

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes – Monday 25/07/2011

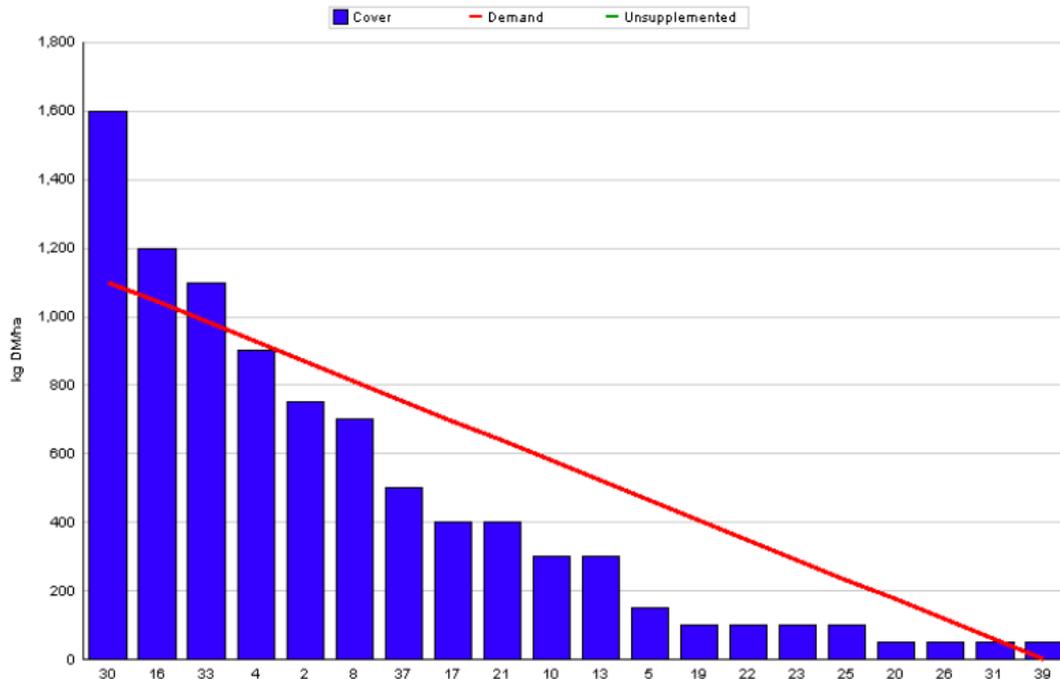
A. Critical Issues

1. **Maintain residual at 3.5cm.**
2. **Monitor grass quality and remove surpluses.**
3. **Monitor stock bulls.**

B. On farm situation

1. Average growth was 88kg DM/ha/day, (16% DM).
2. Demand is 52kgDM/ha/day (3.38 SR * 15.5 kg DM /cow / day).
3. Average soil temperature for the past week was 16°C.
4. Total rainfall for the past week was 6 mm.
5. Farm feed wedge (25/7/11).

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced 28-JUL-11	
Farm : Ballyhaise Farm		Ballyhaise BMW region systems comparison	
Date : 25-JUL-11		Treatment : 3.1 stocking rate	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	456
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	15.5	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	135
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	.5	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.38
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Growth Rate :	88
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	52
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1100
Residual Height :	3.5		
Total Livestock (LU) :	62		



6. Growth rate this week was 88kg DM / ha which is higher than last week at 77kg DM / ha. This is well ahead of demand since all paddocks apart from two reseeded paddocks are now back in the grazing rotation. Farm cover is below target but since pre-grazing yield is optimal in the next four paddocks and since growth rate should be ahead of demand this week this should not be a problem. Another cover will be done on Friday to see if further action is needed to maintain ideal pre-grazing yields of 1400 kg DM / ha.
7. There were four paddocks baled for silage this week with an average cover of 2200 kg DM / ha. Any surplus grass that arises over the next few weeks will be baled off at lower cover. This will allow greater flexibility and will maintain a low demand for building covers for autumn. This process will begin on the 15th of August.
8. Paddocks 36 and 9 were reseeded with Tyrella last week. The seedbed was prepared with two runs of a power harrow, the second run at right angles to the first and the seed was then broadcast and rolled. Three bags of 10-10-20 per acre and two tons of lime were applied.
9. Average post grazing residual for the week was 3.8cm.
10. Paddock residency time ranges from 24 to 48 hours.
11. Feeding 0.25 kg of concentrate.
12. Following cows with 18 units of N (Can) after grazing.
13. There have been 16 clinical cases of mastitis since calving started, 6 of these were first calving heifers. No new cases of mastitis this week. There are 4 cows with high SCC from milk recording. These cows have been CMT tested and high quarters have been tubed.
14. Started breeding season on the 10th of May with the milking cows. Submission rate for the first 24 days of breeding was 93%. Bulls used were-
FR – MWW, WNE, WDS, MJD.
JE – SYI, HWY, WFM, RVW, PKU, TIO.
15. This is week 12 of the breeding season, stock bulls were introduced 4 weeks ago. There are 3 bulls being used to cover the 120 cows. Two bulls are with the herd while one is rested, they are switched every 4 days. Bulls will be removed on the 7th of August, 13 week breeding period.
16. Average milk yield is 18.78kg at 4.32% fat and 3.67% protein (1.50kg MS/cow), lactose 4.77%, SCC 163k, TBC 3k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 36hr blocks.
- Feeding 0.25kg of concentrate.
- Monitor stock bull performance.

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Week:24/07/11	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	18.78	17.32
% Fat	4.32	4.69
% Protein	3.67	3.63
% Lactose	4.77	4.80
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.50	1.43
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	0.25	0.25
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	2966	2916
% Fat	4.46	4.48
% Protein	3.54	3.50
% Lactose	4.88	4.86
Milk solids (kg/cow)	237	232
Bodyweight (kg)	491	491
Body Condition Score	2.94	2.92
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	228	294
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	77	140
Maize (kg DM/cow)	0	0
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	725	189
Total silage fed (kg DM/cow)	1100	1400