

Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 12-04-2016

Profitable Science Based Farming

Farm Details

Area available 78 ha

Farm Cover 529 kg/DM/Ha

Growth rate 27kg/DM/day

5 kgs of a 14% protein ration plus 5kg silage DM being fed

Second round started April 1st.

230 cows calved

We are feeding 5 kgs of ration and 5kg of pit silage drymatter, and estimate the cows are getting 5kg of grass DM per day. The herd was in both day and night on Sunday last (torrential rain here all day and night). Milk composition is suffering from the lack of grass in the diet. Ground conditions have been challenging along with low grazing covers. Growth is starting to pick up at last and second round covers are now reaching 1000kg/ha. Silage will be cut out first as soon as we have enough grass. The attached wedge still has the silage ground in it. We intend to graze the silage ground now for the second time and then close it this week. Our wedge at that time will determine or meal feeding level. Calving is over with 230 cows and heifers calved. The first 109 beef calves have been sold. Calf mortality has been 4.6% this year.

We have either 120 units of urea per acre spread at this stage or the equivalent of 120 units in the form of urea and slurry.

Current milk test is 4.57% Fat, 3.08% Protein, 5.20% lactose, 63,000 SCC and 9,000 TBC. Yield is 20.62 litres per cow per day, giving 1.62 kg milk solids per cow per day. This was the load after the cows being in both day and night on silage on Sunday. These same days in 2015 the herd was doing 2.02 kg MS per day. That is a reduction of 20%. There are 10 cows on OAD milking because they are below 2.75 BCS.

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