

Demonstration group update for week ending April 7th

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	30/03	684	237	2.89	29	30	1900	14.0	4	
Dermot & Michael Kavanagh	29/03	1021	304	3.36	36	34	2450	12.0	6	
Pa O'Hanlon	02/04	879	274	3.21	18	32	2500	12.0	6	
Joe Carroll	30/03	875	283	3.09	12	25	2000	13.5	4.5	
Michael & John Casey	29/03	905	326	2.78	22	19	2250	9.0	6	3
John Galvin	30/03	774	190	4.07	15	49	1600	14.0	4	
Gerry & Niall Moloney	30/03	854	269	3.18	27	41	1500	12.0	6	
Sean and Diarmuid Fitzgerald	22/03	776	319	2.43	18	35	2222	15.0	3	
Stephen McAuliffe	28/03	872	359	2.43	4	39	1400	11.0	4.5	2.5
William Dennehy	01/04	874	313	2.79	19	28	2100	13.2	4.8	
Average		851	287	2.98	20	32	1957	10.6	5	2

Milk summary

Farm	Milk Date	Litres /Cow	Fat%	Protein%	Kg MS /cow	SCC
Andrew Killeen	01/04	26	4.50	3.02	1.96	233
Michael & Alex McCarthy	01/04	28	4.32	3.27	2.13	77
Dermot & Michael Kavanagh	30/03	31	3.99	3.33	2.27	150
Pa O'Hanlon	31/03	29	4.39	3.21	2.20	50
Joe Carroll	31/03	23.5	4.45	3.29	1.82	88
Michael & John Casey	01/04	22.6	4.4	3.28	1.74	108
John Galvin	01/04	24	4.21	3.01	1.73	52
Declan, Eileen & Kieran Murphy	31/03	30	4.19	3.26	2.24	56
Gerry & Niall Moloney	01/04	28	4.44	3.16	2.13	134
Sean and Diarmaid Fitzgerald	01/04	23.2	4.44	3.52	1.88	171
Stephen McAuliffe	31/03	23.5	4.27	3.32	1.78	143
William Daly	01/04	35	4.32	3.37	2.69	82
William Dennehy	01/04	23	4.42	3.31	1.78	50
Average		26.7	4.32	3.28	2.03	107

Farmer comment Andrew Killeen, Doonbeg, Co. Clare: cows are out for three hours after the morning milking on the peat soils. Heavy clay soils are waterlogged and need time to dry out. Milk yield and protein percent have dropped due to the lack of grass in the diet and many cows are now calved for more than six weeks. SCC has increased above 200 and I am looking forward to milk recording this week so I can treat the offenders. Heifers were vaccinated for Lepto.

Advisor comment from Padraig Fogarty: Grazing conditions should improve in the coming week, heavier soil type farms may have to continue on/off grazing until the ground conditions further improve. Fertiliser needs to go out on most farms both on the grazing ground and silage ground. For the milking platforms 40 units of nitrogen (N) is needed, either by organic or chemical on ground that has not received N since February due to poor weather conditions. It is also a good time to apply P and K to the soil for both maintenance and build-up of soil fertility, especially on paddocks that haven't received slurry.