

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 14/10/2024

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	26	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	26	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	4	kg/day
Average DIM	232	days
Grass DM	18	%

Cow Details:

YIELD	17.2	kg/cow/day
Fat	4.99	%
Protein	4.04	%
MS	1.71	kg
SCC	71.4	Cells/ml milk

Grazing plan:

The AFC is currently at 735 kg DM/ha, with grass growth rates at 26 kg DM/ha/day. The herd's diet consists of 8 kg DM of silage (36% DM), 8 kg DM of grass, and 4 kg DM of concentrate, which will be reviewed as necessary to maintain average farm cover. Currently 36% of the grazing platform is closed for the season.

Comments:

At this time last year, the herd was producing 1.68 kg of milk solids, with a yield of 19.2 kg per cow per day, a fat content of 5.04%, and protein at 3.7%. In contrast, this year's milk solids are slightly higher at 1.71 kg, despite a lower yield of 17.1 kg per cow per day. Notably, the fat content remains strong at 5%, while protein has held at 4%.

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.