Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 30/03/2009

A. Critical Issues
1. Don’t poach
2. Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm
3. Ensure cows are getting better fed each week

B. On farm situation
1. Soil temperature today is 8.5°C, similar to last week
2. Total weekly rainfall is 10.1mm
3. Average growth was 26kgDM/ha, (20% DM)
4. Grass supply is on target (154 vs 150/cow)
5. Growth rate is well below target (26kg vs 40kg) due to cold weather, this has brought cover back in line with budget.
6. We currently have 90% of farm grazed, which is ahead of our rotation plan target (75%).
7. This leaves 10% which will bring us to April 3rd before we commence the second rotation.
8. Farm feed wedge (30/03/09)

Yellow paddocks have been grazed this spring, paddock 2 is partly grazed.

9. The wedge is now showing an excellent 2\textsuperscript{nd} rotation wedge emerging. Based on the wedge, we must commence the 2\textsuperscript{nd} rotation on April 3\textsuperscript{rd} to avoid excessive pre-grazing yields (>1,400 kg DM/ha).

10. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.2cm.

11. Total N application to date is 28kg N/ha. Slurry from the out wintering pad has been applied to 37\% of the entire grazing area post grazing to date. Paddocks not receiving slurry will get 23 units of urea this week.

12. 86\% of the herd calved to date (expected mean calving date is 4\textsuperscript{th} March).

13. Average milk yield is 20.11kg at 4.43\% fat and 3.31\% protein (1.55kg MS/cow), lactose 4.81\%, SCC 253k, TBC 32k.

C. Critical short term actions:

- Grass allocated on a whole paddock basis.
- Cows straight to grass as they calve.
- Calmag dusting of paddocks (1 strip per paddock).
- Concentrate removed.

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