



TEAGASC/KERRY MONITOR FARM UPDATE WEEK ENDING 10th May 2024

Farmer	Location	Litres /Cow	Fat %	Prot %	kg MS /Cow	Meal kg	SCC	Breeding Start Date	% Cows submitted	Average Farm Cover	Pre grazing Yield	Cover/ Cow	Demand	Growth Rate/Ha
Micheal & Alex McCarthy	Feenagh	28.5	3.88	3.48	2.16	3.0	89	27th April	53	559	1300	173	45	72
Andrew & Bernadette Killeen	Kilkee	27	4.22	3.32	2.10	6.0	114	6th May	17	651	2250	200	46	74
Dermot & Michael Kavanagh	Lispole	33.0	3.83	3.5	2.49	6.4	177	24th April	91	845	1700	168	74	84
Patrick and Paula O'Hanlon	Tarbert	27.0	3.85	3.37	2.01	6.0	114	10th May		688	1500	198	49	40
Joe Carroll	Ballyheigue	25.0	4.3	3.69	2.06	4.5	96	9th May	5	650	1450	173	53	48
John & Micheal Casey	Causeway	28.0	4.13	3.62	2.24	4.0	111	1st May	29	838	1600	192	87	87
John Galvin	Ardfert	23.5	4.1	3.27	1.78	2.0	101	27th April	65	586	1550	166	57	64
Niall & Gerry Moloney	Crecora	27.5	4	3.52	2.13	3.0	103	1st May	44	726	1650	199	62	68
Kieran, Eileen & Declan Murphy	Effin	30.5	4.14	3.45	2.38	5.5	64	27th April	87					
Diarmuid and Sean Fitzgerald	Cratloe	22.2	4.49	3.66	1.86	2.0	180	3rd May	21					
Stephen McAuliffe	Loughill	25.8	4.18	3.46	2.03	4.0	190	6th May	17	652	1150	203	48	46
William & Mary Dennehy	Currow	24.8	4.17	3.46	1.95	4.8	80	13th May		702	1700	200	56	58
Average		26.9	4.11	3.48	2.10	4.3	118			690	1585	187	58	64

Farmer Update: Niall & Gerry Moloney

We had a growth of 87Kg's Dm/ha earlier in the week and 68 Kg's Dm/ha today, we topped the last two paddocks we grazed as there was a butt at the base of the sward due to poor weather when grazed the last two times. We cut a paddock today as well which had a cover of 1600 Kg's of Dm/ha but the quality was poor in 1/3 of the paddock, there are some nice quality covers at 800-900Kg's of Dm/ha on farm so in order to get to these at 1200 to 1400 covers we needed to move ahead quicker and act this week. We have a paddock sprayed off for reseeding and we spread lime(2T/Acre) on it yesterday we took the opportunity to put lime on two paddocks with a PH of 6.4 with low covers(1T/Acre) at the same time. After all the rainfall in the past 9 months we thought this was a good opportunity to get lime on the lower PH fields on the farm. We are on target at day 10 of our breeding season to submit 90% of the cows in the first three weeks, we have selected high DBI angus bulls as part of our breeding plan one of the bulls i had chosen wasn't available so i have replaced him with a similar bull. Our key criteria as i do most of the calving myself was ease of calving, we set a minimum carcass weight for the bulls at 10kg's and we don't want bulls carrying extra time so the beef bulls used later in the season have a minus for gestation length. Our 1st cut this year off the red clover silage ground is being pitted today, this tested and feed really well last year so hopefully this will do the same.

Advisor Update: Kevin Stagg, Teagasc Killarney Office

With the increase in temperatures this week grass growth has taken a good lift. If cows are in grass today that is too strong – can you skip some paddocks and get on to the right grass (covers of 1,400 kgs DM/ha). There are a number of benefits to skipping and baling strong paddocks – you get some extra bales to replenish silage stocks, ground is cleared to get some slurry out, paddocks cut and baled are “set up” for the rest of the year and of course cows that are moved onto the right grass will milk better and have higher protein%. Continue to spread nitrogen and sulphur after grazing (and P and K if allowed and if it was not spread the last time). Unless there is clover in specific paddocks – most farmers will need to spread a bit more nitrogen than they normally spread this time of the year. Some paddocks are still a bit “hungry” looking and the total amount of chemical nitrogen spread year to date this year is well back on a lot of farms. As a result the reserves of nitrogen in the ground this year are not near as good as previous years. Continue to monitor protein% as it's a good indicator of how well cows are been fed. Protein% should be increasing at each collection now. Increasing protein% generally leads to increased conception rates in the cows.

