

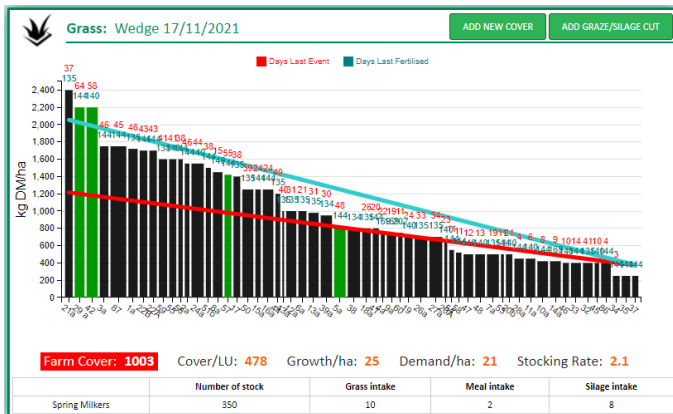
“Your education, your future, just better”

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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 Wednesday last. The mild week led to a growth rate of 25Kgs/ha with a demand of 21 Kgs/ha. The overall farm cover is 1003 Kgs DM / ha and the cover per LU is 478 Kgs DM. Paddocks have been grazed on average 9 times this year and the amount of grass grown this year to date is 15.9 tonnes DM/ha.

Silage

Both pit and baled silage has been analysed by Alltech. DMD ranges from 71% to 81.5% while protein ranges from 13.7% to 15.0%. With this information, a winter feeding plan has been put in place for late lactation dairy cows, dry cows, calf to beef weanlings and finishing cattle.

Dairy Herd

Further dairy cows were dried off this weekend. Body Condition Score and predicted calving date determined the cows which were selected for drying off.

Drystock Enterprise

All beef cattle were treated during the week by our Level 5 Agriculture students, for liver fluke and lice prevention. Endofluke was used to treat immature, late immature and adult liver fluke while Dectospot was used to prevent both sucking and biting lice. Students also gave the weaning cattle their second shot of Bovillis Bovipast RSP for the prevention of pneumonia.



Breeding in the ewe flock commenced on Monday October 18th. Rams will be removed from the flock on Friday December 3rd. The table below would suggest a good breeding season. Scanning of the flock will take place in late December. A further 18 lambs were sent to Kildare Chilling on Friday. Details on their kill out will feature in next weeks newsletter.

Sheep Breeding Update 18th Nov 2021			
	No. Served at 1st Service (Yellow Raddle)	% Served at 1st Service	No Served at 2nd Service (Blue Raddle)
Mature Ewes	62/69	90	2 (repeats)
Ewe Lambs	20/33	61	9

Student Visits & College Activities

The Agricultural Colleges 7 aside hurling competition took place in Toomevara, Co. Tipperary on Wednesday. We were well represented by hurlers from 5 counties. Well done to our own and proud Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny man Tomás Dunne who won both the Player of the Tournament and Poc Fada on the day. Also on Wednesday we were delighted to welcome 5th year Agricultural Science students from St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow, Co Cork to our college farm. Students got the opportunity to hear about our sustainable dairy, beef and sheep enterprises.



Sustainability and Climate Change

The college continues to play its part in addressing issues surrounding climate change, sustainability and biodiversity:

- We have incorporated Mixed Species Swards (ryegrass + plantain) but have found that the persistency of the plantain has been an issue so we are changing to oversowing clover into existing swards, targeting 15% of the grazing area per annum.
- Despite experiencing drought in the last three years, we have always been able to grow sufficient forage and have in excess of 25% of our winter silage requirements in reserve.
- 75% of slurry is applied in the spring and this further reduces our use of chemical nitrogen. All slurry is applied by Low Emissions Slurry Spreading.

- Our milking parlour is fitted with a heat recovery system and variable rate pumps to minimise energy usage.
- All water used in the plant is recycled to wash the collecting yards.
- All water use is metered and this quickly identifies any leaks that lead to waste.
- Annual soil sampling of the entire farm will commence from December 2021.
- Carbon measurement will be included also.

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



Students competed in the agricultural colleges hurling competition on Wednesday.

Contact Details

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