

CAFRE Dairy Herd Winter Feed Efficiency



How are concentrates fed within the CAFRE Dairy herd

Diet feeder

- Use of Keenan I-PACE
- Serviced and calibrated prior to winter feeding



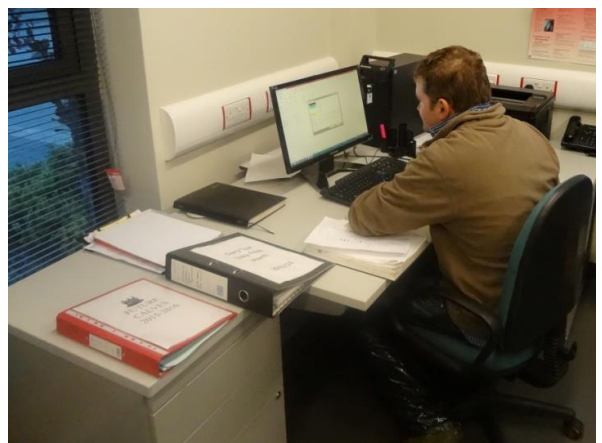
In parlour feeding

- Cows are fed to yield at a rate of 0.45kg/litre above the TMR M+
- Calibrated annually
- Always check, never assume a feeder is dispensing the correct amount



Setting the M+

- Forage analysis key to setting M+
- At CAFRE forages are analysed monthly for quality
- Based on this along with other factors the TMR M+ will be adjusted accordingly



Feed efficiency management within the CAFRE Dairy herd

Significant emphasis is placed on the most efficient use of purchased concentrate feed within the routine management of the CAFRE Dairy Herd.

Grouping Cows

- ❖ Cows physically managed in 2-3 milking groups, currently:
 - Start-up cows + all heifers
 - High yield cows
 - Late lactation cows

Automated parlour feeding:

- ❖ Computer feed groups:
 - Start-up cows
 - Heifers
 - High yield cows up to 100 days in milk
 - High yield cows over 100 days in milk



Example of concentrate feeding to cows (winter 2019-20)

| Days in milk | Blend (kgs) | Parlour nut (kgs) | Total conc fed (minimum kgs) |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1-30 | 7 | 2-4 | 11 |
| 31-100 | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| 101+ | 7 | - | 7 |

- From calving there is a slow build up of parlour nuts over a 21 day period, starting at 2kg per day rising to 4kg by day 21. Research has shown this management practice promotes increased forage intakes, thus minimising digestive upsets.

- At day 31 (lactation 2+) cows move into the high yielding group where they receive a minimum of 11kg. Cows yielding above the M+ set are fed at a rate of 0.45kg/litre. This group of cows are being lead fed (minimum 4kg of parlour nut) along with feed to yield.

- At day 101 cows are fed to yield above the TMR M+.