

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 13/9/2010

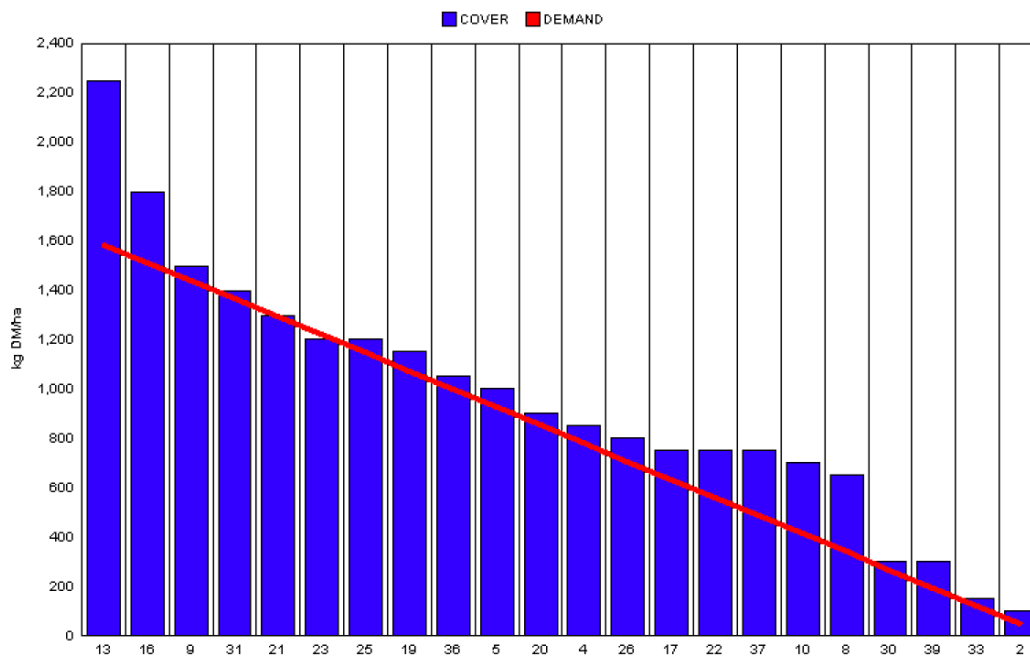
A. Critical Issues

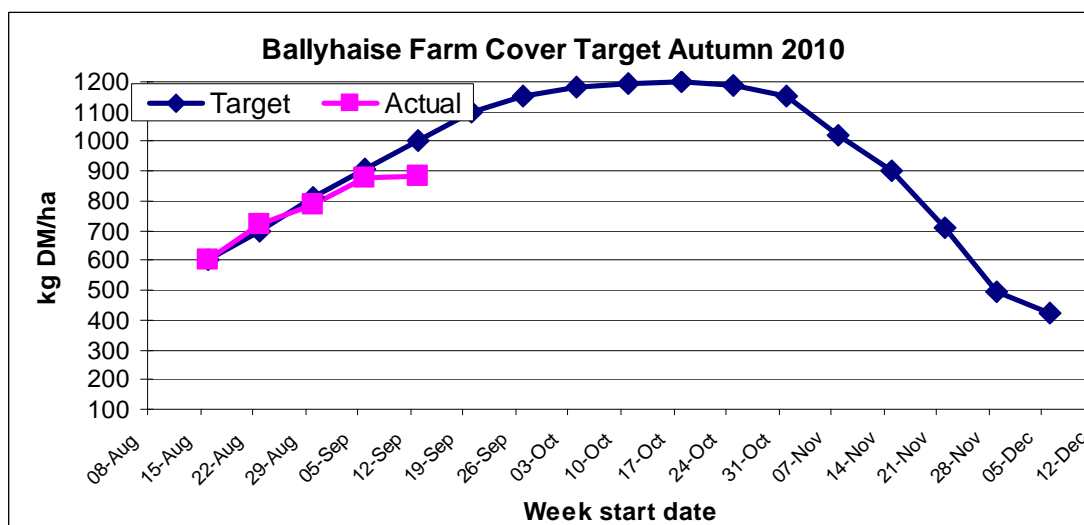
1. Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm.
2. Monitor soil conditions to reduce risk of poaching.
3. Treat high SCC cows and reduce risk of cross infection.

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 14.9°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 62.7mm.
3. Average growth was 56kgDM/ha/day, (12% DM).
4. Feeding 2 kg of concentrate.
5. Farm feed wedge (13/09/10).

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced 17-SEP-10	
Farm : Ballyhaise Farm	Ballyhaise BMW region systems comparison		
Date : 13-SEP-10	Treatment : 3.1 stocking rate		
Rotation Length :	35	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	882
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	14	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	281
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	2	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 :	56
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	44
Residual Height :	4.2	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1590
Total Livestock :	63		





6. Growth rate has decreased this week 56kg DM / ha from 86 kg DM /ha last week. This was due to falling soil temperatures and heavy rainfall which caused flooding of part of the farm early last week (15% of area). The majority of this area had been grazed off before the flooding, apart from one paddock with a cover of 1400 kg DM / ha which will have to be grazed as soon as conditions allow.
7. As can be seen in the graph above we are now behind budget. Two kilos of concentrate are being introduced to reduce demand to 44kg DM /ha.
8. Skipping out of the rotation to graze the low lying areas has led to higher than ideal covers building on other parts of the farm (paddocks 16 and 13). This cannot be avoided and 12 hour allocation of grass is required in order to reach acceptable residuals.
9. Rotation length is 39 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 35 day rotation.
10. Milk yield has recovered this week and solids percentages are remaining satisfactory.
11. All paddocks have received 30units of N in the form of urea.
12. 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.

13. Average milk yield is 15.42kg at 4.51% fat and 3.66% protein (1.25kg MS/cow), lactose 4.63%, SCC 286k, TBC 20k.

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 :12/09/10	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	15.42	16.65
% Fat	4.51	4.59
% Protein	3.66	3.63
% Lactose	4.63	4.65
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.25	1.36
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	1	6
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3808	3931
% Fat	4.34	4.29
% Protein	3.43	3.43
% Lactose	4.77	4.79
Milk solids kg/cow (kg/ha)	295 (926)	303 (1321)
Bodyweight (kg)	488	472
Body Condition Score	2.89	2.97
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	420	822
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

