

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 5/5/2009

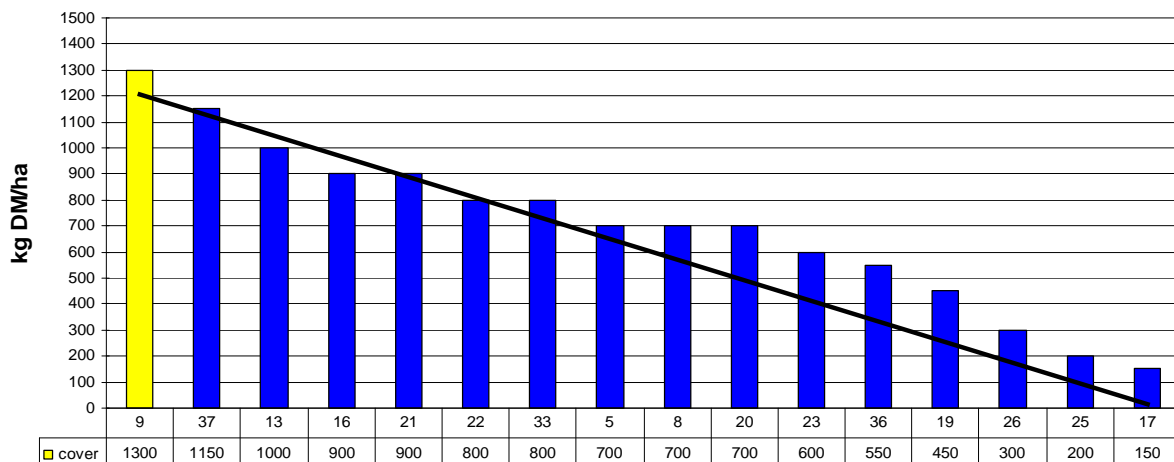
A. Critical Issues

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 9.2°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 37.9mm
3. Average growth was 60kgDM/ha, (15% DM)
4. Grass supply is on target (150 vs. 150/cow)
5. Farm feed wedge (5/5/09)

Farm cover 712kg DM/ha (150/LU)



6. A surplus of grass is becoming evident on the wedge. This has occurred because cows had to be housed for two days and fed on bale silage.
7. Skipping paddock 37 would avoid this surplus but we have decided to leave it in the rotation for the following reasons;
 - Currently our demand is 66kg/ha and growth is only 60kg/ha, removing this paddock from the rotation would increase the demand to 70kg/ha.
 - With a changeable weather forecast for the week ahead opportunities to bale paddocks will be very limited.
 - Saturated soils are compromising grass utilisation.
8. Cows are receiving 2kgs of concentrate to maintain intakes during difficult grazing conditions.
9. At stocking rate of 4.73 cows /ha, a 14kg per cow grass allowance and an 18 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1200kg DM/ ha (4.73*14*18= 1200).
10. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 4.6cm.

11. Rotation length 18 days.
12. Total N application to date is 37kg N/ha. A half a bag of urea is being spread on grazed paddocks as weather permits.
13. Breeding season begins today, all cows tail painted and topped up as required.
14. 100% of the herd calved to date (expected mean calving date is 4th March).
15. Average milk yield is 18.0kg at 4.10% fat and 3.09% protein (1.29kg MS/cow), lactose 4.86%, SCC 243k, TBC 17k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- 2kg of concentrate introduced.
- Allocating 12hr blocks.
- On/off grazing.

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Dairy Production Research in the Northeast

Objective:

To increase the profitability of milk production per hectare in the BMW region through improved pasture management and utilisation in combination with genetic improvement using the Economic Breeding Index.

Year	2004	2007	2008
Grazing season (days)	226	271	280
Herd EBI (€)	28	51	55
Stocking Rate (Cows/ha)	2.2	2.6	2.9
Concentrate (kg/cow)	700	400	250
Milk (kg/ha)	12,381	11,890	13,340
Milk Solids (kg/ ha)	928	931	1,150
6 week pregnancy rate (%)	38	55	65
Farm Profit (30 ha)	37,417	56,182	-

Week:03/05/09	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	18.00	19.90
% Fat	4.14	4.13
% Protein	3.14	3.13
% Lactose	4.79	4.88
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.31	1.45
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	3	2
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1229	1200
% Fat	4.76	4.62
% Protein	3.35	3.21
% Lactose	4.77	4.76
Milk solids (kg/cow)	99	93
Bodyweight (kg)	444	436
Body Condition Score	2.8	2.82
Supplement (kg/cow)	156	210
Mean Calving Date		4 th March



