

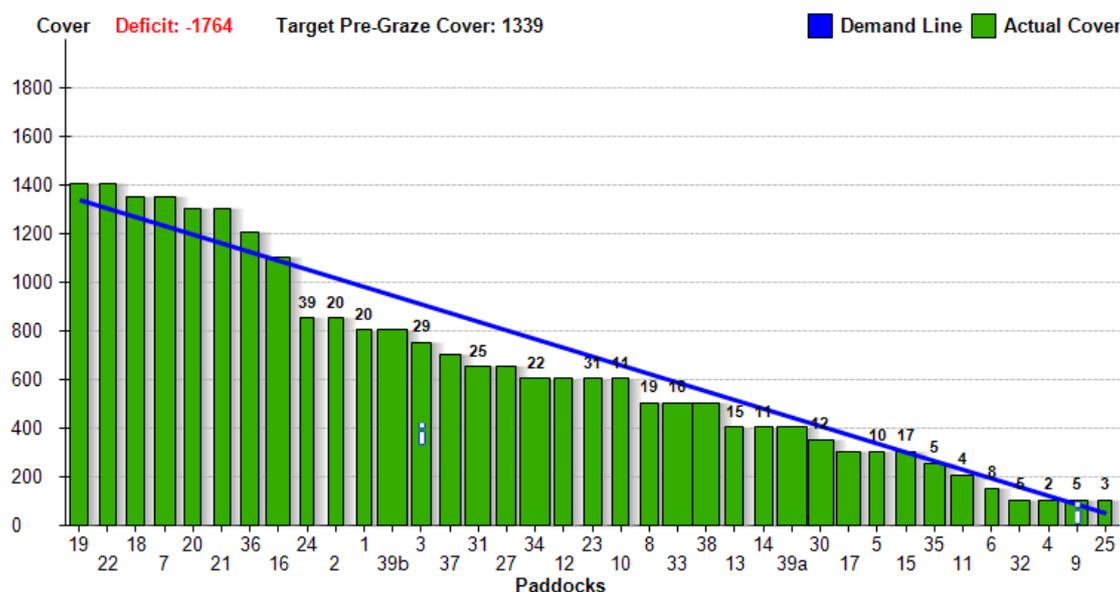
## Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 26/03/2011

### A. Critical Issues

1. Graze wet ground this week.
2. Minimise risk of mastitis infection around calving.
3. Ensure each calf receives adequate colostrum.

### B. On farm situation

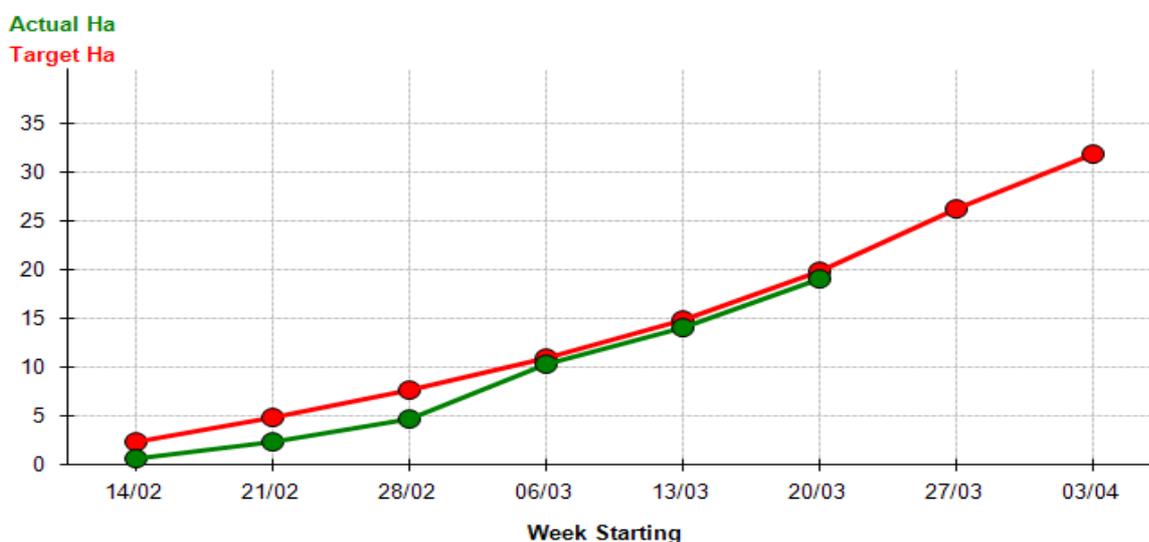
1. Soil temperature today is 8.5°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 2mm.
3. Average growth was 23kgDM/ha/day, (16% DM).
4. Feeding 3kg of concentrate.
5. Farm feed wedge (26/3/12).



6. Average farm cover is 629 Kg DM/ha. Farm cover has dropped back this week but growth rate is well ahead of normal for this time of year. Pre-grazing covers are ideal at 1400 kg DM/ha.
7. Grazing conditions are excellent so cows are grazing full paddocks. Last week cows were eating 12 kg DM of grass per day and 3kg of concentrate and grazing down to 4cm. The concentrate is 13% protein and 0.93UFL. Total allocation per cow is increasing this week to 16 kg DM/cow.
8. Second round of urea has been spread at a rate of 23 units per acre last week. Since ground conditions are good grazed paddocks are getting 1500gallons of very watery slurry from the lagoon over the past week.

## 9. Spring Rotation planner (26/03/12)

We are back on target for area grazed with 60% of the area grazed. Over the next week the target is to allocate 0.91 ha per day, which equates to 13kg DM of grass per cow per day. There is a good forecast for dry weather ahead so we'll use this opportunity to graze off the wetter parts of the farm even though they are at lower covers. This means we will be ahead of target on area grazed by next week. If week need to put in feed at that stage we will but the priority is to get the wet paddocks grazed off when conditions are good. This will depend on growth rate over the next week.



Week	Ha/Day	Target Ha Grazed	Target %	Actual Ha Grazed	Actual %
14/02 - 20/02	0.32	2	7	0.5	2
21/02 - 27/02	0.36	5	15	2	7
28/02 - 05/03	0.41	8	24	5	15
06/03 - 12/03	0.47	11	34	10	32
13/03 - 19/03	0.56	15	47	14	44
20/03 - 26/03	0.70	20	62	19	60
27/03 - 02/04	0.91	26	82		
03/04 - 09/04	1.32	35	111		

10. The planned start of calving was the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, there are 90 cows calved to date (76%). There are 91 live calves - 43 replacement heifers and 3 calves born dead. Four cows had to be assisted to date. We've had a lot of problems with scours in calves over the last week, 2 heifer calves have died as a result. Vet has diagnosed problem as cryptosporidium. All new calves are being treated.

11. The heifers are being calved on straw to minimise the risk of mastitis and the cows are being calved on a clean area on the pad. There are 27 heifers calved out of 29 to date.
12. No new cases of mastitis this week, there have been two cases to date.
13. Average milk yield is 24.1kg at 4.58% fat and 3.4% protein (1.92kg MS/cow), lactose 4.82%, SCC 179k, TBC 64k.

**C. Critical short term actions :**

- Allocating grass in full paddocks.
- Get wet paddocks grazed.
- 3kg concentrate being fed.
- Hygiene around calving.
- Colostrum to calves.

[www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/](http://www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/)

