

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 30/09/2024

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.43	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.27	LU/ha
Farm Cover	813	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	249	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	30	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	49	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	4	kg/day
Average DIM	217	days
Grass DM	18.7	%

Cow Details:

YIELD	17.8	kg/cow/day
Fat	5	%
Protein	3.9	%
MS	1.64	kg
SCC	70.2	Cells/ml milk

Grazing plan:

The AFC is now at 813 kg DM/ha, with growth rates at 30 kg DM/ha. Grass walks will continue twice weekly to monitor grass supply and quality. The current diet for the herd remains unchanged, consisting of 15 kg DM of grass and 4 kg DM of concentrate. However, silage will be introduced before the end of the week to maintain average farm cover.

Comments:

In 2024, cows are producing an average of 17.8 kg per cow with a fat content of 5.0%, protein at 3.9%, and milk solids of 1.64 kg. In contrast, during the same period in 2021, the herd averaged 21 kg per cow with 4.31% fat, 3.76% protein, and 1.63 kg of milk solids. Although this year's fat, protein, and milk solids have improved, the yield is down by 3.2 kg per cow, approximately 15.24% lower than in 2021.

BCS:

57 cows were assessed for BCS on the 19th of September. 51/57 scored between 2.75-3.25 (89.5%) and 6 cow scored between 2.25-2.5 (10.5%).