

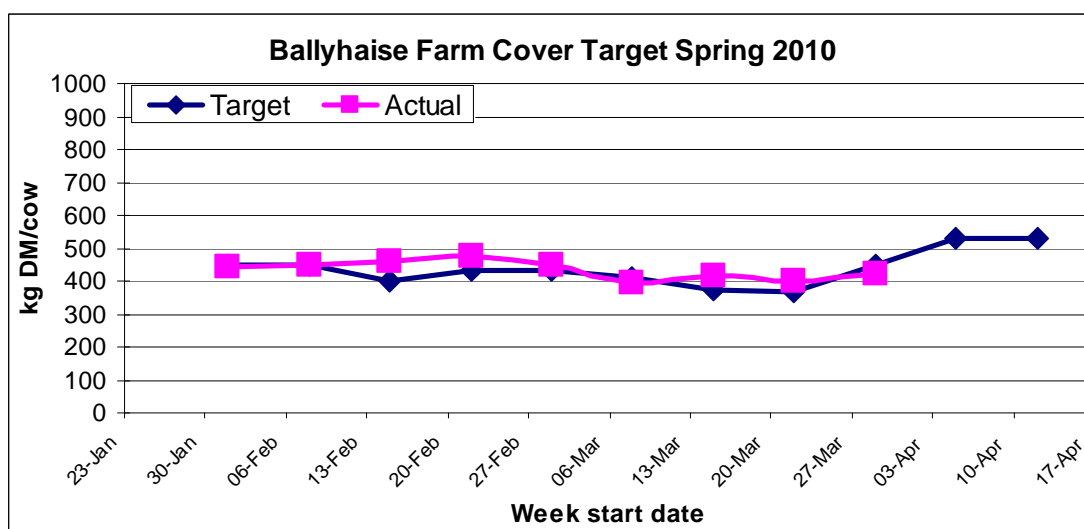
Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 29/3/2010

A. Critical Issues

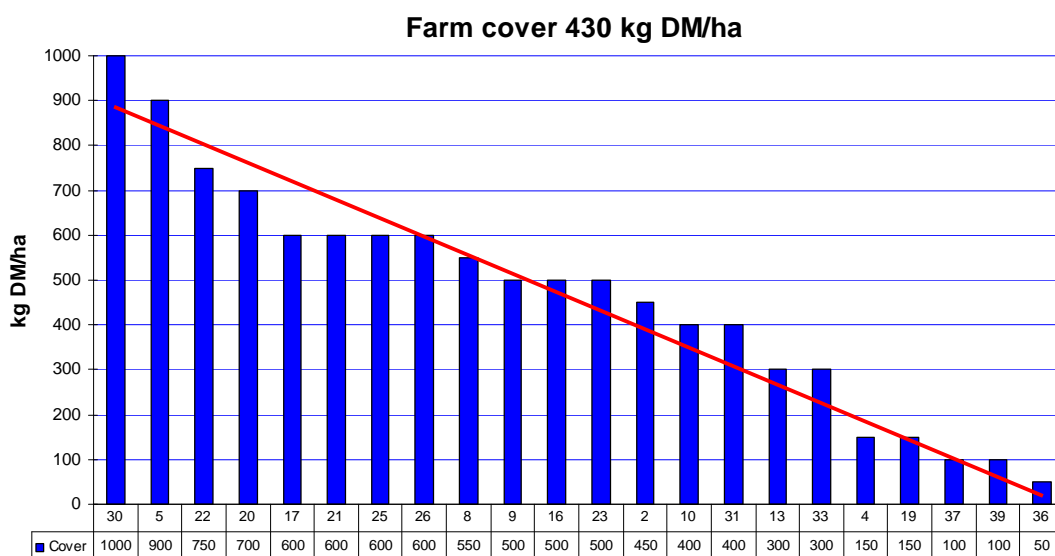
1. Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm.
2. Ensure cows are getting better fed each week.
3. Minimise risk of mastitis infection around calving.

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 7°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 20mm.
3. Average growth was 16kgDM/ha/day, (20% DM).
4. Feeding 6kg of concentrate.
5. Spring budget.



6. Farm feed wedge (29/3/10).



7. Farm cover is low due very low spring growth rates. The opening cover on the farm was 475kg DM / ha. The closing cover last autumn was 540kg DM / ha. This cover was lost due to flooding off 15% of the area in November followed by heavy snow and low over winter temperatures. Paddocks 37, 39 and 4 had covers of 1400kg in November but were not grazed due to flooding. These paddocks were grazed in early January with dry cows to remove the dead material
8. Feeding 6kg of concentrate and 3kg of silage to maintain intake at 16kg DM / cow per day.
9. 12.43 ha grazed to date (62% of total area). This is on target with spring rotation planner. This week's allocation is 0.55ha per day, this will give a grass intake of 10kg/ cow. Silage will be removed from diet if conditions are favourable.
10. Average milk yield is 18.5kg at 5.02% fat and 3.04% protein (1.5kg MS/cow), lactose 4.76%, SCC 310k, TBC 26k.
11. Six cows with high cell counts have been CMT tested and quarter sampled. They have been removed from tank and are being used to feed calves.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 12hr blocks.
- On/off grazing during wet conditions.
- Cows calved on paddocks to reduce incidence of mastitis.

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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:29/03/10	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	18.5	16.58
% Fat	5.02	5.14
% Protein	3.04	3.05
% Lactose	4.74	4.8
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.5	1.32
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	6	6
Silage	3	6
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	627	607
% Fat	4.76	4.99
% Protein	3.24	3.34
% Lactose	4.64	4.75
Milk solids (kg/cow)	50	50
Bodyweight (kg)	452	443
Body Condition Score	2.9	2.9
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	123	139
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	110	87
Maize (kg DM/cow)	0	82
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	817	126
Total silage fed (kg DM/cow)	930	1233