solids, with fat at 4.88% and protein at 3.76%. In contrast, this year's production stands at 1.56 kg of milk solids. While protein has decreased to 4%, fat content has improved significantly to 5.5%.

BCS:

The herds BCS was assessed on the 10th of October. 86% of them scored between 2.75-3.25, 11% scored between 2.25-2.5 and 2.3% scored 3.5.