

Michael Clarke

I reseeded 12 acres in April with Aston Energy and Aston Conqueror with 3kg white clover and 1kg red, this was challenging with weather conditions. In the yard, I extended the silage slab to prevent runoff. I also purchased astroturf for the roadways which will be laid over the winter.



Breeding went well, I ended with less than 8% empty in the cows after 11-weeks of breeding. The heifers had 13% empty rate, but I only bred for 6 weeks due to issues with bulls. I used dairy AI for the heifers and cows first 3 weeks and beef AI for a further 3 weeks and then let out beef bulls.

Clover took until July/August to perform, grass growth in general is behind. Grass struggled with the lack of sunshine all year. Due to this I have fed Palm Kernal: Soya hulls 3:1 to cows since July. I did this instead of feeding silage as I was worried about fodder supply. After completing a fodder budget in June I had a 50% deficit, however after second cut and surplus bales, I have enough for the winter. Cows have been on silage by night for the last 3 weeks to extend the grazing season. They will be housed by night from the 20th of October, but I plan to stay grazing by day until mid-November if weather allows. Fertiliser this year was mostly protected urea.

Cows are performing well doing 20 litres at 5.66 fat and 4.22 protein, however somatic cell count is higher than I would like at 154,000 SCC. I plan to go through the final milk recording and cull where necessary. I have already culled 8 cows this year for high cell count using milk recording records.

Kevin & Enda Farrell

20 acres of silage ground was reseeded this year with a red clover mix. We started drainage work on the milking platform in the last week.



Breeding went well, after 10 weeks of breeding we finished with 8% empty. We got 75% conception with heifers to fixed time AI using sexed semen. We ended with 1 heifer empty out of 25 after the 10-week breeding period.

Cows are doing 16 litres at 4.74 fat and 4.26 protein, SCC 62,000. Farm cover is at 850kg DM/ha, cows are still out full time, with no silage in the diet yet. We are zero grazing with cows getting grass during milkings and getting 3kg meal in the parlour. Cull cows will be sold mid-November before the winter.