

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 27/7/2009

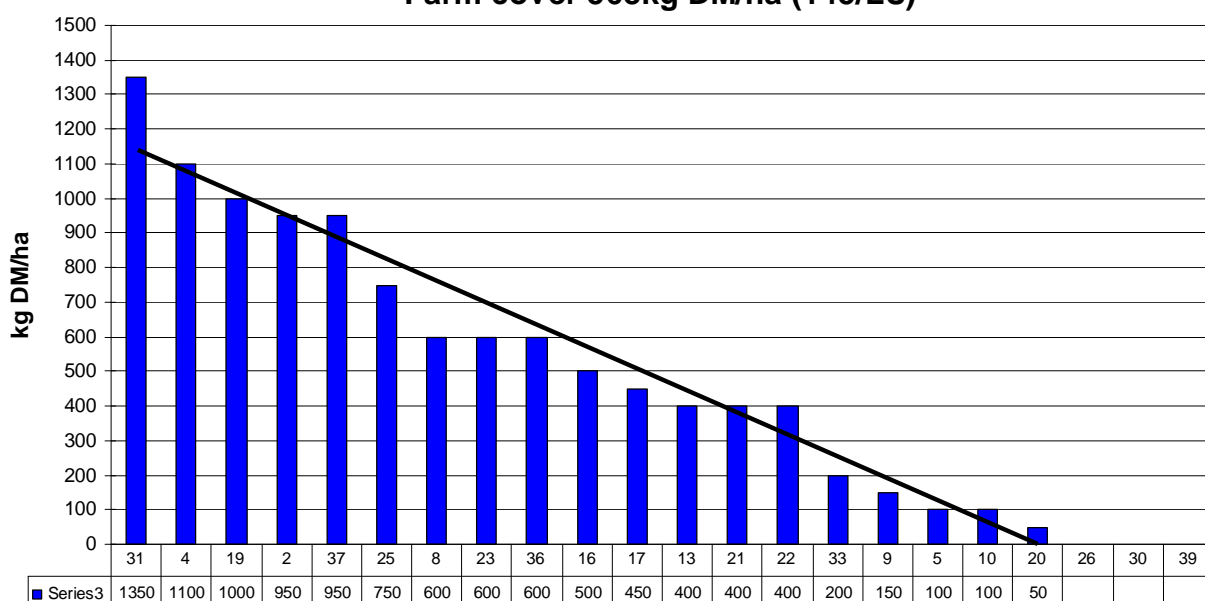
A. Critical Issues

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 15.5°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 27.6mm
3. Average growth was 65kgDM/ha/day, (14% DM)
4. Demand is 62kgDM/ha/day (3.9SR * 16kgDM/cow/day).
5. Grass supply is on target (145 vs. 150/cow)
6. Farm feed wedge (27/7/09)

Farm cover 568kg DM/ha (145/LU)



7. The wedge is showing plenty of grass on the farm this week. Paddocks 26, 30 and 39 will be baled this week reducing the stocking rate to 3.1cows/ha. These paddocks all have covers in excess of 2500kgDm/ha and will be baled as soon as weather permits.
8. 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 1120kg DM/ ha (3.9*16*18= 1120).
9. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.9cm.
10. Rotation length 16 days.
11. 20 units of N are being spread on grazed paddocks. Total N usage to the first of July is 160kg/ha.
12. Submission rate of 82% after third week of breeding season.

13. Average milk yield is 16.77kg at 4.63% fat and 3.40% protein (1.33kg MS/cow), lactose 4.71%, SCC 184k, TBC 26k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- 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:26/7/09 | HG system | HS system |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Stocking rate (cows/ha) | 3.1 | 4.6 |
| Milk yield (kg/cow/day) | 16.77 | 18.44 |
| % Fat | 4.63 | 4.18 |
| % Protein | 3.40 | 3.37 |
| % Lactose | 4.71 | 4.75 |
| Milk solids (kg/cow/day) | 1.33 | 1.38 |
| Supplement (kg/cow/day) | | |
| Concentrate | 0.5 | 2 |
| Silage | 0 | 0 |
| Cumulative | | |
| Milk yield (kg/cow) | 2748 | 2846 |
| % Fat | 4.54 | 4.48 |
| % Protein | 3.31 | 3.2 |
| % Lactose | 4.77 | 4.79 |
| Milk solids (kg/cow) | 215 | 218 |
| Bodyweight (kg) | 481 | 462 |
| Body Condition Score | 2.82 | 2.77 |
| Supplement (kg/cow) | 309 | 490 |
| Mean Calving Date | | 4 th March |

