



TEAGASC/KERRY MONITOR FARM UPDATE WEEK ENDING 5th July 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	26.4	3.63	3.62	1.97	3.5	84	27th April		510	1400	177	43	59
Andrew & Bernadette Killeen	Doonbeg	26	4.22	3.7	2.12	4.0	85	6th May	Hope to cut meal again this week as quality improves	600	1300	186	50	57
Dermot & Michael Kavanagh	Lispole	29.0	3.75	3.62	2.20	5.0	181	24th April		732	1350	168	69	87
Patrick and Paula O'Hanlon	Tarbert	23.5	4.08	3.7	1.88	3.5	136	10th May		698	1400	207	54	55
Joe Carroll	Ballyheigue	20.3	4.81	3.81	1.80	3.5	93	9th May		578	1500	172	49	53
John & Micheal Casey	Causeway	23.2	4.49	3.84	1.99	5.0	122	1st May	Growth below demand, Quality mixed	649	1300	198	56	38
John Galvin	Ardfert	25.9	4.1	3.48	2.02	6.0	139	27th April	1 Bale of silage per day	513	1200	150	41	53
Niall & Gerry Moloney	Orecora	22.8	4.07	3.53	1.78	6.0	107	1st May	AFC has recovered, back to grazing and meal	592	1400	175	47	40
Kieran, Eileen & Declan Murphy	Effin	27.5	3.8	3.65	2.11	3.5	53	27th April	Reseed back in, will burn off more this week	636	1500	194	56	66
Diarmuid and Sean Fitzgerald	Cratloe	19.8	4.75	3.88	1.76	4.0	78	3rd May	2kgs of Silage in until Cover/Cow up to 180	480	1450	155	35	45
Stephen McAuliffe	Loghill	21.5	4.2	3.59	1.73	3.2	175	6th May	AFC has recovered	727	1200	252	46	57
William & Mary Dennehy	Currow	17.8	4.44	3.7	1.49	3.6	75	13th May	AFC has recovered, meal reduced, Paddock to bale	813	1700	241	56	70
Average		23.6	4.20	3.68	1.91	4.2	111			627	1392	190	50	57

Farmer Update: Diarmuid and Sean Fitzgerald

Over the past few weeks the dry weather has had an effect on growth on the drier parts of the farm. Last week's rain has started to improve growth but with more rain forecast for the weekend hopefully growth will pick up. I grazed two paddocks of my second cut silage to maintain farm cover last week and I am putting out 2kgs's of silage DM per cow per day. I'm feeding 4 kg's of meal with this and will continue with this rate until cover/cow returns to 180KG's of DM/LU. The contractor was here yesterday to spread the clover ground with between 2000-2500 gallons of low dry matter slurry. I had spread this area with sulphate of potash last week as I was behind on my sulphur application and the potash is also very important for the clover plant. I have separated the calves into the stronger and smaller groups, stronger calves are on clover paddocks with 1 kg of meal and appear to be doing well. The lighter calves are also on clover paddocks getting 2 kg's of meal per day. I'm quite happy with their progress but I plan to weight them in the next few weeks just to double check. There are still a few repeats coming in but I plan to finish breeding this week as I don't want late calvers next spring. I completed a winter fodder budget this week and the results given that I'm currently feeding silage are tight. I have 30acres of red clover silage on an out farm which will hopefully get its post emergence spray in the coming days see picture.

Advisor Update: Adrian Bourke Killmallock Advisory Office

Last week Denis mentioned about how the strong breeze had dried out ground, unfortunately this has continued and soil moisture deficits have increased. We can see from Met Eireann data that many of your soils are now in a soil moisture deficit between 30 to 45mm. Ground has gone extremely hard in the last few weeks. These factors are leaving farmers with maximum growth rates in the mid 50's in many places around the south and south west of the country. However, it is forecasted that we will get rain over the weekend along with slightly higher temperatures. This will help growth but will still not be exactly where we need or want it to be. Farmers should now have the majority of their P allowance spread, as April to June is the best response for spreading Phosphorus. I would like to see farmers spreading some chemical Potassium on paddocks from now on. Products such as 29-0-14 are ideal for this, going with ¼ of a bag to the acre.

It is very important that we are walking farms twice a week to ensure average farm cover does not drop below 500kg/DM/ha. Farmers should not be grazing covers under 1000kg/DM/ha. If so, the cows need to be slowed down and supplemented. Remember the cow has to be fed and looked after properly to ensure milk production does not drop dramatically.

