

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 08/04/2013

A. Critical Issues

1. Feed supplements to extend first round to 15th April
2. Improve cow condition
3. Achieve grazing residual 3.5cm.

B. Whole farm situation

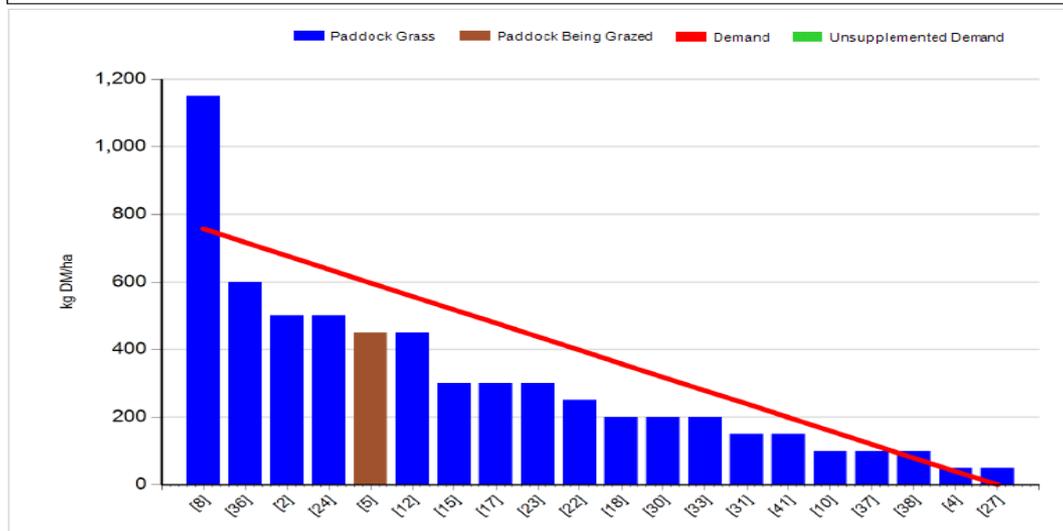
1. Soil temperature today is 4.5°C.
2. Total rainfall over the past seven days was 0mm.
3. Average growth was 7kgDM/ha/day, (25% DM).

C. 2013 Calving date trial

- The herd is split into two separate calving dates
- Early calving group – mean calving date is the 20th of Feb.
- Late calving group – mean calving date is the 10th of March.
- Stocking rate is 2.9 cows per ha for both groups and fertiliser input will be constant (250Kg N / ha).
- Within each group there are equal numbers of Friesian and crossbred cows

Early calving Group

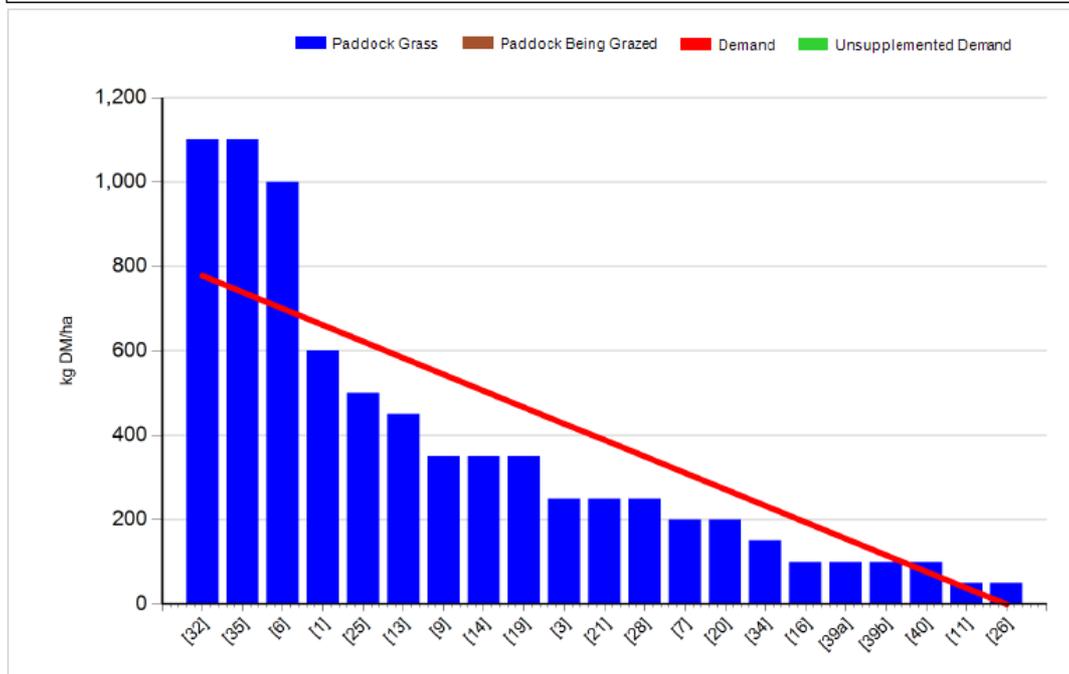
Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms		Cover Date: 08/04/2013	
Farm: Ballyhaise		Treatment: Early calving	
Management Decisions			
Rotation Length (days):	50	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	6.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	5.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	55		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	6.0		
Cover Parameters			
Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	4.4	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	10
Total Livestock (LU):	62.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	15
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	276	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	757
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	80		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.44		



1. Farm cover is 276 kg DM / ha (80 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 1100 kg DM / ha. Farm cover has dropped significantly over the past seven days and cows are being fed 7 kg of concentrates and 5 kg of silage to stretch available grass out to the 15th of April.
2. Grazing conditions are reasonable and paddocks are being grazed down to 3.2cm with no poaching. There is 88% of area grazed to date.
3. There are 95% of the cows calved, cows started calving on the 1st of Feb.

Late Calving Group

Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms	Cover Date: 08/04/2013		
Farm: Ballyhaise	Treatment: Late calving		
Management Decisions			
Rotation Length (days):	65	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	6.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	5.0	Residual Height (cm):	4.0
No. of Cows:	45		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	6.0		
Cover Parameters			
Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	3.5	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	7
Total Livestock (LU):	65.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	12
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	323	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	778
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	94		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.42		



1. Farm cover is 323 kg DM / ha (94 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 1100 kg DM / ha. Farm cover has dropped significantly over the past seven

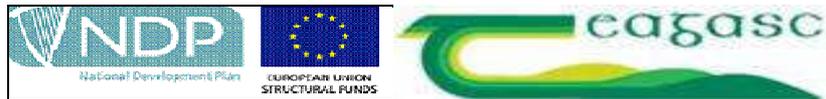
days and cows are being fed 7 kg of concentrates and 5kg of silage to stretch available grass out to the 15th of April.

2. There is 85% of the area grazed to date.
3. Cows are housed at night.
4. 86% of cows calved, started calving on the 10th of Feb.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 12 hr blocks.
- Feed 7kg of meal and 5 kg of silage.
- House cows by night.
- Thin cows OAD milking.

www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/



Week:07/04/13	Early	Late
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.9	2.9
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	20.64	19.55
% Fat	4.60	4.89
% Protein	3.34	3.41
% Lactose	4.80	4.82
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.60	1.59
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	7	7
Silage	5	5
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1256	1049
% Fat	4.87	4.95
% Protein	3.54	3.49
% Lactose	4.82	4.85
Milk solids (kg/cow)	93	59
Weight	465	444
Body Condition Score	2.87	2.84
% Calved	95	86
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	210	116
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	180	65
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	0	0

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