

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 6/9/2010

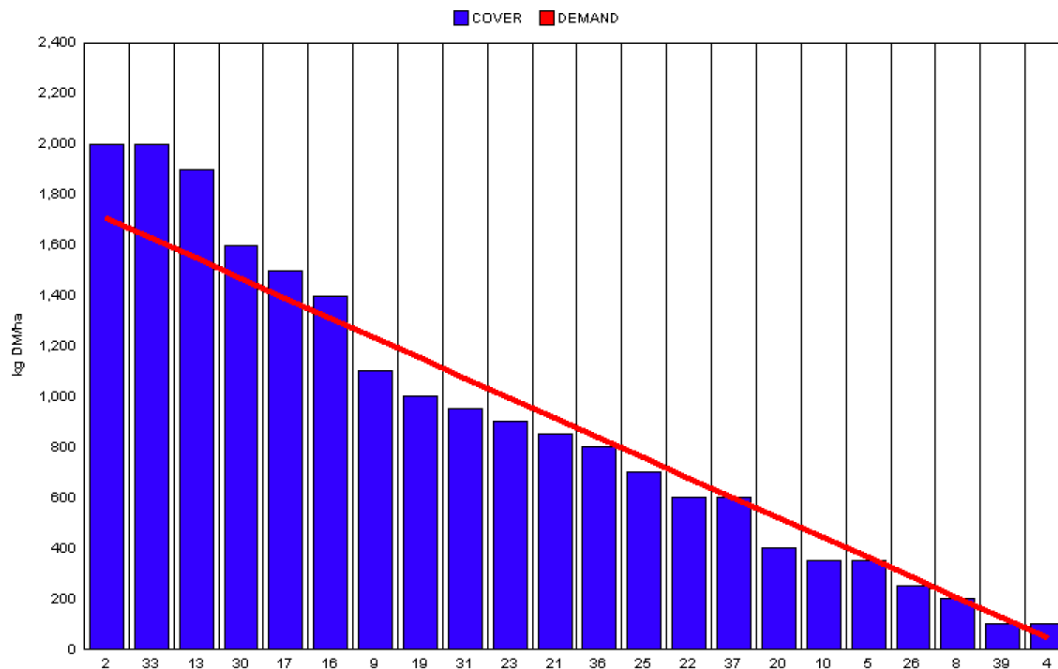
A. Critical Issues

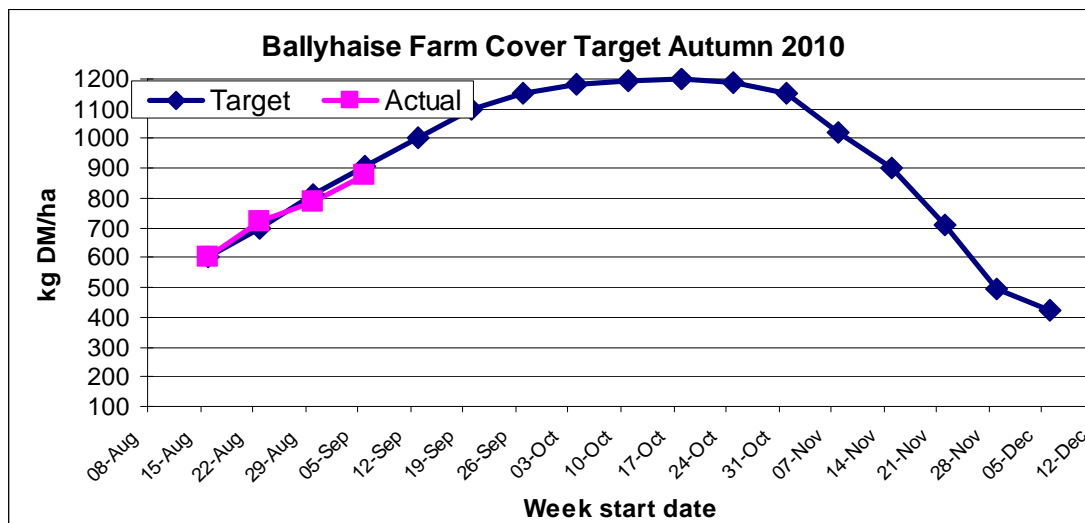
1. Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm.
2. Monitor soil conditions to reduce risk of poaching.
3. Treat high SCC cows and reduce risk of cross infection.

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 15.5°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 50.3mm.
3. Average growth was 86kgDM/ha/day, (12% DM).
4. Feeding 1 kg of concentrate.
5. Farm feed wedge (06/09/10).

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced 07-SEP-10	
Farm : Ballyhaise Farm		Ballyhaise BMW region systems comparison	
Date : 06-SEP-10		Treatment : 3.1 stocking rate	
Rotation Length :	33	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	876
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	279
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 :	86
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	50
Residual Height :	4.2	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1709
Total Livestock :	63		





6. Growth rate has increased from 60kg DM / ha last week to 86kg DM / ha this week. We anticipated this surge in growth last Thursday and removed paddock 4 (0.85 ha) and a third of paddock 31 (0.37ha) as bale silage. This has resulted in the farm cover being slightly below target for this week (876kg DM /ha vs 910kg DM /ha).
7. With heavy rain forecast for this week we skipped over paddocks 33, 2 and 13 in order to graze paddock 39 which is prone to flooding. This has resulted in the pre-grazing yield being above target on these paddocks. Heavy rain on Sunday night (40mm) has led to some flooding but most of the paddocks with heavy covers are on the higher parts of the farm.
8. Rotation length is 33 days. This should increase to reach a peak of 45 days by the 20th of September. The demand line on the wedge is based on a 33 day rotation.
9. Milk yield has recovered this week and solids percentages are remaining satisfactory.
10. All paddocks will receive 30units of N in the form of urea over the next week
11. 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 after 13 weeks. Scanned last week, 68% confirmed in-calf for first 8 week period. This is disappointing considering submission rate was good. Final scanning will be done next week.
12. Weighed and Dosed heifers for worms on the 2nd of August, average weight 360kg. 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

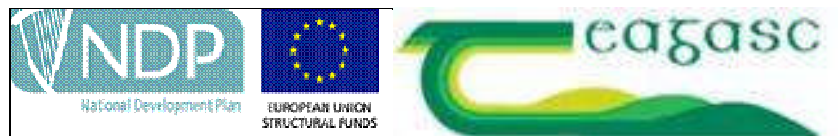
is achievable even though grass quality tends to be a problem on the heifer block as much of the area is too rough to remove surpluses as silage. Heifers also scanned 39 out of 40 in-calf in six week period.

13. Average milk yield is 16.47kg at 4.31% fat and 3.78% protein (1.32kg MS/cow), lactose 4.61%, SCC 280k, 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 :05/09/10	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	16.47	17.25
% Fat	4.31	4.39
% Protein	3.78	3.66
% Lactose	4.61	4.63
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.32	1.38
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	0.5	5
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3700	3815
% Fat	4.33	4.28
% Protein	3.43	3.42
% Lactose	4.78	4.79
Milk solids kg/cow (kg/ha)	286 (898)	294 (1281)
Bodyweight (kg)	488	472
Body Condition Score	2.89	2.97
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	412	787
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

