

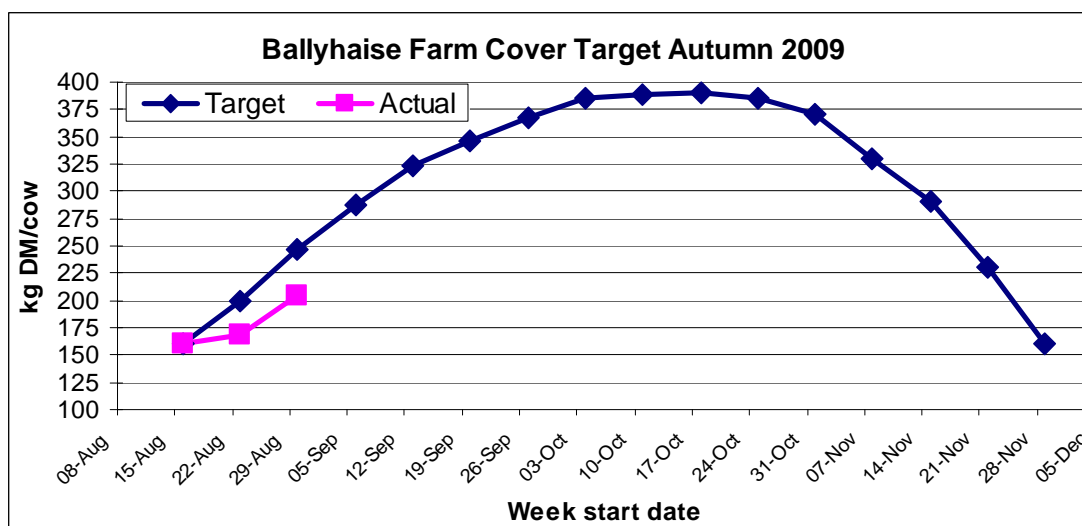
Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 31/8/2009

A. Critical Issues

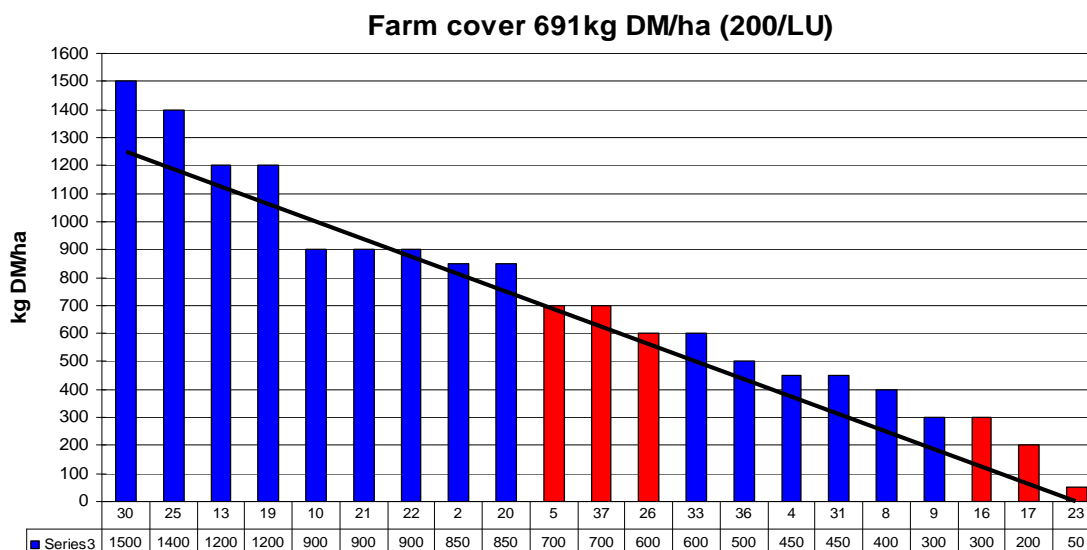
1. **Don't poach.**
2. **Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm.**
3. **Ensure cows are getting better fed each week.**

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 16°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 25mm.
3. Average growth was 58kgDM/ha/day, (13% DM).
4. Demand is 42kgDM/ha/day (3.48SR * 12kgDM/cow/day).
5. Grass supply is below target (200 vs. 250/cow).
6. Feeding 2kg of concentrate and 2kg of bale silage.
7. Autumn budget.



8. Farm feed wedge (31/8/09).



9. Farm cover is well behind budget this week. This is due to very low growth rates on the low parts of the farm which were flooded for several days last week. This 3ha block of the 20ha farmlet (15% of the area) had a growth rate of 0kgDM/ha for the last two weeks. This means that our stocking rate is effectively 3.5cows/ha.
10. Feeding 2kg of concentrate and 2kg of bale silage to help build covers further.
11. Grass is allocated in 12 hour blocks to minimise poaching. On / off grazing during wet weather to minimise pasture damage.
12. The red paddocks on the wedge are the wettest paddocks on the farm, they will be grazed first during dry periods once they are in the top third of the wedge. This will help minimise pasture damage on these paddocks during wet periods.
13. At a stocking rate of 3.5 cows /ha, a 12kg per cow grass allowance and a 30 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1260kg DM/ ha ($3.5 \times 12 \times 30 = 1260$).
14. Rotation length is 28 days. A peak rotation length of 45 days should be reached around the 20th of September.
15. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 4.5cm.
16. 27 units of N spread on grazed paddocks once every 10 days. Total N usage to the beginning of August is 182kg/ha.
17. Submission rate of 82% after third week of breeding season.
18. Average milk yield is 16.34kg at 4.36% fat and 3.63% protein (1.31kg MS/cow), lactose 4.68%, SCC 222k, TBC 48k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 12hr blocks.
- 2kg conc and 2kg of bale silage being fed.

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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:30/8/09 | HG system | HS system |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Stocking rate (cows/ha) | 3.1 | 4.6 |
| Milk yield (kg/cow/day) | 16.34 | 17.82 |
| % Fat | 4.36 | 4.48 |
| % Protein | 3.63 | 3.49 |
| % Lactose | 4.68 | 4.67 |
| Milk solids (kg/cow/day) | 1.31 | 1.41 |
| Supplement (kg/cow/day) | | |
| Concentrate | 3 | 6 |
| Silage | 0 | 0 |
| Cumulative | | |
| Milk yield (kg/cow) | 3327 | 3454 |
| % Fat | 4.52 | 4.45 |
| % Protein | 3.35 | 3.26 |
| % Lactose | 4.76 | 4.77 |
| Milk solids (kg/cow) | 261 | 266 |
| Bodyweight (kg) | 461 | 453 |
| Body Condition Score | 2.75 | 2.78 |
| Supplement (kg/cow) | | |
| Concentrate | 366 | 654 |
| Silage | 60 | 110 |
| Maize | 0 | 180 |
| Conserved silage (kg DM/cow) | 831 | 126 |
| Mean Calving Date | | 4 th March |