

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 25/5/2009

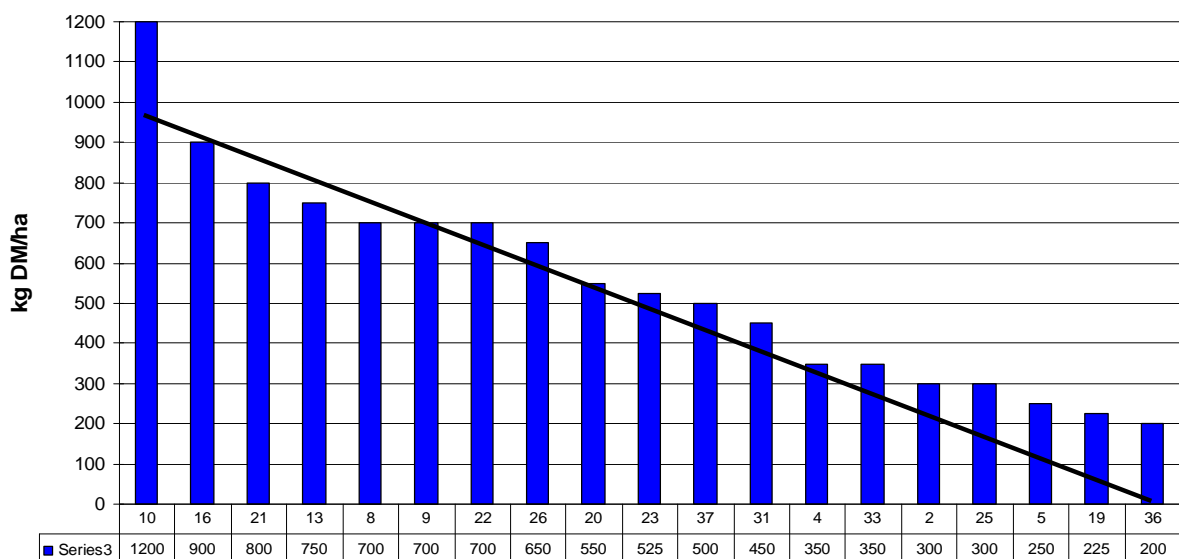
A. Critical Issues

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 12°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 21.7mm
3. Average growth was 41kgDM/ha, (16% DM)
4. Grass supply below target (139 vs. 150/cow)
5. Farm feed wedge (27/5/09)

Farm cover 525kg DM/ha (139/LU)



6. Paddock 31 was closed for silage but had to be grazed due to very poor growth rates. Pre-grazing cover was 3500kgsDM/ha. It was strip grazed and cows were not forced to graze below 6cm residual. This paddock will be earmarked for baling in the next rotation if possible.
7. 4kgs of concentrate are being fed in the parlour, this leaves a demand of 45kgsDM/ha. This is just about matching growth for last week. If weather improves as per forecast this will be reduced to 2kgs by the weekend.
8. At stocking rate of 3.77 cows /ha, a 14kg per cow grass allowance and an 18 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is now 950kg DM/ ha ($3.77 * 14 * 18 = 950$).
9. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.8cm.
10. Rotation length 16 days.
11. 30 units of N to be spread on 50% of the grazing area when ground conditions allow.

12. Submission rate of 78% after third week of breeding season.

13. Average milk yield is 19.29kg at 4.32% fat and 3.16% protein (1.44kg MS/cow), lactose 4.87%, SCC 237k, TBC 4k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- 4kgs of concentrate.
- Allocating grass on a 12hr basis.
- On/off grazing during wet conditions.

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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:24/05/09	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	19.29	21.22
% Fat	4.31	3.98
% Protein	3.19	3.24
% Lactose	4.88	4.88
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.43	1.52
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	4	8
Silage	0	4
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1614	1615
% Fat	4.61	4.59
% Protein	3.29	3.21
% Lactose	4.78	4.81
Milk solids (kg/cow)	127	125
Bodyweight (kg)	452	441
Body Condition Score	2.8	2.82
Supplement (kg/cow)	244	350
Mean Calving Date		4 th March

