

Teagasc Johnstown Castle
Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 15-09-2017

Animal Performance: Yearlings

- Yearlings continue to graze covers of ~1500kgDM/ha.
- Heifers have been separated from the steers to facilitate feeding for finishing.
- Yearlings were weighed 31st August.

Treatment	31/08/2017, LW		ADG second season
High	411 kg	397 kg heifers	0.841
		425 kg steers	
Medium	443 kg	433 kg heifers	0.953
		453 kg steers	
Low	441 kg	421 kg heifers	0.947
		457 kg steers	
Average	431 kg		0.914



Animal Performance: 2017 calves

- Calves continue to graze lower swards of ~1100kgDM/ha with supplementation of 1.3kg concentrate/day.
- Calves weighed on 31st August. Smaller calves were taken out of the main group to be grazed separately, meaning there are now 2 groups of calves per farmlet.
- 19 calves were taken from the highs, 15 from lows and 28 from the mediums.



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	31/08/2017, LW (kg)	ADG first season
High	155	0.469
Medium	156	0.564
Low	162	0.673
Average	158	0.571

Health

- Three of the small calves died last weekend. One of these has been sent for post mortem. This brings the total to 7 trial calves that have died.
- The majority of the small calves who have been separated from the main grazing groups appear to have compromised immune systems. We are waiting on blood and post mortem results to get to the bottom of the problem.
- The egg counts on the calves' faecal samples for the parasitology task sky rocketed in the high and medium groups, although they were only 6 weeks post dosing.

- The calves were individually sampled on Thursday 7th Sept (117 calves sampled as there are only 7 sires that have the required 12 or more calves) and dosed with Endospec. Post dosing faecal samples will be taken on Monday 18th to ensure egg counts have returned to zero.

Egg Counts	8 th Aug	21 st Aug	4 th Sept
High	0	390	835
Medium	10	255	835
Low	10	135	185

Grassland Management

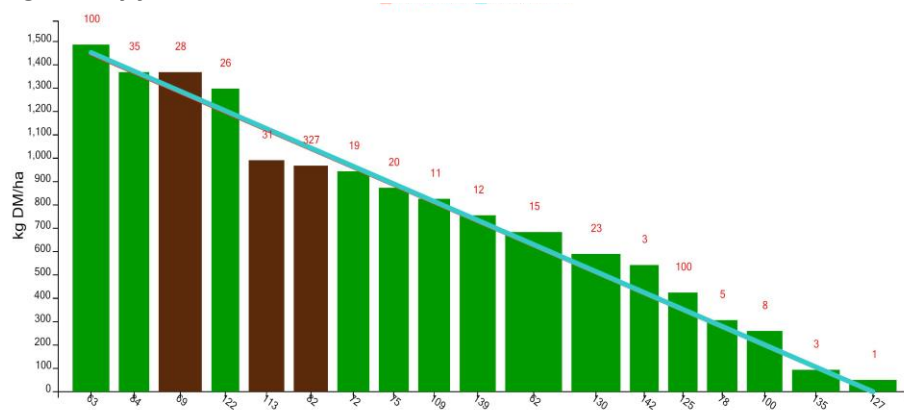
- Grass growth is averaging 43 kg DM/ha/day.
- Silage after grass is growing well, however we are quite tight for grass on all farmlets for the time of year.
- Approximately 80ml of rain has fallen so far this month, with 35ml over the last 9-10 days. Temperatures have fallen to an average of 13.2°C. Soil temperatures averaging 13.5°C.
- The reseeded paddocks have begun to green up, with growthy conditions forecast.
- Current stocking densities are; 3.61 LU/ha high, 3.34 LU/ha medium, 3.32 LU/ha low.



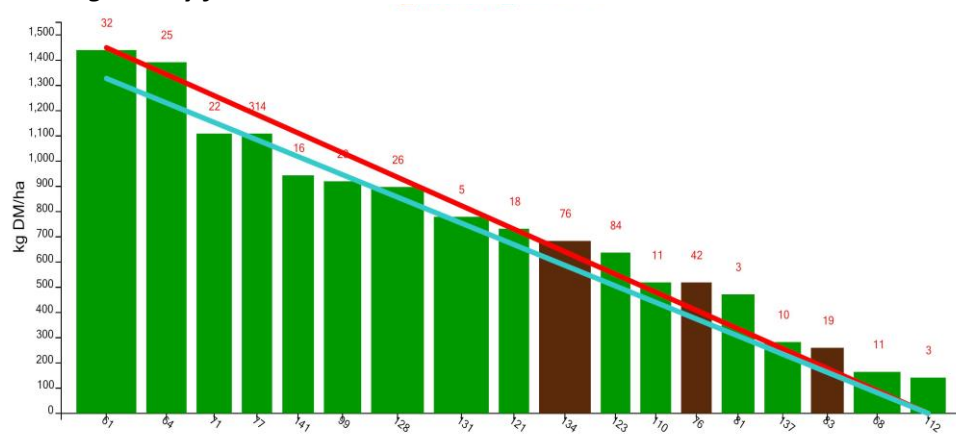
Date of cover: 12-09-2017	High	Medium	Low
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	741	750	775
Cover/LU (kg DM/LU)	205	225	233
Growth/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	39	34	52
Demand/ha (kg DM/ha/day)	52	48	47
Days ahead	14	16	16
Reseed (ha)	2.04	2.30	2.47

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High stocking density farmlet



Medium stocking density farmlet



Low stocking density farmlet

