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 16/06/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	13.27	Ha
Current SR (MP)	**4.14**	**LU/ha**
Farm Cover	**760**	**kg DM/ha**
Cover/LU	**184**	**Kg DM/day**
Growth Rate	**81**	**kg DM/ha/day**
Demand	**70**	**kg DM/ha/day**
Average Conc.	**6**	**kg/day**
Average DIM	**119**	**days**
Grass DM	**17**	**%**

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	**29.27**
Fat %	**4.00**
Protein %	**3.57**
MS (kg/cow)	**2.20**
SCC cells/ml	**53**

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 760kg on the 16th of June, with growth rates of 81kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted twice weekly. The 3 paddocks taken out for silage yielded 21 bales on the 11th of June. Another 2 paddocks will be taken out for silage this week to keep Cover/LU in-between 160 – 200 target. The average pre-grazing cover for the last 7 days has been 1400 Kg DM/ha with a current rotation length of 19 days.

The diet consists of a grass allocation of 17kg DM and 6kg of concentrates.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 11th and 16th of June 62.75mm of rain fell on the platform.

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Comment:

55 cows were BCS on the 13th of June. 7% scored ≦ 2.5, 29% scored 2.75, 42% scored 3.0, 16% scored 3.25 and 6% scored 3.5.

As of the 19th of June, 40 cows have been scanned so far (30 days after AI). We believe that 35/40 are in calf (this is preliminary data based on early stage scanning).