

My Approach to the Last 3 Months of Milk Quota's

Joseph Leonard

Farm background

Farm size 228ha (108ha owned)

Milking platform 149ha

40 unit parlour

500 outdoor cubicles and slurry lagoon

4 labour units



Herd background

- From 220 to 500 cows since 2009
- 140 replacement heifers
- EBI 187
- 6-8 weeks AI
- Stock leased out to grow herd size

My Plan for Spring 2015

Negatives: No quota

Low milk price

Positives: Cow numbers and calving pattern

Grass

2014 milk price

Herd genetics

Experience

OAD

- Milk OAD until 1st April to:-
- Increase milk solid %
- Maximise milk price
- Feed 6-7ltrs/day to calves
- Store milk

Other benefits of OAD

- Reduce spring work load
- Reduce loss of cow condition
- Increased fertility
- Time for grass measuring



Calf management

- OAD management
- Stock checking
- Target weights
- Weigh scales

My plans for a low milk price

3 places not to cut costs:

Fertilizer

Breeding

Family budget.

Question all other costs

To conclude

- Milk OAD to maximise milk price
- Focus on grass
- Maintain cow fertility
- Look after yourself