



TEAGASC/KERRY MONITOR FARM UPDATE WEEK ENDING 24th 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	27.5	3.73	3.41	2.02	3.0	67	27th April	97	581	1600	173	57	75
Andrew & Bernadette Killeen	Kilkee	27.5	4.3	3.4	2.18	5.0	89	6th May	83	605	1300	189	45	63
Dermot & Michael Kavanagh	Lispole	32.4	3.7	3.51	2.41	5.8	260	24th April	94	806	1550	174	73	84
Patrick and Paula O'Hanlon	Tarbert	27.0	4.02	3.39	2.06	4.0	99	10th May	71	579	1500	150	54	64
Joe Carroll	Ballyheigue	24.0	4.43	3.67	2.00	2.0	132	9th May	49	847	1750	211	61	115
John & Micheal Casey	Causeway	27.7	3.94	3.59	2.15	3.4	90	1st May	88	813	2000	177	86	82
John Galvin	Ardfert	25.0	4.07	3.31	1.90	3.0	103	27th April	93	597	1500	146	61	62
Niall & Gerry Moloney	Crecora	26.0	4.06	3.48	2.02	3.0	69	1st May	94	699	1650	189	63	80
Kieran, Eileen & Declan Murphy	Effin	29.5	3.96	3.42	2.24	5.0	69	27th April	98	830	1850	176	71	119
Diarmuid and Sean Fitzgerald	Cratloe	21.3	4.51	3.74	1.81	3.5	149	3rd May	74	571	1550	151	61	60
Stephen McAuliffe	Loghill	25.0	4.06	3.44	1.93	4.0	234	6th May	81	675	1650	181	56	56
William & Mary Dennehy	Currow	24.1	4.27	3.5	1.93	3.6	58	13th May	65	676	1500	187	60	67
Average		26.4	4.09	3.49	2.05	3.8	118			690	1617	175	62	77

Farmer Update: Kieran, Declan and Eileen Murphy

Grass quality continues to be tricky to manage, I walked the farm on Monday and we cut out an area that was too strong for the cows. We walked again on Thursday and have taken out three paddocks which are the heaviest soils on the farm with big covers, we also decided to take out three paddocks which while grazed at good covers the last time the regrowths are just too stemmy to offer to the cows. This has lifted our stocking rate higher than I would like to 4.72 LU/ha on the milking platform. However the ground I zero grazed in the spring has nice quality on it and because of the recent good growth rates I can shorten the rotation to 18-19 days on some of these paddocks. Our red clover silage was cut and got slurry and is growing well now it will be topped up with 0-10-20 and the plan is to cut this at about 6-7 weeks growth. Breeding is going really well only 2 cows weren't submitted in the first 24 days. We find the collars and data from these invaluable and this has allowed us to do some selective culling this year. Like most farms this spring was really tricky here in terms of accessing parts of the farm we have identified a few areas of the farm that would benefit from better access and as you can see from the picture on the right we have put in extra roadways into these over the past week. These are full width roads which give us better access for cows and also for zero grazing in the shoulders of the year or slurry spreading. The reseeds are up and greening and we have our post emergence spray in the cabinet ready to go when we need it.

Advisor Update: Eugene O Doherty Tralee Advisory Office

Growth rates are predicted to remain high for the coming week. High temperatures and moisture present ideal grass growing conditions. Farmers should be walking farms twice weekly to identify paddocks that can be removed as baled silage to correct grass quality issues. Correcting grass quality is crucial to ensure good quality grass for the summer months to maintain milk solids. Grassland management will involve a combination of tools to suit individual farm situations including pre mowing, removing surplus bales and topping/mowing

Silage harvesting will be taking place on farms from now on. Complete fodder budget asap after first cut to determine area required for second and subsequent cuts to ensure an adequate supply of fodder for winter. Fodder budget calculators are available from your Teagasc advisor

Consult nmp and if lime is required, once silage is harvested presents an ideal opportunity to apply lime to silage ground that requires it.

Apply cattle slurry to silage ground (2,000 to 2,500 gals/ac) to replace the phosphorus and potassium removed in first cuts. Focus slurry on low index soils and ground that received no slurry prior to first cut. If slurry applied follow with 60 units Pro urea plus Sulphur per acre. If no slurry, apply 70 units N plus sulphur/ac plus phosphorus (13 units/ac) and potassium (70 units/ac). Adhere to nmp for phosphorus applications.

