



A Progress Report – mid way through our third season.

The initial objective was to purchase an average herd with little or no history of producing milk under a pasture system topped up with supplements. Breeding worth was not a consideration. We would then feed them and grow them and prove that they could produce increased levels of milk sustainably

- 2017/18 season was the first intake of heifers produced from the establishing herd.
- This enabled culling of unsuitable cows due to age, poor milk production and udder breakdown.
- Heifers form 27 percent of milking herd and generally milking well
- LWTs when pregnant around 490kg and currently 436kg
- Stocking rate a bit high as extra heifers are carried but so far a good growing season and pasture is being fully utilised and there is room for further herd improvement through culling
- Production still rising albeit slower than it might have done with fewer heifers (perhaps)
.Currently averaging 2.4ms /cow and 9ms/ha/day
- 10 percent of the farm is currently out for re-grassing
- 10 percent of the farm is currently out for baleage
- Given the high cost of land arguably the most accurate financial measurement of performance must be production per hectare. Last season it was 2150 MS/ha and season to date production per ha has increased by 4 percent.