



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 31/03/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.0	LU/ha
Farm Cover	828	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	271	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	33	kg DM/ha
Demand	24	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	10	kg/day
Average DIM	46	days
Grass DM	22	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	31.4
Fat %	4.70
Protein %	3.20
MS (kg/cow)	2.52
SCC cells/ml	33
Cows Calved	54/56

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 828kg on the 31st of March, with growth rates of 33kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted weekly. The diet consists of a grass allocation of 8kg DM, 6kg DM grass silage, and 10kg of concentrates. 2kg of the concentrate allocation will be fed with the silage allocation. Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 24th and 31st of March, soil temperature measurements were taken, with the average recorded at 8.9°C. Between the 20th and 31st of March 3.2mm of rain fell on the platform.

Calving:

Calving started on the 15th of January and there are currently 54/56 of the cows calved as of the 31st of March. A pre-breed scan of the herd is scheduled for the 4th of April allowing time to address any issues in time for the start of the breeding season.



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Comments:

Performance in this week in 2021 (our best year to date) was 37.3 kg of milk, 3.64% fat, 3.48% protein and 2.66 kg of milk solids.