

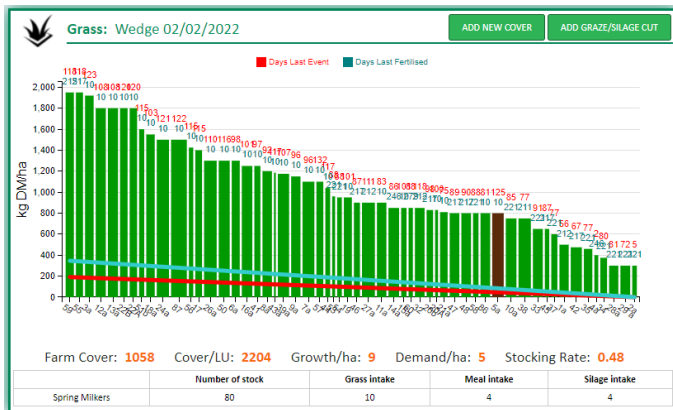
“Your education, your future, just better”

www.salesianag.ie

Vol 2 No. 4 February 6th 2022

Welcome to our weekly newsletter 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



A grass cover was taken on Wednesday last. The average farm cover is 1058 Kgs DM / Ha with a daily growth rate of 9 Kgs DM / Ha. Weather conditions have changed considerably in the last week. In the first 5 days of February 29 mm of rain has fallen on the college farm compared with 47 mm for the entire month of January. When possible freshly calved cows will get out to grass by selecting the drier paddocks and through the use of multiple access points to paddocks.

Dairy Herd

The pace of calving really picked up in the last week. As of last weekend, 24% of the herd had calved. There has been 3 sets of twins born with a further 5 cows scanned in calf to twins. Sexed semen was used on heifers and conventional AI on cows resulting in 87 Fr heifer calves and 27 Fr bull calves born to date. The first milk collection of 2022 took place last Wednesday.



Drystock Enterprise

The first beef heifers went to ABP in Rathkeale on Monday. These are spring 2020 born heifers. A full kill out report will feature in next week’s newsletter.



Mature ewes carrying twins and ewe lambs carrying twins continue to receive 0.2 Kgs of concentrates per head per day. Ewes carrying triplets are getting 0.4Kgs of concentrates per head per day. In the coming week our Level 5 students will give the ewes their booster clostridia vaccine to provide immunity to the lambs once they are born next month. During the week, we visited UCD Lyons Estate Research Farm. Our focus was to learn more about the successful use of mixed species grassland in drystock

farming. The visit was hugely interesting and worthwhile with impressive animal performance being achieved. The incorporation of clover, plantain and chicory in to a grass sward and redstart as a break crop is worth further consideration. Pictured below are ewes in Lyons Estate out wintering on redstart and a paddock with a ryegrass, clover, plantain and chicory mix.



College Farm

Maintenance work on farm roadways and fences is continuing in preparation for when livestock are let out to grass. We took delivery this weekend of our third Valtra tractor from Clarkes Machinery in Cavan. These tractors are used for both farming and teaching purposes across all our courses.



Photo of the Week

Our students will recognise this heifer. She got lots of TLC from our contract rearers and is now the pet in the herd. This week she produced a smashing heifer calf.



Dates for Your Diary

Our college Open Day takes place on Saturday March 26th.

Our new Distance Education and Part-Time “Green Cert” courses will commence on April 2nd 2022. Visit our website www.salesianag.ie for further details.

Applications are now open for our full time Level 5 Certificate in Agriculture course and our Level 6 Dairy Herd Management, Drystock Management and Mechanisation courses that commence in September 2022. Visit our website for more details.

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.

Social Media

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

Contact Details

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