

NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

NEWS, AGRI ADVICE & PROMOTIONS



The Timoleague Catchment open day focused on soil solution monitoring, soil fertility trends, water quality trends etc. In attendance were, John O'Brien Vice-Chair and Peadar Murphy CEO, Barryroe Co-op.

GRASSLAND RESEEDING GUIDELINES 2023

Reseeding is a vital component for all grassland farmers. Increasing grass quality will allow you to increase productivity as well as increasing silage quantities. If you are reseeding at any time of the year, then the golden rule is to choose only mixtures that contain recommended list varieties and use the PPI sub-indices to find a mixture fit for purpose.

- 1. If you are in a grazing system, use varieties within the mixture that have a high star rating under the Teagasc Grazing Utilisation Index
- 2. Have a high tetraploid content if you are on good grazing land, at least 50% tetraploids.
- 3. If you are reseeding silage ground, then pick varieties that score highly for silage on the PPI subindex.
- 4. Spring growth is vital in west Cork for early turnout– pick varieties that score highly for this trait.
- Remember, farmers are not paid on grass growth, but milk solids, therefore, palatability and intake are the most important factors, more grass eaten by the cow, more milk produced.

Clover: Clover is a vital part of modern swards and needs to be included in every new mixture. Red clover can improve protein content, particularly in silage fields. Be careful of bloat and introduce cattle slowly and monitor stock daily for signs of it.

Nutrition: It is particularly important to do a soil sample prior to sowing. This would not only give an indication of P and K status but of pH. It is especially important that the pH level of the field is over 6.5 for good establishment of clover. P and K applied as required.

The seedbed should be firm and fine, typically firm enough to ride a bicycle over. This is important in dry periods as a well consolidated seedbed helps to preserve moisture. A good rolling would help.

Post emergence weed control is critical. Choice of product will depend upon whether there is clover in the sward. Graze as soon as the plants can tolerate grazing as this will help the thicken the sward.

NEWS WATCH

MILK SUPPLY AND PRICE

April milk supply amounted to 12,032,052 litres which was a 3% decrease on April 2022. Due to weaker market conditions, there is a 3c/L reduction in the milk price being paid. This drop is made up of a 2c/L decrease in the base

price and 1 c/L reduction in support from the stability fund.

The Carbery Board is continuing its support for April milk at 3c/L from its stability fund. Barryroe is paying €7.281 per kg of protein and €4.854 per kg of butterfat for variable priced milk. Our average constituents for the month are 3.38% protein 4.14% butterfat and our average price paid for variable priced milk is 44.59 c/L, including 0.5c SCC bonus and VAT @ 5%. The Carbery 3c/L support is also paid on fixed-price milk.

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LYONS SYSTEMS RESEARCH HERD UPDATE

Date: 08/05/23

Grassland Management: One paddock (1.59 ha) was closed off for silage and the cover was 2000 kg DM/ha on the 5th of May. Cows are being offered an average allocation of 13.5 kg DM/day of grass. Average DM of the grass this week was 17.2%. Cows are being fed on average 7.5 kg/day of a 14% crude protein concentrate in the parlour which is formulated with native ingredients.

Farm Details Week 01-07/05/23						
Stocking rate on MP (LU/ha)	4.13					
Farm Cover (DM/ha)	661					
Growth Rate (DM/ha/day)	80					
Demand (DM/ha/day)	54					
Average grass DM (%)	17.2					
Average Concentrate fed (kg/day)	7.44					
Average DIM	77					

Breeding Season: The breeding season started on 2nd of May for 12 weeks. Heat detection is being done using automatic activity monitoring and scratch cards which will be read in the collecting yard before milking. Breeding is done by Artificial insemination (AI) and is conducted twice

Cow Details Week 01-07/05/23						
Yield (kg/cow/day)	33.75					
Fat (%)	4.05					
Protein (%)	3.40					
MS (kg/day)	2.51					
scc	60,240					

The weighted EBI averages of the bulls are:

			Health €	Milk kg				F%	P%
254	123	105	16	303	24	17	41	0.20	0.11

These bulls were selected for high milk fat and protein and milk PTA to ensure the milk fat and protein % stay positive in addition to selecting for balanced milk production and fertility sub-index values.

33% (18/57 cows) of the cows were served during the first week of the breeding season in line with the expected targets (33% of the cows served in the first week, 33% in the second week and the remaining 33% in the third week of the breeding season).

The replacement heifers, the first lactation cows and 6 elite cows will receive HF sexed semen. The rest of the cows will receive beef semen. The replacement heifers were on an oestrus synchronisation programme and were Al'd on Friday May 5th.

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