



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 17/03/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.43	Ha
Current SR (MP)	2.87	LU/ha
Farm Cover	707	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	246	Kg DM/day
Growth Rate	16	kg DM/ha
Demand	23	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	10	kg/day
Average DIM	25	days
Grass DM	21	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	28.10
Fat %	4.62
Protein %	3.44
MS (kg/cow)	2.53
SCC cells/ml	40
Cows Calved	50/56

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 702kg on the 18th of March, with growth rates of 16kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted weekly. The diet consists of a grass allocation of 8kg DM, 6kg DM grass 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 14th and 20th of March, soil temperature measurements were taken, with the average recorded at 9.8°C. Between the 10th and 18th of March 2.6mm of rain fell on the platform.

Calving:

Calving started on the 15th of January and there are currently 50/56 of the cows calved as of the 18th of March.