



Grass Summary for week ending March 31

Farm	Cover Date	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	Cover/LU (kg DM/LU)	Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	Growth/ha (kg DM /ha/day)	Demand/ha (kg DM /ha/day)	Pre Grazing Yield	Grass Intake/Cow (kg DM/cow)	Meal Intake (kg/cow)	Silage Intake (kg DM /cow)
Michael & Alex McCarthy	22/03	715	258	2.77	20	22	1900	9.0	5	4
Dermot & Micheal Kavanagh	22/03	869	322	2.70	17	19	2050	7.0	6	5
Pa O'Hanlon	26/03	993	399	2.49	20	30	2500	6.0	6	6
Joe Carroll	28/02	999	413	2.42	11	19	1400	8.0	5	5
Michael & John Casey	20/03	789	293	2.69	13	19	2000	7.0	6	5
Declan, Eileen & Kieran Murphy	22/03	870	345	2.52	14	15	1850	6.0	6	6
Gerry & Niall Moloney	22/03	772	262	2.95	15	21	2600	6.0	6	6
Sean and Diarmaid Fitzgerald	22/03	776	319	2.43	18	35	2222	12.0	3	3
Stephen McAuliffe	28/03	872	359	2.43	4	39	1400	7.0	5	6
William Dennehy	26/03	954	368	2.59	5	26	2100	6.0	6	6
Average		861	334	2.60	14	25	2002	7.4	5	5

Milk summary: (milk yields are fluctuating from day to day impact on accuracy currently)

Farm	Milk Date	Litres /Cow	Fat %	Protein%	Kg MS /cow	SCC
Andrew Killeen	25/03	27	4.45	3.05	2.03	281
Michael & Alex McCarthy	25/03	27	4.59	3.17	2.10	78
Dermot & Micheal Kavanagh	24/03	29.5	3.96	3.18	2.11	95
Pa O'Hanlon	25/03	28	4.57	3.28	2.20	153
Joe Carroll	25/03	24	4.79	3.31	1.94	232
Michael & John Casey	26/03	21.9	4.56	3.11	1.68	70
Declan, Eileen & Kieran Murphy	25/03	29.6	4.4	3.06	2.21	51
Gerry & Niall Moloney	26/03	28	4.15	3.19	2.06	110
John Galvin	25/03	23.5	4.35	3.04	1.74	55
Sean and Diarmaid Fitzgerald	26/03	23	4.87	3.57	1.94	275
Stephen McAuliffe	25/03	23	4.33	3.29	1.75	198
William Daly	24/03	37.1	4.27	3.26	2.79	90
William Dennehy	26/03	26	4.54	3.23	2.02	74
Average		26.7	4.45	3.21	2.04	136

Demonstration farmer comment from William Dennehy: cows graze for three hours after the morning and evening milking. Ground conditions are starting to improve. I am using a back fence and the spur roadways to good effect. SCC is better this spring than last year but I am treating the high SCC cows. Calves are performing well. I have picked out my dairy and beef bull teams for the upcoming breeding season. I focused on fat and protein percentages and the milk, fertility and maintenance sub-indices.

Advisor comment from Robert Prendiville: Continue to walk the farm. Grazing conditions are still difficult but practice on-off grazing on the drier paddocks where possible. Feed intakes of calved cows are 3kgs/day greater than in early March. Feed high quality silage >72 DMD to the milking cows. If poorer silage is only available in the yard, get two bouts of grazing per day (3 hrs per day) bar the wet days. If silage is very scarce consider a third feed e.g. soya hulls to stretch silage stocks. Top-up nitrogen on silage ground as soon as conditions allow. Some action points on labour saving for the next month from the Demonstration farmers include getting contractors for slurry, fertilizer and fencing, getting a herd health plan together, putting older calves on once a day milk feeding, feeding calves before milking, using a batch latch for on-off grazing. Finally getting more grass into the diet of cows, replacements and calves was the final labour saving tips from the Demonstration group for the next month.