



TEAGASC/KERRY MONITOR FARM UPDATE WEEK ENDING 21st June 2024

Farmer	Location	Litres /Cow	Fat %	Prot %	kg MS /Cow	Meal kg	SCC	Breeding Start Date	Demand Reduction Measures	Average Farm Cover	Pre grazing Yield	Cover/ Cow	Demand	Growth Rate/Ha
Micheal & Alex McCarthy	Feenagh	27	3.71	3.52	2.01	4.5	84	27th April	Fill Gap with meal SR reduced with Aftergrass	460	1200	149	46	59
Andrew & Bernadette Killeen	Doonbeg	27	4.11	3.6	2.14	4.5	75	6th May	Grazing Aftergrass from 1st Cut	458	1250	153	47	47
Dermot & Michael Kavanagh	Lispole	28.7	3.95	3.54	2.21	5.4	107	24th April	15mm of Rain Today happy at 155/LU	705	1450	155	72	87
Patrick and Paula O'Hanlon	Tarbert	25.0	4.18	3.58	2.00	4.0	98	10th May	Holding Cover/Cow at 162	558	1200	162	48	48
Joe Carroll	Ballyheigue	23.8	4.44	3.87	2.04	5.0	68	9th May	Will move meal to 6Kgs Rain and Heat needed	511	1500	145	53	64
John & Micheal Casey	Causeway	24.6	4.54	3.76	2.10	3.5	75	1st May	N to 24Units on grass only Paddocks after rain	792	1500	219	65	52
John Galvin	Ardfert	25.5	3.64	3.46	1.86	6.0	89	27th April	Rain Last week has moved growth to 60	641	1400	164	51	62
Niall & Gerry Moloney	Creora	26.2	3.88	3.61	2.02	6.0	70	1st May	1 Load of Zero grazed Grass per day	469	900	132	32	42
Kieran, Eileen & Declan Murphy	Effin	28.0	3.97	3.54	2.17	3.5	58	27th April	Meal may have to go to 5 if growth stay low	578	1550	157	59	74
Diarmuid and Sean Fitzgerald	Cratloe	19.8	4.67	3.8	1.73	4.0	163	3rd May		528	1000	150	50	60
Stephen McAuliffe	Loghill	23.4	4.04	3.52	1.82	6.0	140	6th May	Sold 9 Culls, Fed 25 bales, Meal to 4 Monday	624	1300	201	40	40
William & Mary Dennehy	Currow	21.2	4.21	3.61	1.71	5.0	57	13th May	Hold Rotation, Meal at 5Kgs	587	1300	174	56	74
Average		25.0	4.11	3.62	1.98	4.8	90			576	1296	163	52	59

Farmer Update: John Galvin

I manage 6.5 acres of my outside farm as part of my milking platform I use this as zero grazed grass to help reduce my demand on the milking platform. My contractor cuts this for me and if I have a surplus on farm I try to cut these fields as quality bales. My growth this week was over 60Kg's of DM/ha for the first time in over a month after 16mm of rain last week. Some of my zero grazed ground was baled 3 weeks ago and I should have nice quality coming in that, both last year's reseeds are nice quality also and 3 paddocks were topped in the last rotation and these have nice quality coming in them also. The clover proportion in my swards from reseeds 2 and 3 years ago is back this year to about 15% following the wet autumn and spring and the cold northerly wind for the past few weeks. I'm not currently cutting back chemical N on these as there isn't enough clover to make up the difference but I'm conscious to graze these at no more than 1500Kg's of DM/ha to ensure that light gets down to the base of the sward to encourage the clover content back up in these swards. I cut a paddock with lower levels of clover in early May and as you can see the clover content has bounced back in that sward in the after grass. I will try to do this with another paddock if growth picks up with some moisture and heat forecast. My best paddocks have gotten 108 units of Chemical N year to date which leaves me with 84 units for 85 days to 14th of September. These paddocks have grown 6.5 Tonnes of DM year to date some of the older paddocks are back at 4 tonnes grown so reseeding definitely pays. I have a reseed which is in 3 weeks now and last week's rain has really helped to green it up. My calving pattern was a bit more spread out this spring as I was locked with TB and some earlier calvers' went down in the test.. My 3 week submission was a bit less than I would like as a result but I'm happy with the 6 week figure.

Advisor Update: Deirbhle Browne Newcastle West Advisory Office

Grass growth has picked up again after the rain last week and higher temperatures are forecast.

Average farm covers will take time to increase again if you dipped below 500/550 Kg DM/Ha so don't pull out extra supplementation straight away without doing a grass walk.

It is vital to be walking the farm every 5 days to monitor grass quality and quantity. Some poorer quality paddocks will need to be corrected when the conditions allow. Use a mixture of methods e.g. topping, pre-mowing and taking out surplus bales.

If you have a lime requirement now is the time to apply it to grazing ground that won't be cut in the next rotation or ground that that is a one cut silage system.

Book in a milk recording to monitor mid lactation performance and to pick out any problem cows. Picking out cows to cull can reduce your stocking rate which reduces meal fed and provides more grass for the rest of the herd along with providing more feed for the winter in yards that are already struggling to make enough winter fodder.

Any cows served on June 20th have an expected calving date of April 1st 2025. It is important to set your breeding finishing date to ensure you are in control. In a spring calving system breeding should be finishing in the early days of July to ensure a short break between calving and the start of breeding again next year.

Make sure to plan and take some time off for yourself/family over the next few weeks after a challenging year

