

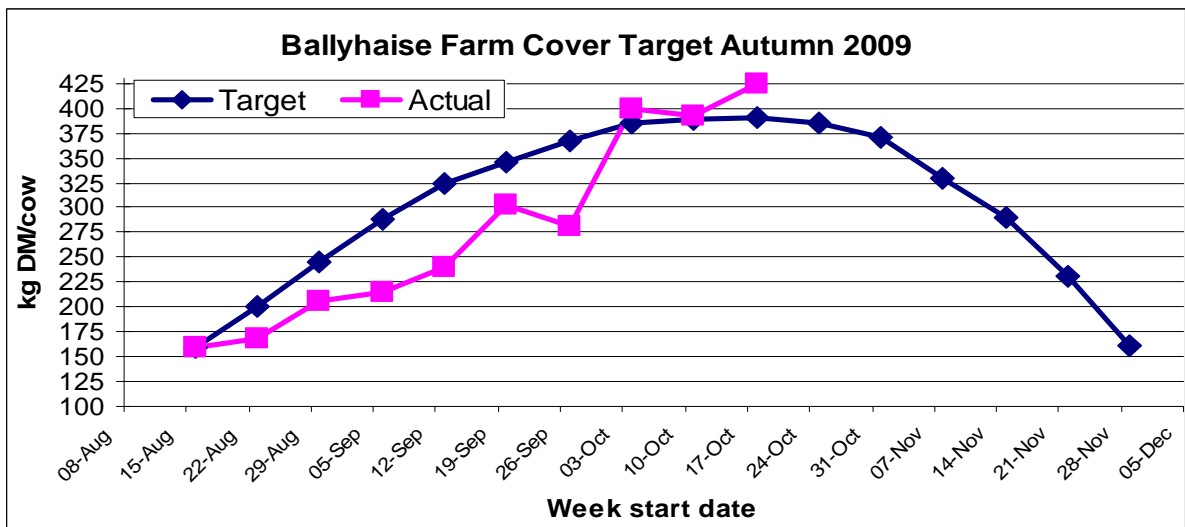
Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 19/10/2009

A. Critical Issues

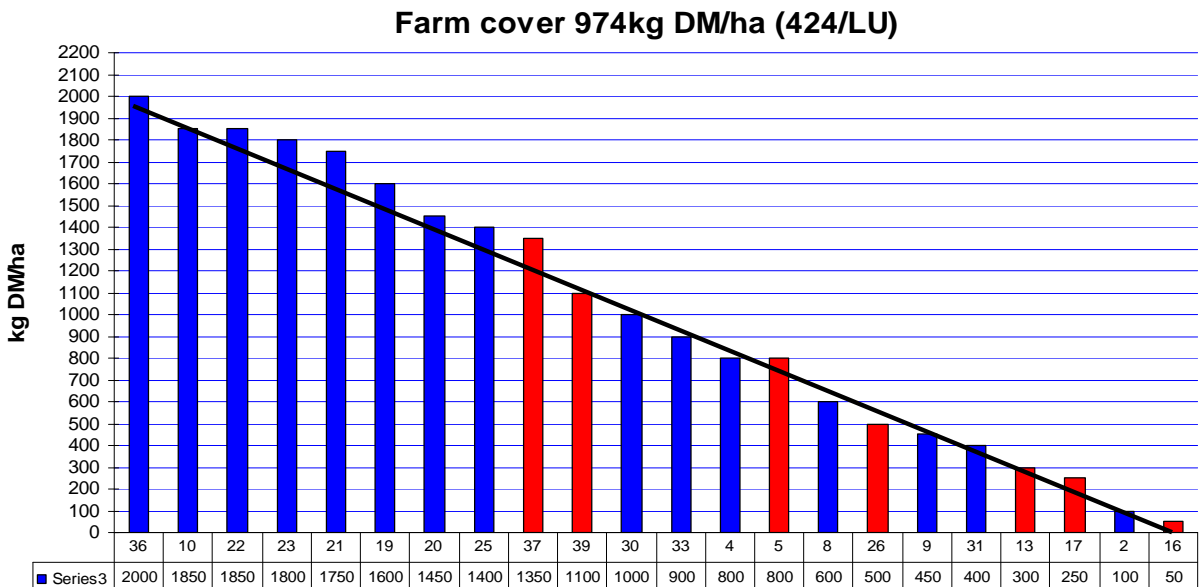
1. Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm.
2. Ensure cows are getting better fed each week.

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 11.7°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 11.3mm.
3. Average growth was 47kgDM/ha/day, (14% DM).
4. Demand is 30kgDM/ha/day (2.29SR * 13kgDM/cow/day).
5. Grass supply is above target (424 vs. 390/cow).
6. Feeding 1kg of concentrate.
7. Autumn budget.



8. Farm feed wedge (19/10/09).



9. Empty cows and cull cows have been sold off on the 6th of October. This reduces the stocking rate on the farm to 2.29 cows/ha. We felt this was our best option as it avoids feeding excessive levels of expensive concentrates to maintain rotation length. Also, since silage supplies are below budget we want to minimise the amount of silage fed before drying off.
10. 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.
11. We have started to close up the farm from the 10th of October. The target is to have 30% of the area closed by the 25th of October and have 60% closed by the 5th of November. We have 16% of the farm closed to date.
12. Rotation length is 45 days.
13. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.5cm.
14. Total N usage for the year is 257kg/ha.
15. Cows were scanned last week. 18% empty rate after 12 weeks of breeding. The six week in-calf rate is 57%.
16. Average milk yield is 12.32kg at 5.09% fat and 4.0% protein (1.1kg MS/cow), lactose 4.59%, SCC 263k, TBC 2k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 12hr blocks.
- On/off grazing during wet conditions.
- 1kg concentrate being fed.

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Objective of Dairy Production Research in the Northeast:

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	2009
Grazing season (days)	226	271	280	
Herd EBI (€)	28	51	55	
Stocking Rate (Cows/ha)	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.1
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	57
Farm Profit (30 ha)	37,417	56,182	-	

Week:4/10/09	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	12.32	15.0
% Fat	5.09	4.97
% Protein	4.0	3.89
% Lactose	4.59	4.49
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.1	1.32
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	1	4
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3882	4096
% Fat	4.56	4.50
% Protein	3.41	3.33
% Lactose	4.74	4.74
Milk solids (kg/cow)	308	320
(kg/ha)	952	1,445
Bodyweight (kg)	495	487
Body Condition Score	2.89	2.84
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	528	849
Silage	93	210
Maize	0	180
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	831	126
Mean Calving Date		4 th March

