



### TEAGASC/KERRY MONITOR FARM UPDATE WEEK ENDING 31st 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	3.73	3.46	2.00	3.0	97	27th April	100	609	1600	174	56	87
Andrew & Bernadette Killeen	Kilkee	27.8	4.1	3.48	2.17	5.0	80	6th May	93	496	1400	155	48	58
Dermot & Michael Kavanagh	Lispole	30.9	3.94	3.52	2.37	5.8	210	24th April	96	667	1750	144	73	77
Patrick and Paula O'Hanlon	Tarbert	25.5	4.12	3.44	1.99	5.0	85	10th May	98	577	1400	166	52	51
Joe Carroll	Ballyheigue	24.0	4.41	3.73	2.01	3.0	99	9th May	88	487	1550	138	60	50
John & Micheal Casey	Causeway	26.0	4.27	3.6	2.11	5.0	104	1st May	96	780	1700	205	69	75
John Galvin	Ardfert	26.7	3.92	3.27	1.98	5.0	111	27th April	93	560	1150	151	37	75
Niall & Gerry Moloney	Crecora	25.4	4	3.47	1.95	3.0	76	1st May	94	652	1200	176	63	57
Kieran, Eileen & Declan Murphy	Effin	27.6	4	3.5	2.13	4.5	72	27th April	98	569	1400	130	66	73
Diarmuid and Sean Fitzgerald	Cratloe	20.8	4.68	3.7	1.80	3.5	169	3rd May	88	571	1250	151	61	60
Stephen McAuliffe	Loghill	24.5	4.08	3.45	1.90	4.0	129	6th May	96	584	1350	177	49	50
William & Mary Dennehy	Currow	23.0	4.21	3.47	1.82	3.6	56	13th May	96	557	1300	153	60	81
<b>Average</b>		<b>25.8</b>	<b>4.12</b>	<b>3.51</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>107</b>			<b>592</b>	<b>1421</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>66</b>

#### Farmer Update: Michael and John Casey

We have brought the stocking rate down from 4.6 LU/Ha over the past few weeks down to 3.81 LU/Ha this week as paddocks that were cut for bales to correct quality have come back into the wedge. Growth continues to be strong (75Kg's/Day) and our clover paddocks with 20% clover content are now gone to 9 units/acre of pro Urea with sulphur after grazing. This is 1/2 rate chemical N for us, we have a couple of paddocks which have about 15% clover content and these are getting 15 Units of N/ acre and we will graze these at no more than 1300Kg's of DM/ha over the next few rotations to encourage the clover content upwards in these. We have a paddock on the farm which will be sprayed off this week, this was sprayed off last July but due to the poor weather last Autumn and this spring hasn't been seeded yet. Breeding has gone well so far we are now in week 5 of Breeding and i'm happy with our non return rate so far. This year we split the heifers into two bunches of 20. Each group was sync'd and we used sexed semen on 17 heifers in each group and 3 were breed to beef in each group. This worked well for us in terms of splitting up the workload and the sync programs were timed to be 2 days apart as i AI all the heifers myself. On day 15 i applied scratch cards and Ai'd any repeats to beef. This takes the pressure off the bulls and i will do the same for the next round of repeats my non return rate on the heifers after 3 weeks was 70% so fingers crossed. We have a limited P allowance on the farm after working hard for the last number of years to raise this so we are ensuring to get slurry onto any paddocks cut and most grazing paddocks have gotten slurry year to date.

#### Advisor Update: Denis Brassil

Many farms have found a dip in growth rates over the past week to 10 days and there are a numbers of reasons for this. After a very difficult spring for grazing the grass plant like many cows and farmers alike is showing signs of stress and often going straight to seed head. Many farms have dealt with this by completing a round of topping which has impacted growth rates over the following 7-12 days thus giving reduced growth. When correcting grass quality its important to use a combination of tools such as short cycling the paddock to get cows to the correct covers, Baling out surplus and topping in that order. Hopefully with warm temperatures and some moisture forecast and as the grass plant moves beyond the traditional heading dates of 20th May to 10th of June grass quality will become a bit easier to manage. Don't forget the importance of Sulphur.

As reseeding catches up take the opportunity to spread some lime on the lower PH paddocks on farm, paddocks recently grazed or cut for bales are ideal 10 acres will take a load of lime. Many farms are well into the second three weeks of breeding this is a good opportunity to check the list and identify what cows have not been breed and talk to your Vet about what to do with these cows.

