

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 25/06/2011

A. Critical Issues

1. Protect soil from poaching.
2. Maintain grazing residuals at 4cm.
3. Monitor bull activity.

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 14°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 16mm.
3. Average growth was 65kgDM/ha/day, (17% DM).
4. Feeding 1kg of concentrate.
5. Farm feed wedge (25/06/12).

Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	16
Number of Cows :	60	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	554
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	163
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	1		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.41
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	65
Residual Height :	4	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	55
Total Livestock (LU) :	60	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1146



6. Growth has recovered this week and with most paddocks back in the rotation demand per ha has dropped back to 55 kg DM / ha / day. Grass quality is poor on a number of the next paddocks to be grazed as there have been no opportunities over the past month to remove these as bale silage.

7. Farm cover is 554 kg Dm / ha (163 kg DM / LU), and cows are grazing covers of 1300kg DM / ha.
8. Although rainfall amounts have been small ground conditions have deteriorated significantly since last week. Grass is being allocated with a strip wire during wet periods.
9. Paddocks 26 and 28 are both reseeded and have been both taken back into the rotation this week. Paddock 26 was sowed with Tyrella and Paddock 28 was sowed with Drumbo. Both paddocks were top dressed with 27 units of N last week and sprayed for weeds. They will be grazed this week if conditions dry up.
10. Stock bulls were introduced last week after 7 weeks of AI.
11. There are 37 replacement heifer calves weaned out of 41 to date. All calves weaned to date have been 80kg +, last batch averaged 88kg. Calves were dosed last week and moved to after grass with a cover of 900kg DM / ha. Calves are moved to fresh grass weekly. Feeding 1kg of meal per calf.
12. Bulling heifers were dosed last week for fluke and worms. Bulls will be taken away this week. All heifers got one round of AI and 6 weeks with the stock bull.
13. Production has dropped back this week with average milk yield of 21.3kg at 4.21% fat and 3.43% protein (1.67kg MS/cow), lactose 4.86%, SCC 110k, TBC 4k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 12 hr blocks.
- 1kg concentrates being fed.
- Close observation of Bull activity.

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