

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 05/11/2012

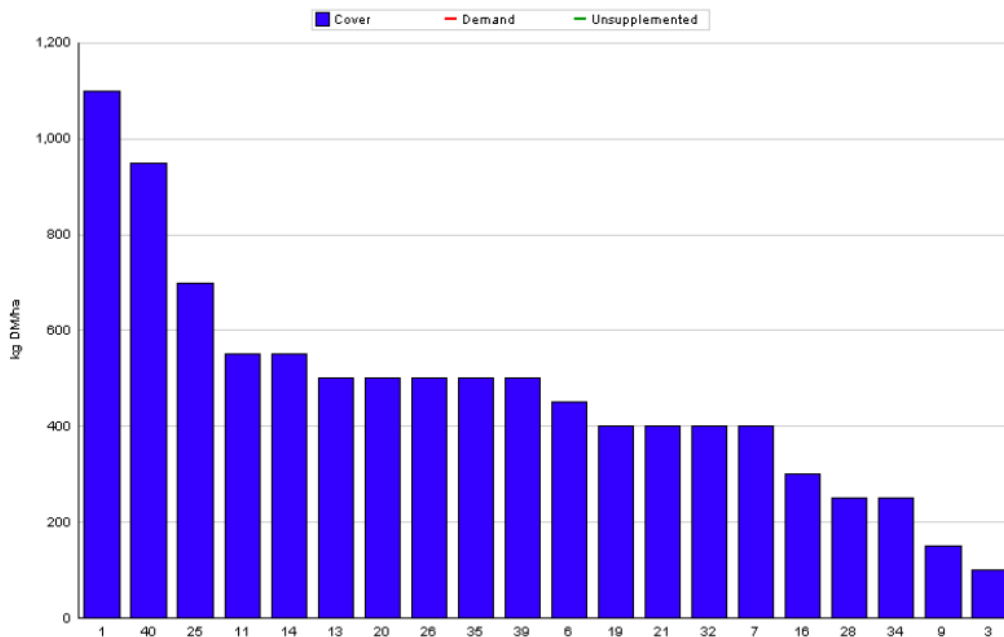
A. Critical Issues

1. Maintain cow condition.
2. Dry off early calving cows and heifers this week.
3. Treat high SCC cows before drying off.

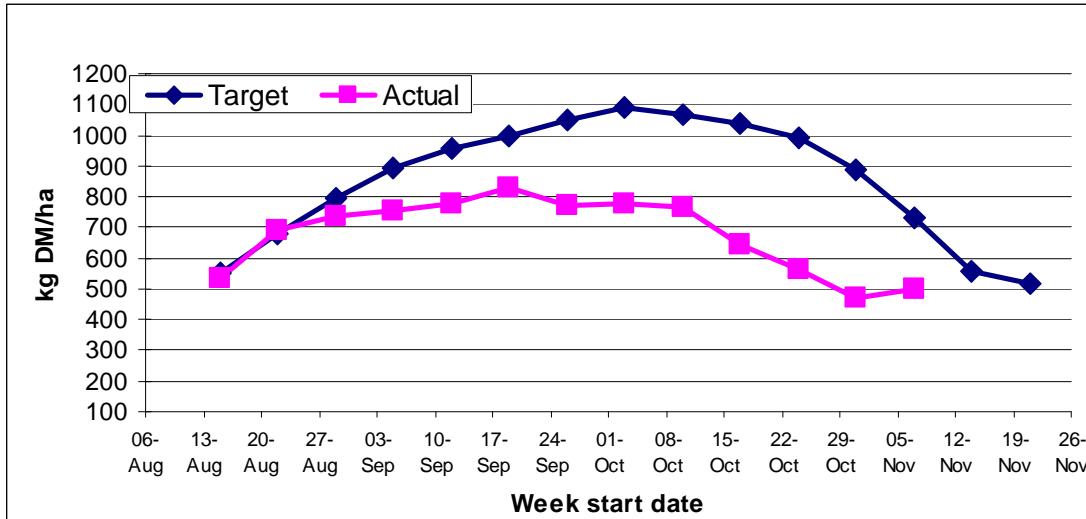
B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 5.7°C.
2. Total rainfall over the past seven days was 28.7mm.
3. Farm closed last week.
4. Average growth was 10kgDM/ha/day, (14% DM).
5. Feeding 4kg of concentrate and 12kg DM of silage.
6. Farm feed wedge (30/10/12).

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group :	TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS	Date Produced 05-NOV-12	
Farm :	Ballyhaise Farm	Ballyhaise calving date and genotype study 2012	
Date :	30-OCT-12	Treatment :	Holstien Fresian
Number of Cows : 58 Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) 0 Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : 4 Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) : 12 N Application Rate (units/acre) : N Application Rate (kg/ha) : Residual Height : 4 Total Livestock (LU) : 58		Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) : Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : 469 Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : 154 Stocking Rate (LU/ha) : 3.05 Growth Rate : 10 Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) : Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	



7. Farm cover is 470 kg DM / ha and highest cover is 1100 kg DM / ha.
8. Slurry was spread at a rate of 2500 gals per acre on 43% of the farm. All paddocks spread had less than 500 kg DM / ha cover.
9. Autumn Budget



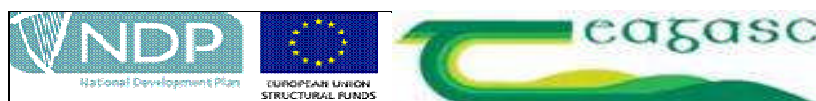
10. There were seven cows dried off last week and a further 6 will be dried off this week. We are using these cows to clean off some parts of paddocks that were poorly grazed during poor grazing conditions in the last round. There is a batch of 18 due for drying off on the 12th of November based on body condition score and expected calving date. There is 20% of the herd dry to date.
11. Currently feeding second cut pit silage which was tested at 66% DMD, 23%DM, UFL 0.73, PDI 67g. The intake capacity of this silage is 10.5kg DM per cow per day. First cut silage is better at 70% DMD, 25.8% DM, UFL 0.78, PDI 69 and an intake capacity of 11kg DM per cow per day.
12. Feeding 4kg of a winter ration at 18% protein and 0.94 UFL. This is sufficient feeding level to maintain milk yield and cow condition.
13. Length of dry period will be used to control condition score as apposed to feeding expensive concentrates to dry cows. Based on silage results cows will gain 0.25 BCS over a ten week dry period, therefore cows below BCS 3 will need 12 weeks dry to reach target BCS of 3.25 at calving. All first lactation animals will get 12 weeks dry minimum. Our main focus now is to reach target BCS at calving.
14. In-calf heifers are being fed ad-lib silage and 1.5kg of concentrate (same ration as cows). They will be weighed and condition scored next week and concentrate feeding levels will be stepped up if necessary.

15. Heifer calves are being fed 1kg of concentrate and ad-lib silage. They will be weighed and dosed for fluke, worms and lice next week.
16. Out-wintering pad has been re-chipped in preparation for winter. Four loads of chip were used costing €725 per load.
17. Full herd scan was done on the 30th of August. There were 8 cows empty out of 114 cows milking (7%) over a 13 week breeding season. The six week in-calf rate was 71% (81 cows); these are due to calve before the 22nd of March next year. There was one heifer empty out of 35 (3%) over a seven week breeding period. There are 25 heifers in-calf to first service (71%) and the rest were served with the stock bull. This is a total of 140 cows and heifers scanned in calf for next spring which will give us scope to do some voluntary culling.
18. Treated one high SCC cow this week that is due for drying off next week, showed no clinical signs of mastitis.
19. Production per cow this week was 9.8kg at 5.22% fat and 3.76% protein (0.88 kg MS/cow), lactose 4.47%, SCC 215k, TBC 9k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Condition score cows and dry off accordingly
- Treat high SCC animals before dry off
- Dose weanling heifers
- Dose in-calf heifers

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The herd is split on the bases of cow breed with 60 pure Friesian cows in one group and 56 crossbred cows in the other group.

Genetics 2012	Fr	Crossbred
EBI	142	148
Milk sub index	46	46
Fertility sub index	90	91
Milk kg	72	-26
Fat Kg	10	9
Fat %	0.14	0.2
Prot Kg	7	5.5
Prot %	0.09	0.13
Age profile (lactations)	3	2.7

Fertility 2012	Fr	Crossbred
EBI	142	148
Fertility sub index	90	91
24 day Submission rate (%)	90	91
Pregnancy rate to 1 st service (%)	48	56
42 day in-calf rate (%)	73	69
Straws per cow	1.75	1.74
13 week empty rate (%)	5	7

Week: 04/11/12	Fr	Crossbred
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.9	3.15
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	10.23	9.83
% Fat	5.18	5.70
% Protein	3.77	4.12
% Lactose	4.41	4.46
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	0.91	0.96
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	4	4
Silage	12	12
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	4511	4367
% Fat	4.51	4.75
% Protein	3.52	3.68
% Lactose	4.74	4.78
Milk solids (kg/cow)	360	367
Milk solids (kg/ha)	1,116	1,138
Body Condition Score	2.91	2.85
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	728	761
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	548	553
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	130	140
Sires	RUU, HZO, UYC TZD, CWJ, SBH	WAS, CJY, GHK KLK, ULK

* These are raw data and have not been statistically analysed.