



TEAGASC/KERRY MONITOR FARM UPDATE WEEK ENDING 7th June 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 reduction	Demand	Growth Rate/Ha
Micheal & Alex McCarthy	Feenagh	26	3.82	3.49	1.96	4.5	83	27th April	100	539	2000	161	Meal to 6kgs	50	53
Andrew & Bernadette Killeen	Doonbeg	26	4.1	3.48	2.03	4.5	56	6th May	97	589	1400	162		58	71
Dermot & Michael Kavanagh	Lispole	30.3	3.78	3.38	2.23	5.6	193	24th April	96	698	1500	153		70	100
Patrick and Paula O'Hanlon	Tarbert	26.0	4	3.48	2.00	6.0	96	10th May	99	564	1400	166	PKE	51	48
Joe Carroll	Ballyheigue	23.0	4.43	3.84	1.96	4.0	98	9th May	96	527	1400	149	Meal to 6kgs	49	73
John & Micheal Casey	Causeway	26.6	4.25	3.7	2.18	3.2	90	1st May	96	733	1500	196		67	65
John Galvin	Ardfert	27.1	3.64	3.41	1.97	6.0	108	27th April	98	611	1100	172	Zero grazer	46	44
Niall & Gerry Moloney	Crecora	25.8	4.05	3.54	2.02	3.0	77	1st May	100	545	1500	153		61	71
Kieran, Eileen & Declan Murphy	Effin	27.6	3.84	3.44	2.07	6.0	50	27th April	100	558	1500	133	Zero grazer	59	47
Diarmuid and Sean Fitzgerald	Cratloe	20.3	4.75	3.76	1.78	2.0	232	3rd May	93	505	1150	142	Meal to 4kgs	47	55
Stephen McAuliffe	Loghill	24.4	3.96	3.52	1.88	4.0	156	6th May	100	536	1300	163	Meal to 6kgs	49	46
William & Mary Dennehy	Currow	23.0	4.18	3.5	1.82	4.8	77	13th May	96	571	1300	169		56	104
Average		25.5	4.07	3.55	1.99	4.5	110			581	1421	160		55	65

Farmer Update: Diarmuid and Sean Fitzgerald

Grass growth has been back over the past 10 days here as the wind continues from a northerly direction which has had a drying out effect on the more exposed parts of the farm. Our average farm cover is lower than we would like at just 505 Kg's of DM/ha. We have one reseed which will be grazed in the next few days at a cover of 750Kg's DM/ha to encourage tillering. This has 2 kg's of red and 2kg's of white clover per acre, set the 24th of April. We have used a similar mix to this over the past 3 years and we are very happy with the results. We have a second reseed which is on a heavier paddock which was sown 3 weeks later. I'm finding cows very content to graze paddocks out at the moment, we are in our fifth rotation on the main grazing platform and like most farms we have corrected some poorer quality paddocks by baling these over the past few weeks. I'm hopeful by increasing meal over the next few days that growth will recover and return to a more comfortable 580-600 Kg's DM/ha average farm cover. If growth remains slow i can graze some of the ground closed for second cut which has a cover of 1000Kg's of DM/ha today. I will need to make that decision by Wednesday, my milking platform stocking rate is 3.55LU/ha. Breeding has gone well so far in the cows but i'm a bit disappointed with my heifers, however i knew these were behind target weight at breeding and i'm now working on a plan to get these back up to target weight and to ensure this years calves hit their target weight milestones over this grazing season. We are treating the high SCC cows from the last recording over the next few days with a repeat offender being sold in the next few days. We have a clover workshop on the farm on Thursday from 11am to 1 so please come along on the day all welcome.

Advisor Update: John McCarthy Listowel Advisory Office

As usual this time of year grass quality on farms is a mixed bag in terms of quality. Where grass supply and quality is good try and move to 24/ 36 hour grazings. Unrestricted grazing allows for higher grass intakes especially for the younger cows in the herd, as they tend to be bullied from the best grass in the 12 hour grazing system. If grass quality is poor don't force the cows to graze too hard as this can lead to poor grass intakes and a dip in milk yield. Be mindful not to try correct grass quality issues all in one rotation as this can result in lower grass growth rates and a potential grass shortage in the next rotation.

Filling silage pits ahead of winter has to be priority this year. Second cut silage requires the correct balance of N,P,K and sulphur to maximise silage yields. Using 2000/2500 gallons of good quality slurry should cover the P and K requirements. Up to 65 units of N per acre of protected urea with sulphur will meet the remaining needs of the silage crop. In a no slurry situation, 75 units/acre of N and an alternative source of P and K will be needed for best response in silage yields.

At this point of the breeding season it may be time to check non cycling cows calved greater than 42 days to ensure 100 % submission as early as possible in the breeding season. Continue to AI until the number of non bred cows are in line with your bull power.

