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Welcome to the 2nd 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

Favorable ground and weather conditions over the past week allowed cows to graze by day and night once again. We are now 287 days at grass for the year to date in the dairy herd. The aim is to graze at least by day for the remainder of November.

Dairy Herd

The first 48 cows were dried off on Saturday. Once again, we are practicing selective dry cow therapy. The criteria we are using for SDCT is that the average SCC for current lactation is less than 150,000 and no individual test greater than 250,000 in this lactation. All cows are being dried off in the roll over crate. The dairy herd was also Body Condition Scored on Friday. This will identify cows that need to be dried off earlier than planned.



Drystock Enterprise

All beef cattle were weighed on Thursday. Finishing bullocks have an average weight of 519 Kg's and are on 4

Kg's concentrates per head per day plus silage. The incalf beef heifers have an average weight of 481 Kg's with a due calving date of March / April 2022. The dairy bred beef weanlings have an average weight of 225 Kg's and an ADG since July's weighing of 0.84 Kg's. They are being fed 2 Kgs of concentrates per head per day plus silage. All cattle will be weighed on a monthly basis to monitor performance.



Student Visits & College Activities

Congratulations to our Bachelor in Engineering students from the class of 2020/21 who graduated from TUS on Tuesday. On Wednesday, dairy farmers from Co. Limerick visited the college farm for a very worthwhile discussion.



Also on Wednesday Limerick Macra had an enjoyable welding competition in the college. While on Thursday our Level 6 Dairy Herd Management & Drystock Management students visited Ennis Mart where they met with mart manager Martin McNamara. Careers and opportunities in this sector were discussed with the students.



Staff received training in fire safety on Friday as part of our ongoing training and development.

COP26

With COP26 coming to a close we took the time to reflect on our own sustainability measures on the college farm including:

- Since 2016 grass grown has increased from 8 T DM/ha to over 15 T DM/ha, an 87% increase.
- Purchased fertiliser & concentrates have reduced by 18% from 2016 to 2020.
- In the last five years we have moved from being in the bottom 5% of herds nationally based on EBI to now being in the top 1%. Each €10 improvement in EBI is associated with a reduction of 61.7 kg CO₂ equivalents per lactation. Our herd is emitting 370kgs less CO₂ equivalent per cow per lactation compared to the national average dairy cow.
- Since 2019 all slurry is applied by Low Emissions Slurry Spreading systems, using an umbilical cord with dribble bar
- A full farm Habitat Survey & Biodiversity Assessment was completed in November 2019 by Forest, Environmental Research and Services (FERS) Ltd.

- We have been pioneering the use of Selective Dry Cow Therapy since 2017 and have participated in the Teagasc/Kerry Agribusiness on farm trials
- Further sustainability measures will be outlined 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



B. Eng students from TUS graduating on Tuesday.

Contact Details

Email: info@pallaskenry.com

Phone: 061-393100

Website: www.salesianag.ie