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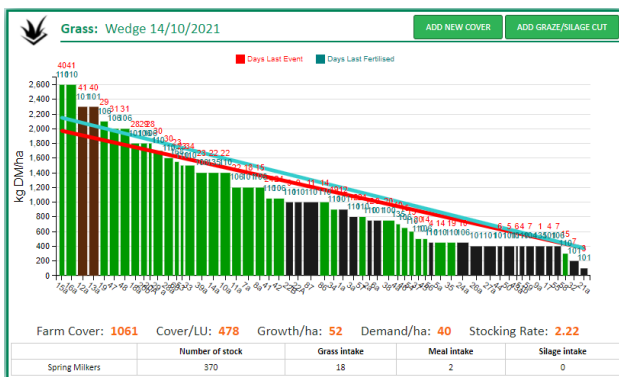
Vol 1 No. 3 October 17th 2021

Welcome to the weekly newsletter for October where we give an overview of college and farm activities. More detailed information on any aspect of the newsletter may be obtained by contacting us directly by phone or email.

Grass

The recent dry weather has meant that ground conditions are good and grazing continues to take place throughout the entire farm.

A grass cover was taken on Thursday last, October 14th. Average farm cover was 1061 Kgs DM / ha with a Cover / LU of 477 Kgs DM. Last weeks grass growth rate was 52 Kgs of DM / Ha with a Demand / Ha of 40Kgs. 36% of the platform has now been grazed in the final rotation of the year. The average amount of grass grown to date is 15.1 T DM/ha which shows that our soil fertility, paddock reseeding and grass measuring campaigns are delivering results.



Dairy Herd

The 3rd last milk recording of the year took place during the week. Information gathered during the monthly milk recording allows us to implement our Selective Dry Cow Therapy programme which is now in its 4th year. On Thursday Advanced Dairy Herd Management students locomotion scored the entire herd following the afternoons milking. Cows identified as needing attention were hoof

pared on Saturday by vet Robert Flahive. Locomotion scoring of the herd takes place on a weekly basis. On Monday and Wednesday next, Dairy Herd Management students will vaccinate all dairy cows with Bovilis Bovipast RSP, to protect against Mannheimia haemolytica which was an issue last winter.

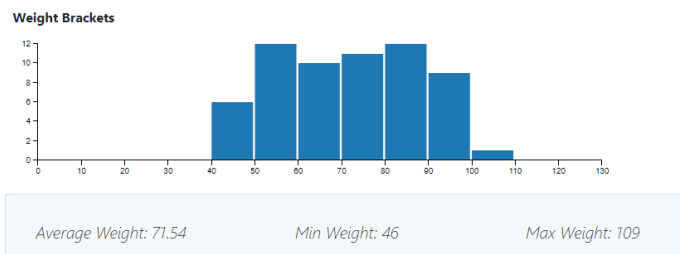
Beef Enterprise

The forward store steers were housed on Tuesday. These 2020 spring born cattle will be finished at 24 mths of age. In the coming week Advanced Drystock students will clip, weigh and dose these cattle for fluke and they will receive a pour on to protect against lice.

Also this week the students will vaccinate the 45 beef weanlings to protect against viral pneumonia at housing time. They will be weighed and faecal samples taken as well. All weights are entered into ICBF Herdplus for overall herd management purposes.

Lambs & Ewes

On Friday Drystock students drafted the ewe flock in preparation for the breeding season which commences next Monday. There will be 3 breeding groups. The ewe lambs will run with our 2 recently purchased Charollais ram lambs. The mature ewes have been divided in to two groups to avoid inbreeding and one Belclare ram will run with each group. Our flock is registered with Sheep Ireland. This allowed us to run an inbreeding check. Breeding ewes and ewe lambs were weighed by the students on Friday.



The heaviest ewe in the flock is 109kgs. The lightest ewe lamb is 46kgs and the average weight of the breeding flock is 71.54kgs. Information such as this is useful for future management decisions. When scanning takes place towards the end of December it will be interesting to note the weight of any empty ewe lambs at time of going to the ram. Rams will be raddled by the students on Monday morning before going to the ewes.

Student Visits & Activities

On Tuesday last Dairy Herd Management students visited the farm of Danny Bermingham in Doonbeg, Co. Clare while Drystock Management students visited the Ballyhibben Flock of Michel Power in Askeaton, Co. Limerick. Visits to family run farms form an integral part of our courses and we appreciate the support given to us by these farmers and their families. We have more visits and invited guests scheduled for the coming week. David Coen from Sheep Ireland delivered a very interesting practical with our students on Thursday.

Open Day



This will be an opportunity to come and view the college and farm facilities, meet with staff and students and get all the information about developing a career in the agriculture industry.

Placement

We wish all Level 5 students well as they start their 4 weeks of placement next Monday. Placement is an important learning and development period and we also thank the many host farmers without whom placement could not operate.

Group Visits

We are now open to accepting visiting groups, be that schools, groups of farmers or individuals. Contact Mary in admin at 061-393100 and we will be happy to tailor a package to suit your needs. We were delighted to welcome two Teagasc Dairy Discussion Groups to our farm last week.



Macra na Feirme also held a very enjoyable stock judging competition in the college farm yard on Thursday evening.

Social Media

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Insatgram and TikTok for daily updates on college and farm activities.

Photo of the Week



As part of Ag Mental Health Week our students and staff walked a mile for Mental Health & Wellbeing. Monies raised on the day will be donated to Pieta House.

Contact Details

Email: info@pallaskenry.com

Phone: 061-393100

Website: www.salesianag.ie