

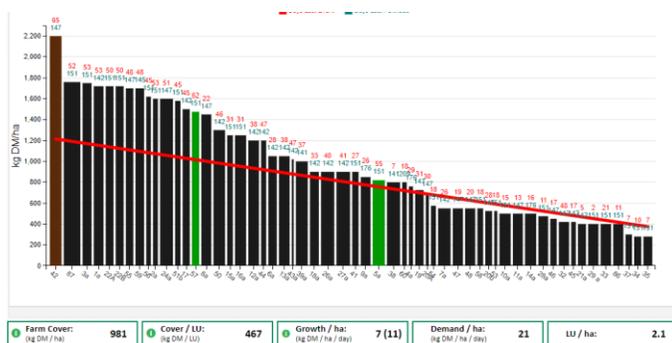
“Your education, your future, just better”

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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.

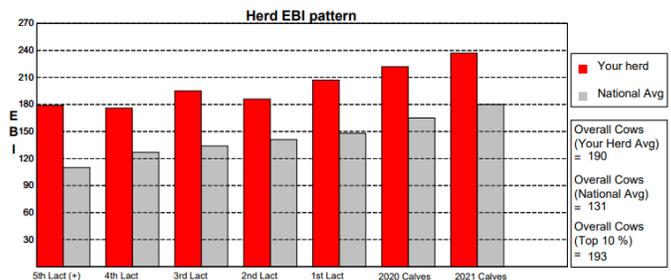
Grass



A grass cover was taken on Wednesday last. The cold frosty conditions saw grass growth rate drop to 7 Kgs DM / ha/ day. The overall farm cover is 981 Kgs DM / ha and the cover per LU is 467 Kgs DM.

Dairy Herd

Further dairy cows were dried off this weekend. All replacement heifers were weighed on Friday. The average weight of the group is 493 Kgs. All heifers and cows which have been dried off will be treated for liver fluke and lice during the coming week. The November 2021 evaluation figures from ICBF show the herd has an EBI of €190. 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.



The most recent co-op performance report for the period January to October shows that the herd is performing well and is highly ranked amongst all milk suppliers. Fat percentage for the period January to October is 4.38% while protein is at 3.66% for the same period. Over 50% of the herd are 1st or 2nd lactation cows.

Table 3: Kerry Agri/ICBF Performance Score Card.

	Your Herd	Kerry Agri Average	Kerry Agri Top 10%	Your Rank out of 100	Your Star Rating
Milk performance for 2021 (Jan - Oct) based on Kerry Agri data					
Fat + Protein (Kg/cow)					
Average Fat and Protein yield per cow for your herd	412	368	455	70%	★ ★ ★ ★
Litres per Cow per Day					
Avg litres of Milk per cow from Jan - Oct 2021	16.8	16.02	19.7	57%	★ ★ ★
Fat % to end October 2021					
Weighted average Fat % from Jan - Oct 2021	4.38	4.08	4.33	93%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Protein % to end October 2021					
Weighted average Protein % from Jan - Oct 2021	3.66	3.48	3.63	94%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Drystock Enterprise

Weanling cattle were dosed on Thursday with Curazole to treat for stomach worms and lungworms. The finishing bullocks in the dairy calf to beef system currently have an average weight of 535 Kgs and an ADG since birth of 0.78 Kgs. These cattle will be finished in the spring of 2022 at 24 months of age.

On Monday last 18 lambs went to Kildare Chilling. Average live weight was 48.8 Kgs with a kill out percentage of 42% and an average carcass weight of 19.71Kgs. The price received was €7.30 / Kg which includes the quality assurance bonus of 10c/kg.

Slaughter Report for Lambs				
18 Lambs	Live Weight(kg)	Dead Weight(kg)	Kill-Out Percent age(kg)	Value @€7.30/ KG
Average	48.8	19.71	42%	€143

The remaining 10 store lambs and 6 cull ewes will be sold at Ennis mart on Monday. Breeding in the ewe flock will finish this week. Ewes will also be housed in the coming days and the last of the paddocks will be closed for the winter.

Student Visits & College Activities

On Monday we were delighted to welcome agricultural science students from St. Brendan's Secondary School in Birr, Co. Offaly to our college. Students got an insight in to the farm enterprises and the courses we offer. On Wednesday we visited St. Joseph's Community College in Kilkee, Co. Clare to speak to students about our courses and the college farm. On Thursday Maeve Regan, Head of Ruminant Nutrition with Agritech visited the college and gave an excellent presentation to our Level 6 Advanced Dairy Herd Management and Drystock Management students. On Saturday college teachers attended the Open Day at the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS) and spoke to students and parents about the mechanisation courses we offer in association with TUS.

College Farm and Farmyard

On Friday we took delivery of a new McConnel 6070 hedgecutter which was supplied by Abbey Machinery. Students will receive practical training in hedgerow management which will ensure that hedgerow are stockproof and rich in biodiversity.

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, Insatgram and TikTok for daily updates on college and farm activities.

Photo of the Week



Students from St. Brendan's College, Birr visiting the college farm during the week.

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