

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 23/8/2010

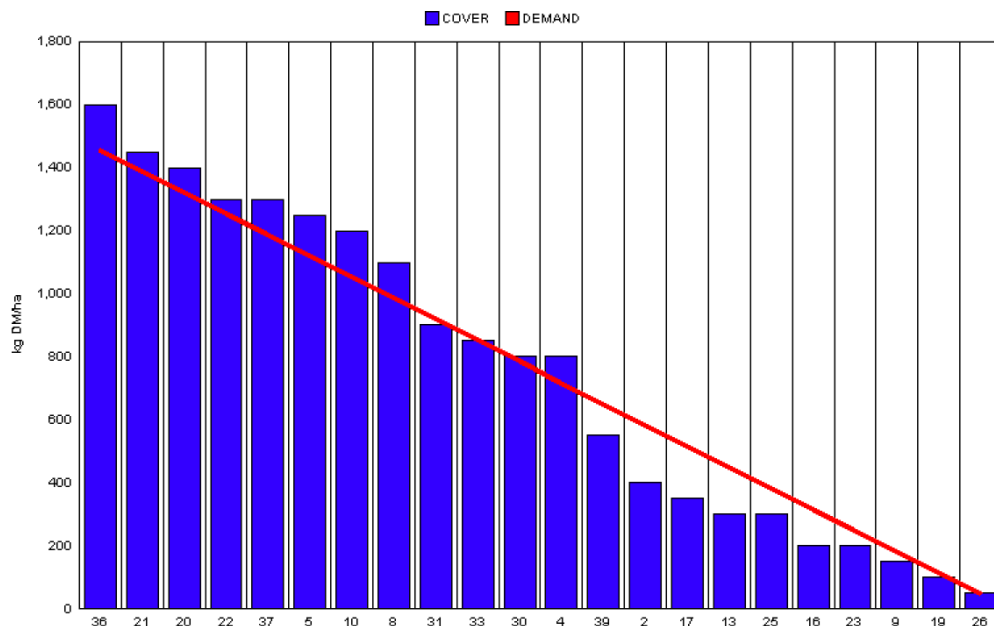
A. Critical Issues

1. Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm.
2. Monitor soil conditions to reduce risk of poaching.
3. Treat high SCC cows and reduce risk of cross infection.

B. On farm situation

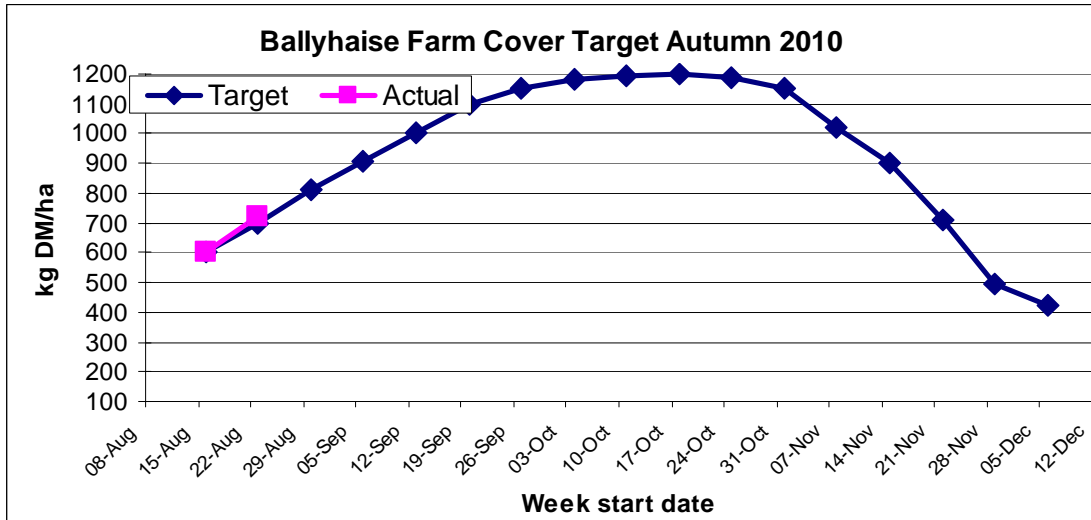
1. Soil temperature today is 15°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 40.6mm.
3. Average growth was 84kgDM/ha/day, (14% DM).
4. Farm feed wedge (16/8/10).

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced 24-AUG-10	
Farm : Ballyhaise Farm		Ballyhaise BMW region systems comparison	
Date : 23-AUG-10		Treatment : 3.1 stocking rate	
Rotation Length :	28	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	720
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	229
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	.5	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.14
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	84
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	50
Residual Height :	4.2	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1458
Total Livestock :	63		



5. Growth rate has increased this week to 84kg DM/ha/day from 51kg last week. Nitrogen fertiliser was not applied for 10 days before last Tuesday and the farm was starting to look deficient. 27 units of N were applied to all paddocks that were baled or grazed over that period. The whole farm is available for grazing which means that the demand is only 50 kg DM / ha/ day. As seen in

the graph below the farm cover is on target with our autumn budget. If growth rate continues at 85 kg for the coming week we will be ahead of target next week and surpluses will be removed. However growth will probably drop over the coming week as soils are beginning to become waterlogged. This will also affect utilisation and residuals will inevitably rise.



6. Rotation length is 24 days. This should increase to 30 days by the end of August and should reach a peak of 45 days by the 20th of September. The demand line on the wedge is based on a 28 day rotation.
7. All paddocks that have been grazed this week are getting 27 units of CAN.
8. SCC has increased dramatically last week (357). There have been no cases of clinical mastitis this week. We CMT tested 10 high SCC cows, 6 of these were removed from the herd, treated and milked separately last week.
9. Cows were tail painted on the 10th of April. Mating start date was the 10th of May for the cows and the 5th of May for the heifers. 24 day submission rate is 90% (57 cows out of 63). Bulls were introduced on week seven of the breeding season and breeding commenced last week (13 weeks). Scanned last week, 68% confirmed in-calf for first 8 week period. This is disappointing considering submission rate was good.
10. Weighed and Dosed heifers for worms last week, average weight 350kg. They will need to 90% of mature weight (500kg) at calving down or 450kg. This means they need to gain 100kgs in 190 days or 0.52kgs /day. This is achievable even though grass quality tends to be a problem on the heifer block as much of the area is too rough to remove surpluses as silage. Heifers also scanned 39 out of 40 in-calf in six week period.
11. Average milk yield is 17.4kg at 4.49% fat and 3.74% protein (1.42kg MS/cow), lactose 4.60%, SCC 357k, TBC 12k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Monitor residuals closely to ensure cows are being well fed.
- Graze wetter parts of the farm during dry periods even if they are not next on the wedge.
- Treat high SCC cows and milk separately.
- Move heifers and calves to fresh grass every 3-4 days.

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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 Ending :22/08/10	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	17.4	16.37
% Fat	4.49	4.25
% Protein	3.74	3.63
% Lactose	4.60	4.60
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.42	1.28
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	0.5	6
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3515	3591
% Fat	4.33	4.29
% Protein	3.41	3.41
% Lactose	4.79	4.81
Milk solids kg/cow (kg/ha)	271 (850)	276 (1186)
Bodyweight (kg)	471	481
Body Condition Score	2.95	2.99
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	338	617
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	158	188
Maize (kg DM/cow)	0	114
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	817	126
Total silage fed (kg DM/cow)	930	1233

