

A. Critical Issues

1. Start closing paddocks.
2. Use strip wire to maintain residual.
3. Graze 15% of the farm each week for October.

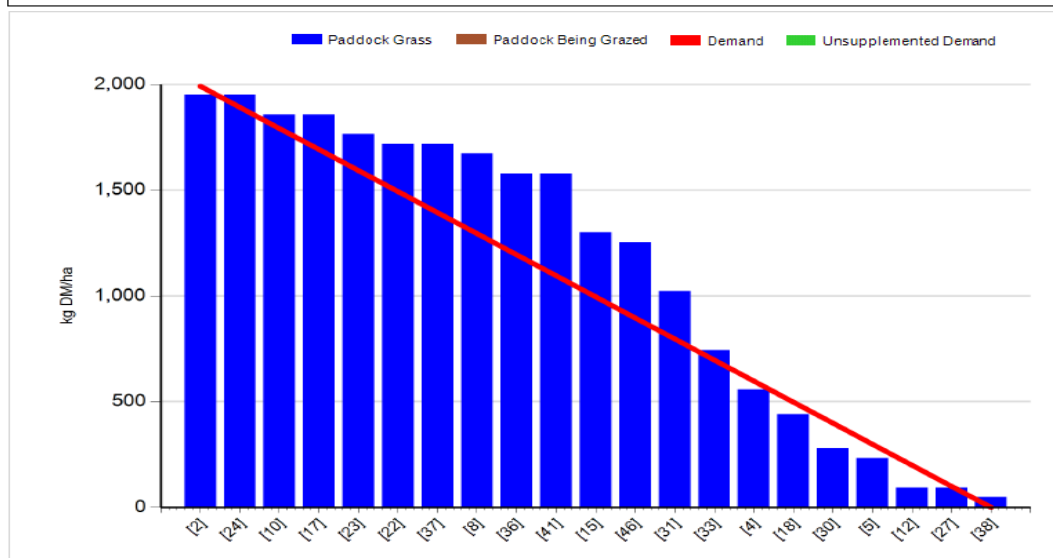
B. 2013 Calving date trial

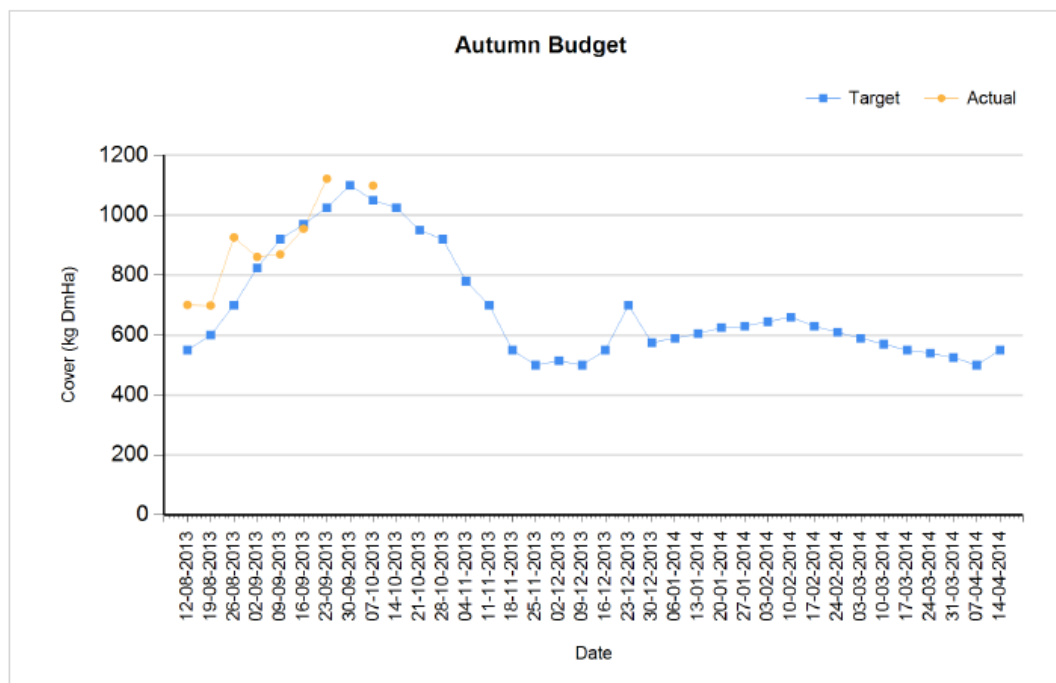
- The herd is split into two separate calving dates
- Early calving group – mean calving date is the 25th of Feb.
- Late calving group – mean calving date is the 10th of March.
- Stocking rate is 2.9 cows per ha for both groups and fertiliser input will be constant (250Kg N / ha).
- Within each group there are equal numbers of Friesian and crossbred cows

C. Whole farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 13.5°C.
2. Total rainfall over the past seven days was 35mm.
3. Average growth was 49kgDM/ha/day, (13% DM).
4. Rotation length 45 days.
5. Feed wedge 07/10/2013

Group:	Cover Date: 07/10/2013		
Farm: Ballyhaise	Treatment: Early calving		
Management Decisions			
Rotation Length (days):	45	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	0.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	14.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	60		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	2.0		
Cover Parameters			
Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	14.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	49
Total Livestock (LU):	60.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	44
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	1099	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1991
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	348		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.16		





6. Farm cover is 1099 kg DM / ha (348 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 1900 kg DM / ha.
7. Autumn budget is on target, introduced 2 kg of concentrate to reduce demand as growth is starting to slow this week due to soil temperature drop. We aim to be at a farm cover of 1000kg DM / ha next week.
8. Started closing paddocks on the 1st October, have 17% closed to date, may have to graze some lighter covers this week to close enough area. We have grazed some paddocks suitable for early spring grazing next year – dry, close to yard, good access.
9. Watery slurry applied to grazed paddocks at a rate of 2500 gals per acre.
10. Grazing conditions are still good and cows are grazing out well – 3.6 to 4.2 cm post grazing height. Allocating grass every twelve hours.
11. Total N spread to date is 250 kg N / ha, last N spread was on the 29th of September, soil temperatures were still 14°C plus at that stage so should get a response.
12. Total growth to date is 11.7 tons DM / ha.
13. Cows and heifers were scanned on the 30th of August. The empty rate in the cows after 12 weeks of breeding was 9%. Pregnancy rate to first service was 51% and 6 week pregnancy rate was 76%. Heifer empty rate was 10% over 7 week breeding period with 72% conception to 1st service AI and the remainder in-calf to jersey stock bulls. There are 145 animals scanned in-calf for next year so will have 20 surplus animals to sell.

C. Bulk tank details :

Milk yield 12.92kg, Fat 4.83%, Protein 3.85% (1.15kg MS) SCC 203,000, TBC 19,000

Date : 07/10/2013 Mean calving date	Early 25 th Feb		Late 10 th March	
	FR	JFX	FR	JFX
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	14.5	11.8	14.5	12.4
% Fat	4.63	5.01	4.51	4.80
% Protein	3.82	4.18	3.87	4.09
% Lactose	4.50	4.51	4.53	4.53
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.23	1.08	1.21	1.10
Supplement (kg/cow/day)				
Concentrate	0	0	0	0
Silage	0	0	0	0
Cumulative				
Milk yield (kg/cow)	4,629	4,237	4,230	3,822
% Fat	4.43	4.67	4.49	4.69
% Protein	3.43	3.68	3.51	3.60
% Lactose	4.71	4.74	4.72	4.74
Milk solids (kg/cow)	364	354	338	317
Weight	518	476	524	451
Body Condition Score	2.92	2.93	2.90	2.86
Supplement (kg/cow)				
Concentrate		686		568
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)		330		180
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)		576 (48%)		605 (50%)

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

www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/

