

Shaun Maguire



10% of the farm was reseed this year using red and white clover in the mix. I also drain a section of ground on the milking platform.

Clover has been challenging this year, it did not perform well until late in the summer. The persistence in some paddocks have not been great since last year and I would have carried a low cover on these paddocks over the winter. I have cut back on fertiliser with some paddocks getting zero chemical nitrogen, but it has been challenging to manage. The farm grew 11.7T DM/ha so far this year.

I was disappointed with breeding; the empty rate was 16% after 8.5 weeks of breeding. I was selective on cows bred to dairy, only selecting cows doing over 3.6 protein and 4.2 fat. I did not use sexed semen as I do not think my fertility is good enough yet, I would be concerned about conception rates.

Cows are out full time and plan to remain out until the end of the month, I may have to feed silage in a week or two.

Alan Clarke



22 acres have been reseeded this year, the seed mix included 2kg white clover. It was a difficult year for clover. It was slow to get going but when it did about July it did well. The farm grew about 11t DM/ha on average, and we have plenty fodder for the winter.

Breeding went very well, we ended with 5% empty rate after 10 weeks of breeding. We used sexed semen on the heifers and a select number of cows. No conventional dairy AI was used, the remaining animals got beef AI using high DBI bulls.

We have just finished installing 84 new cubicles into a new shed with slurry storage, the shed also has space to increase cubicle numbers in the future. I planted 750m of hedgerow and 180 trees this year for ACRES, this was along water ways to reduce nutrient loss. I have started to resurface roadways on the milking block.