

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes – Monday 15/04/2013

A. Critical Issues

1. Maintain a 45 day rotation length.
2. Allocated 3kg DM of grass / cow.
3. Improve body condition.

B. Whole farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 6.5°C.
2. Total rainfall over the past seven days was 25mm.
3. Average growth was 12kgDM/ha/day, (15% DM).

C. 2013 Calving date trial

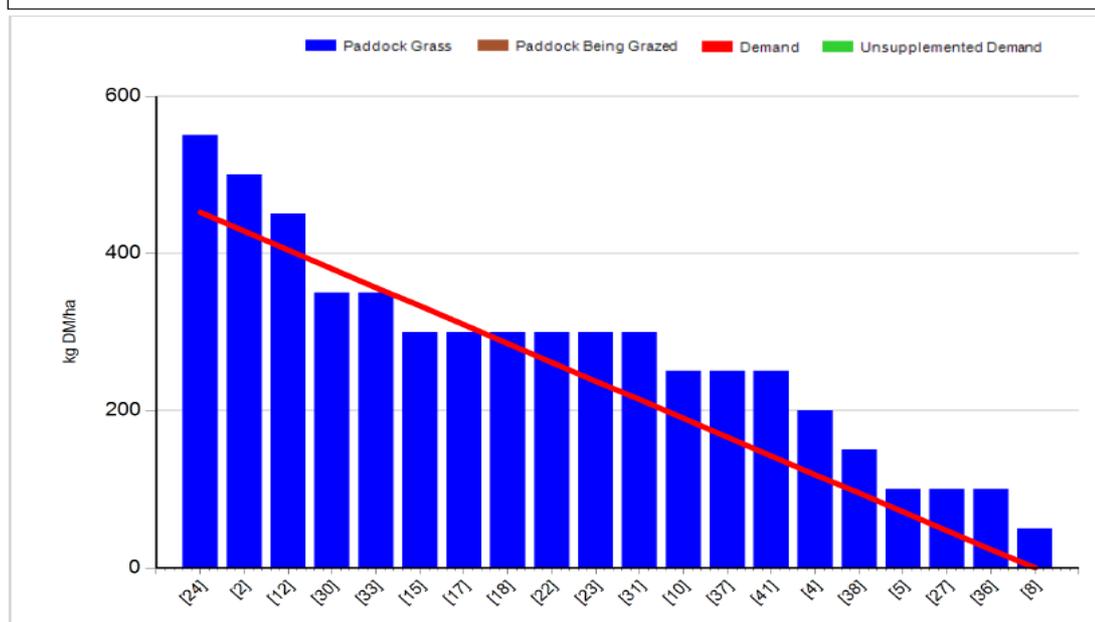
- The herd is split into two separate calving dates
- Early calving group – mean calving date is the 20th of Feb.
- Late calving group – mean calving date is the 10th of March.
- Stocking rate is 2.9 cows per ha for both groups and fertiliser input will be constant (250Kg N / ha).
- Within each group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

Early calving Group

Rotation Length (days):	45	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	7.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	3.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	60		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	7.0		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	2.7	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	12
Total Livestock (LU):	67.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	10
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	269	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	452
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	72		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.72		



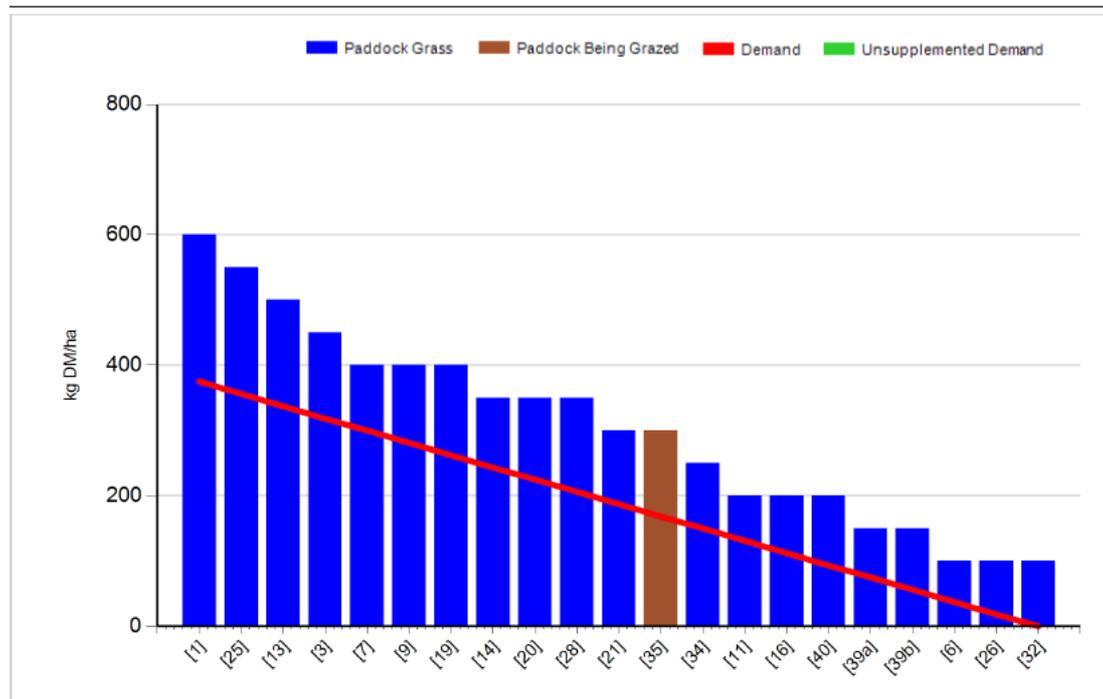
1. Farm cover is 269 kg DM / ha (72 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 550 kg DM / ha. Farm cover is the same as last week but pre-grazing yield has dropped to 600 kg DM / ha.
2. Will be finished the first round on the 16th of April.
3. Growth has increased slightly but is still well below average for the time of year. Rotation length will be held at 45 days until this improves. This will allow us to graze 0.8 ha per day which is only 3 kg of grass per cow. Therefore we must maintain 7kg of silage and 7kg of concentrate in the diet.
4. Grazing conditions are reasonable and paddocks are being grazed down to 3.5cm with minimal poaching.
5. There are 100% of the cows calved, cows started calving on the 1st of Feb.

Late Calving Group

Rotation Length (days):	45	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	7.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	3.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	52		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	7.0		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	2.2	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	12
Total Livestock (LU):	72.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	8
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	289	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	375
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	76		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.79		



1. Farm cover is 290 kg DM / ha (72 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 600 kg DM / ha. Farm cover has dropped over the past seven days.
2. Finished the first round by the 16th of April.

3. Will stay at 45 day round until growth improves, grazing 1/45th of the farm each day. At current covers this will only allow 3kg of grass per cow. Therefore 7kg of concentrate and 7kg of silage will have to be fed to maintain animal performance.
4. 91% of cows calved, started calving on the 10th of Feb.

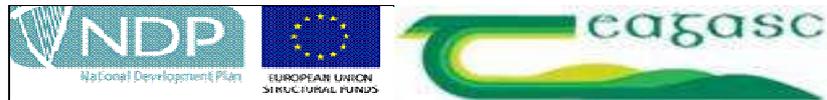
C. Critical short term actions :

- Feed 7kg of meal and 7 kg of silage.
- House cows by night.
- Half turned out to grass by day.
- Thin cows OAD milking.

D. Bulk tank details :

Milk yield 23kg, Fat 4.26%, Protein 3.33% (1.75kg MS) SCC 225,000.

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Week:16/04/13	Early	Late
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.9	2.9
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	24.7	24.2
% Fat	4.68	4.93
% Protein	3.44	3.44
% Lactose	4.80	4.82
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.98	2.01
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	7	7
Silage	7	7
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1273	810
% Fat	4.87	5.01
% Protein	3.55	3.52
% Lactose	4.82	4.85
Milk solids (kg/cow)	106	59
Weight	465	444
Body Condition Score	2.87	2.84
% Calved	100	91
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	250	150
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	215	75
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	0	0

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