

Shinagh Dairy Farm Report 28-05-2015

Profitable Science Based Farming

Farm Details

Grazing area available 53.52 ha (stocked at 4.27LU/ha on the grazing area now)

17.97 ha closed for silage on the farm plus 16.2 ha purchased growing

6.3 ha reseeded (8% of the farm)

Farm Cover 778kg/DM/ha (after cutting 2 paddocks for bales)

Growth for the last week has averaged 99 kg/DM/ha per day.

Demand: 4.27 cows/ha by 17kg/cow = 72kg/DM/ha per day.

22 day rotation, feeding no supplement

227 cows

Grass growth was 111kg/DM/ ha per day for the last week on all the grazing ground. After excluding the two paddocks cut for bales it was 99kg/day. The attached wedge shows the farm after the two paddocks were cut for bales (paddocks 6 and 10). Before they were cut the farm cover was 990kg/ha and 232kg/cow. This was surplus feed available and the high cover paddocks were gone above 2000kg/ha. These covers would produce lower kgs of milk solids per cow if they had been grazed and the following paddocks would have been too strong too by the time the herd got grazing them. It was decided to cut two paddocks to get the cover per cow back to 180kg/cow. There were only two cut because there is a shortage in the wedge later and the paddocks above the demand line will be needed to slow down the rotation to allow these to grow and fill the demand. The paddocks were cut and baled immediately to ensure they were back growing and available in the next rotation.

The milk yield is 22.93 litres/cow per day. Current milk test is 3.90% fat and 3.52% protein. SCC is 108,000 and TBC of 14,000. This is 1.75kg of milksolids per day and 5.11 kg of milk solids per total hectare per day. These tests are off the hill paddocks where there is always a reduction in yield when the herd grazes them because of the extra energy used in walking from them and grazing them.

96% of the herd was bred in the first 21 days of breeding. All cows are now bred. The non-return rate for the first 7 days of repeats is 67%, this is good but it's early yet to get a real indication of how well this is going. 2 vasectomised bulls are now running with the cows to aid in heat detection as well as keeping tail paint topped up as required.

15ha of first cut silage on the milking area was taken this week. One paddock that was grazed later than the other silage was left to come in with the bought growing silage later. The 5.65 ha of paddocks that were baled for silage yielded 11.3 bales per hectare. At 200kg/DM per bale this is a yield of 2260kg/DM/ha.