

## Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 8/6/2009

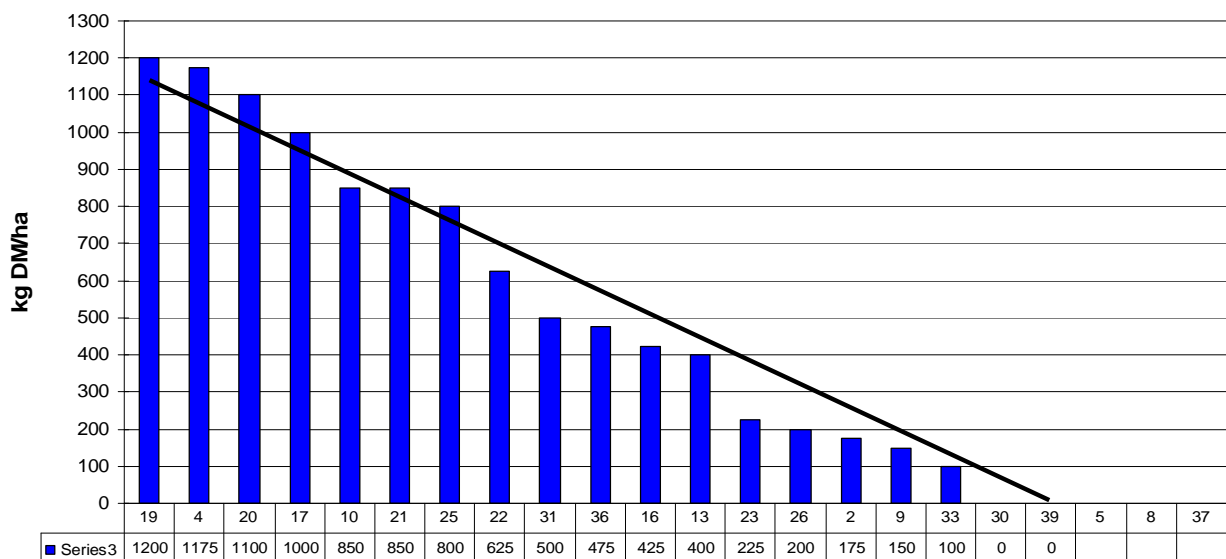
### A. Critical Issues

1. Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm
2. Ensure cows are getting better fed each week

### B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 13°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 2.1mm
3. Average growth was 54kgDM/ha, (20% DM)
4. Grass supply below target (134 vs. 150/cow)
5. Farm feed wedge (8/6/09)

**Farm cover 523kg DM/ha (134/LU)**



6. Paddocks 30 and 39 were cut for first cut silage and are now back in the grazing rotation. Paddock 8 has a cover of 1600kgDM/ha so this will be baled this week. Paddocks 5 and 37 have also been skipped because of poor grass quality, they will be baled next week.
7. At stocking rate of 3.9 cows /ha, a 16kg per cow grass allowance and an 18 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1125kg DM/ ha ( $3.9 \times 16 \times 18 = 1125$ ).
8. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.4cm.
9. Rotation length 19 days.
10. 30 units of N being spread on grazed paddocks.
11. Submission rate of 78% after third week of breeding season.
12. Average milk yield is 17.75kg at 3.99% fat and 3.11% protein (1.26kg MS/cow), lactose 4.77%, SCC 338k, TBC 34k.

**C. Critical short term actions :**

- 1kg of concentrate.
- Allocating grass on a 24hr basis.
- Cows moved when residual is reached.

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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             |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Stocking rate (cows/ha)</b> | <b>3.1</b> | <b>4.6</b>            |
| Milk yield (kg/cow/day)        | 17.75      | 17.86                 |
| % Fat                          | 4.42       | 4.32                  |
| % Protein                      | 3.19       | 2.95                  |
| % Lactose                      | 4.78       | 4.82                  |
| Milk solids (kg/cow/day)       | 1.33       | 1.29                  |
| Supplement (kg/cow/day)        |            |                       |
| Concentrate                    | 2          | 4                     |
| Silage                         | 0          | 0                     |
| <b>Cumulative</b>              |            |                       |
| Milk yield (kg/cow)            | 1861       | 1862                  |
| % Fat                          | 4.58       | 4.55                  |
| % Protein                      | 3.27       | 3.17                  |
| % Lactose                      | 4.79       | 4.82                  |
| Milk solids (kg/cow)           | 145        | 143                   |
| Bodyweight (kg)                | 452        | 441                   |
| Body Condition Score           | 2.76       | 2.79                  |
| Supplement (kg/cow)            | 265        | 376                   |
| Mean Calving Date              |            | 4 <sup>th</sup> March |

