



# Lyons Dairy Systems Research Herd Notes 2025

## Project Objectives

- To develop a profitable high-output grass-based spring milk production system
- To incorporate the most recent advances in grassland management for dairy farms into a high- output system
- Use a type of dairy cow that has good genetic indices for both milk production and fertility
- Employ the best practices from nutrition research and dairy cow husbandry
- Incorporate nutritional studies into a high-output system
- To incorporate management technologies and system attributes that enhance the sustainability of dairy production



For more details on the High Output Systems Research Herd visit <https://www.ucd.ie/agfood/about/lyonsresearchfarm/lyonsdairyherd/>

## Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 10/03/2025

### Farm Details:

|                 |       |              |
|-----------------|-------|--------------|
| Area Available  | 17.43 | Ha           |
| Current SR (MP) | 2.58  | LU/ha        |
| Farm Cover      | 772   | kg DM/ha     |
| Cover/LU        | 287   | Kg DM/day    |
| Growth Rate     | 11    | kg DM/ha     |
| Demand          | 27    | kg DM/ha/day |
| Average Conc.   | 8     | kg/day       |
| Average DIM     | 25    | days         |
| Grass DM        | 21    | %            |

### Cow Details:

| Parameter          |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Yield (kg/cow/day) | 28.89 |
| Fat %              | 4.98  |
| Protein %          | 3.45  |
| MS (kg/cow)        | 2.53  |
| SCC cells/ml       | 44    |
| Cows Calved        | 45/56 |

### Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 772kg on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, with growth rates of 11kg. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted weekly. Growth rate has fallen over the last week, as a result the cows will be offered grass and silage until the growth rate is able to meet the herd's demand. Cows will be grazing by night. From the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, the diet will consist of a grass allocation of 8kg DM, 6kg DM silage, and 10kg of concentrates. 2kg of the concentrate allocation will be fed with the silage allocation. Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of March, soil temperature measurements were taken, with the average recorded at 9.3°C. Between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of March 6.5mm of rain fell on the platform.

### Calving:

Calving started on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January and there is currently 45/56 of the cows calved as of the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.



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### Comments:

45 cows were BCS on the 12th of March. 4% scored 2.5, 40% scored 2.75, 33% scored 3.0, 15% scored 3.25 and 6% scored 3.5.