

Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 11-03-2016

Profitable Science Based Farming

Farm Details

Area available 78 ha

Farm Cover 563 kg/DM/Ha

5 kgs of a 14% protein ration being fed to milkers per day.

52% of the farm grazed.

217 cows calved (94% of the herd calved), calving start date Feb 7th

We were feeding 3.5 kgs of ration until Wed. After doing a grass cover, we are under our planned farm cover currently. If we continue at our current level of supplementation and grass use and with projected growth rates we will bring the farm to under 400kg/ha in late March. This is our absolute lowest limit we are willing to take the farm down to. Below this farm cover overall farm growth will be reduced as all paddocks will have very low covers on them. In light of this we adjusted our feed budget. Increasing supplementation to 5kg for the next two weeks keeps the farm above 400kg/ha at our lowest level in early April. If we need to go above this level of supplementation we will feed silage and reduce the level of ration. Cows are at grass day and night, for 3 hours grazing each time at least. There have been days when ground has been poached beyond our limits due to the extreme wet conditions. These paddocks have to be grazed in dry conditions at the next grazing. This means that we are willing to go into these paddocks ahead of time, even with low covers, next time to do this. We have 52% of the farm grazed. Our demand is now at 26kg/ha/day. Calving is nearly over with 217 cows and heifers calved, or 94% of the herd. The first 89 beef calves have been sold.

We have applied another 34 units of Urea per acre on the entire farm at this stage, except for 15% of the farm that got 2000 of slurry per acre. The ground that got this slurry has got 46 units urea nitrogen. Well grazed paddocks are getting slurry if ground conditions allow.

Current milk test is 4.56% Fat, 3.58% Protein, 4.96% lactose, 90,000 SCC and 11,000 TBC. Yield is approximately 19.1 litres per cow per day, giving 1.6 kg milk solids per day.

Weekly updates are on the Shinagh website: <http://www.shinaghdairy.ie/>