

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes – Monday 08/08/2011

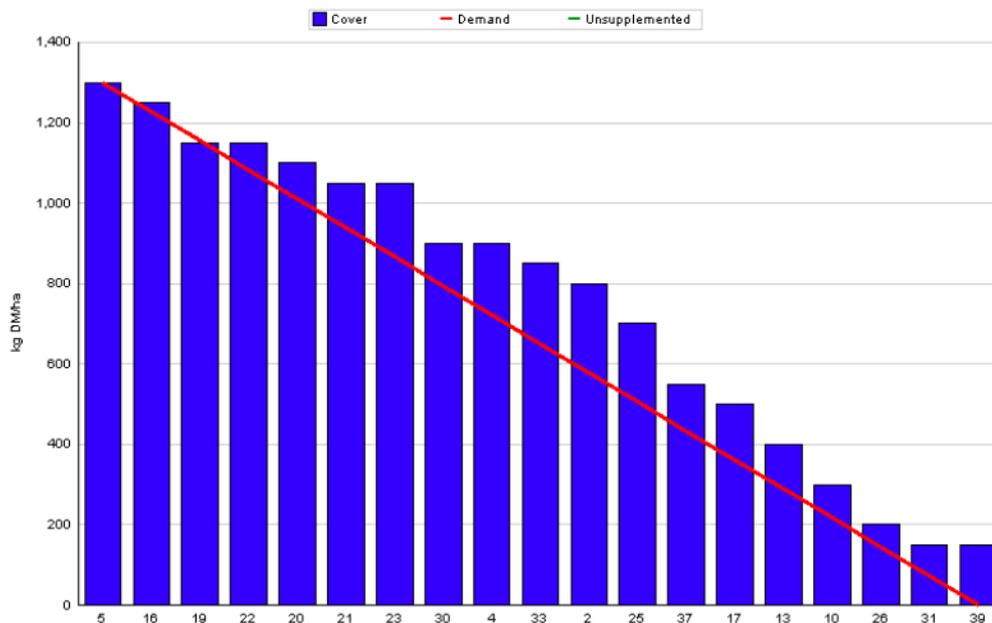
A. Critical Issues

1. **Maintain residual at 3.5cm.**
2. **Monitor grass quality and remove surpluses.**
3. **Start building autumn grass covers.**

B. On farm situation

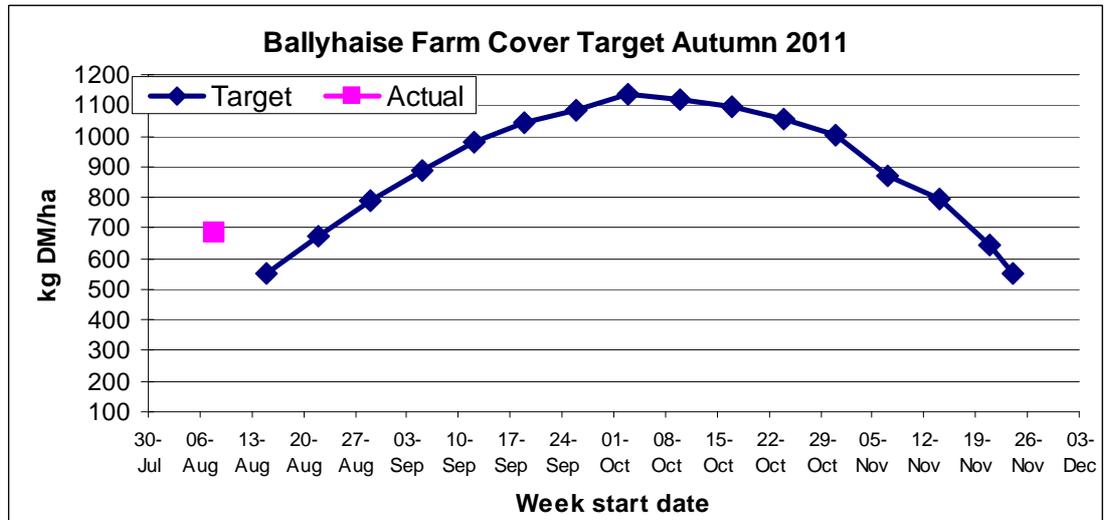
1. Average growth was 93kg DM/ha/day, (14% DM).
2. Demand is 56kgDM/ha/day (3.53 SR * 16 kg DM /cow / day).
3. Average soil temperature for the past week was 15.5°C.
4. Total rainfall for the past week was 26 mm.
5. Farm feed wedge (8/8/11).

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced 09-AUG-11	
Farm : Ballyhaise Farm		Ballyhaise BMW region systems comparison	
Date : 08-AUG-11		Treatment : 3.1 stocking rate	
Rotation Length :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	686
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	194
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.53
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	93
Residual Height :	3.5	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	56
Total Livestock (LU) :	62	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1299



6. Growth rate this week was 93kg DM / ha which is an increase from last week. As can be seen above there is a surplus emerging in the middle of the wedge. This is a result of the large difference between demand and growth rate over the last seven days. No action has been taken to reduce the farm cover as the pre-grazing yield is still within an acceptable range. Action will be taken next week to reduce the cover to 550kg DM / ha which is the target cover in the autumn budget below.

- This is the target average farm cover for each week over the autumn period. The target is to reach a peak average farm cover of 1100kg DM / ha in the first week of October. This will mean grazing pre-grazing covers of 2200kg DM / ha. The target closing cover is 550kg DM / ha, the first paddock closed on the 5th of October should have a cover of 1100kg DM / ha which will be carried over the winter for grazing next spring.



- Paddock 8 was 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.
- Current rotation length is 23 days, this will increase 30 days by the 1st of September and 45 days by the 15th of October.
- Paddocks 36 and 9 were reseeded with Tyrella on the 30th of July. 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.
- Average post grazing residual for the week was 3.8cm.
- Paddock residency time ranges from 24 to 48 hours.
- Following cows with 27 units of N (Can) after grazing.
- 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.
- 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.
- The stock bulls were removed on the 7th of August (13 week breeding period).
- The whole herd was scanned on the 29th of July. The six week in-calf rate is 58% and the 8 week in-calf rate is 72%. The maiden heifers have not been scanned yet.

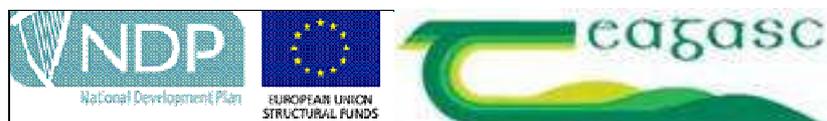
18. The average condition score of the herd has dropped from 2.95 last month to 2.85 this month. The % of the herd with a condition score of less than 2.75 has increased to 13% (8 out of 62). This will be monitored closely over the next few weeks.

19. Average milk yield is 17.43kg at 4.48% fat and 3.47% protein (1.38kg MS/cow), lactose 4.74%, SCC 134k, TBC 8k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 36hr blocks.
- Applying 27units of N / acre.
- Monitor condition score.

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Week:7/08/11	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	17.43	16.76
% Fat	4.48	4.52
% Protein	3.47	3.63
% Lactose	4.74	4.80
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.38	1.43
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	0.25	0.25
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3235	2916
% Fat	4.44	4.48
% Protein	3.53	3.50
% Lactose	4.87	4.86
Milk solids kg / cow (kg / ha)	257 (806)	232 (1064)
Bodyweight (kg)	478	491
Body Condition Score	2.85	2.92
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	236	308
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	77	140
Maize (kg DM/cow)	0	0

Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	763		189	
Total silage fed (kg DM/cow)	1100		1400	