

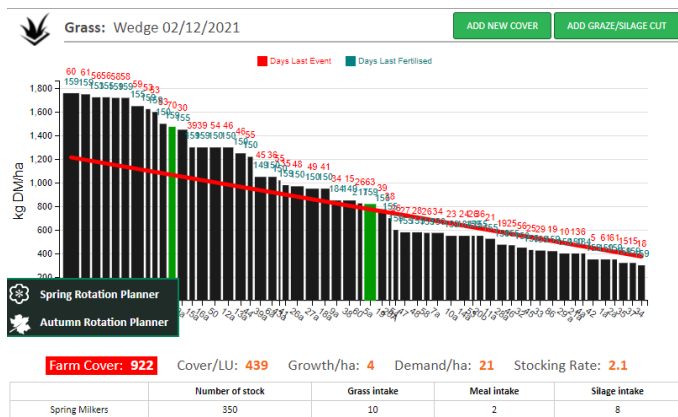
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Welcome to our weekly newsletter where we give an overview of college and farm activities. More detailed information on any aspect of the newsletter may be obtained by contacting us directly by phone or email.

Grass



A grass cover was taken on Thursday last. Grass growth rate has now dropped to 4 Kgs DM / ha/ day. The overall farm cover is 922 Kgs DM / ha and the cover per LU is 439 Kgs DM. The last gazing of the year took place on Friday and cows have been at grass for 307 days this year. There was an increase of 0.7T DM / Ha grown in 2021 compared to 2020 with a decrease in the amount of chemical fertiliser used.



Farm Summary - Year 2021 - Salesian Agricultural College - Dairy

Generated on: 03/12/2021
Area (ha): 174.08

Parameter	YTD	Spring	Summer	Autumn
		J F M A	M J J	A S O N D
No. of Covers Recorded	43	14	16	13
No. Of Grazings	7.9	1.7	2.9	3.3
No. Of Silage Cuts	1		0.8	0.3
Grazing DM (kg DM/ha)	12110	2392	4648	5070
Silage DM (kg DM/ha)	3943		3129	814
Total DM (kg DM/ha)	16053	2392	7777	5884

Dairy Herd

Last week was a busy week in the dairy enterprise. A further 48 dairy cows were dried off on Thursday. Students received a practical demonstration from vet Robert Flahive in the drying off process. There are now just 80 cows still in milk and these will be dried off next weekend. During the week our Certificate in Agriculture students dosed the incalf dairy heifers and the dried off cows with Endofluke to treat for all stages of liver fluke. They also applied Dectospot for the prevention of lice. On Friday the incalf heifers were fitted with their Sensehub Allflex, heat and health monitoring collars. The heifers were also put through the footbath which will become a twice weekly process. On Thursday the heifers also visited the rotary milking parlour for the first time. A task that was made easy with the help of students and staff. Hoof paring in the dairy herd also took place during the week.



Drystock Enterprise

Forward store bullocks and heifers were bought in over the last 2 weeks. These will be finished over the next 3 to 4 months. Students on the drystock programme will learn about the economics of this system of beef production and how it compares to our own home bred calf to beef enterprise. The students also treated these cattle with

Endofluke and Dectospot. Faecal samples will determine if a worm dose is required.

The last 10 store lambs and six cull ewes were sold at Ennis mart on Monday. Lambs averaged 38 Kgs and sold for €122 each. The 6 cull ewes averaged 78 Kgs and made €133 each. Two Texel rams, which were suitable for breeding, were also sold on the day and made €148 each. Breeding in the ewe flock finished on Friday and all ewes will be housed for the winter in the coming days.



Student Visits & College Activities

On Tuesday, our B. Eng. students visited the McDonnell Green Gas Anaerobic Digester Plant in Co. Limerick. A very informative afternoon was had and students got to see how energy is being produced in a sustainable manner. Teagasc dairy adviser Tom O'Connor visited the college farm on Wednesday with a number of discussion group farmers. The group had visited the college two years ago and were impressed with the progress being made in the dairy herd. They were interested to hear about the sustainable measures we have adopted over the last number of years such as the use of protected urea, low emissions slurry spreading, selective dry cow therapy, incorporation of clover and herbs in to grassland and growing more grass with less chemical fertiliser.

Students were involved in grass production, animal husbandry and machinery related practical's throughout the week. It was announced earlier in the week that shortly all owners of ATV's will be required to receive training on the safe use of quads. For the last 4 years, we have been delivering the ATV module to our entire Certificate in Agriculture students. We recognise the important role, which quads play on farms and the need for training on how to operate them in a safe manner.



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.

Photo of the Week



Visiting dairy farmers get a bird's eye view of our new rotary milking parlour.

Contact Details

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