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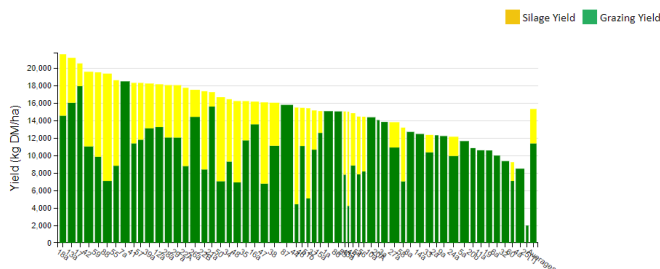
Vol 1 No. 6 November 7th 2021

Welcome to the weekly newsletter for November 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

Ground conditions are still favorable, which is allowing for dairy cows to graze by day and night. All beef stock are now housed to ensure that ewes have enough grass for the next four weeks of the breeding season. To date the average tonnage of grass grown is 15.3 tonnes of DM /Ha. The top performing paddock has grown 21.6 tonnes DM/Ha, being reseeded in 2019 with an Abergain:Aberchoice mix. This paddock was oversown with Aberace white clover last June. Further reseeding is planned for 2022.

Cumulative Paddock Yield to 07 Nov 2021



Dairy Herd

All incalf dairy heifers were teat sealed on Saturday. SureSeal Teat Sealer was used and all heifers were sealed using a turn over crate.

Heifers are the most susceptible to clinical mastitis and high SCC within the first few weeks of calving. This is due to the opening of the teat ends just prior to calving that allows bacteria, such as *Strep uberis*, to enter the udder. Teat sealing done hygienically helps to eliminate this. Drying off of cows will commence this week. Once again,

we will be practicing selective dry cow therapy. The criteria we will use for SDT is that the average SCC for current lactation is less than 150,000 and no individual test greater than 250,000 in this lactation. Fifty three percent of the herd will receive selective dry cow therapy while forty seven percent will receive a dry cow tube and sealer.



Drystock Enterprise

Raddle colour on the rams was changed to blue by the Drystock Management students last Tuesday. We are now 21 days in to the breeding season and so far there are not many ewes appearing with blue markings. The tails and backs of all the finishing cattle, incalf beef heifers and weanling cattle were clipped on Friday. Pour-on for lice can now be applied in the coming days.



Farm, Farmyard & College

The annual TB test reading took place on Friday and thankfully, all livestock went clear. All incalf dairy animals were also blood tested for Johnes Disease and Neospora. On Friday many of our staff participated in Basic First Aid training with further continuous professional development scheduled over the coming weeks. Our Level 6 and Higher Certificate students received their stylish new college jackets during the week. Our Level 5 students are entering their fourth and final week of autumn work placement. They will return to college on Monday November 15th.

Student Visits & Activities

The Agricultural Colleges football competition due to have been played last Wednesday was postponed due to the unavailability of playing pitches. We hope to reschedule these fixtures in the near future. On Thursday our Advanced Mechanisation students visited Samco Agricultural Manufacturing in Adare, Co. Limerick. Thanks to Robert Shine for ensuring that, the students had a very informative afternoon. Further visits are planned for the dairy and drystock students in the coming week. A report will be included in next week's newsletter.



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



Dairy Herd Management students getting hands on practice in the correct milking process technique during an afternoons milking in the new rotary milking parlour.

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