

A. Critical Issues

1. Feeding silage to stretch grass
2. Will close farm at 550 Average farm cover.
3. Dry off early calving heifers.

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

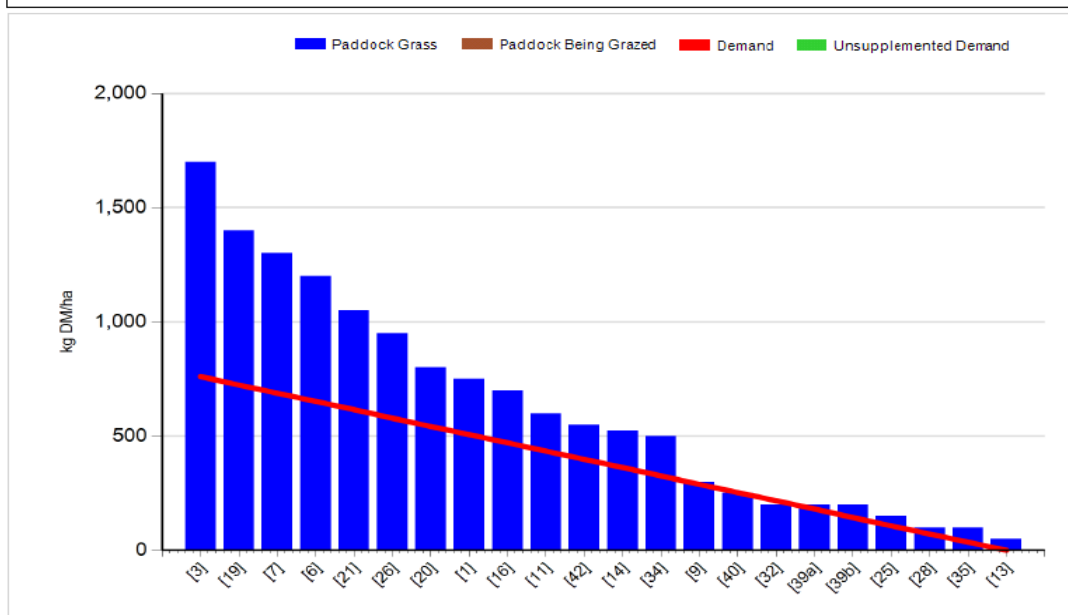
C. Whole farm situation

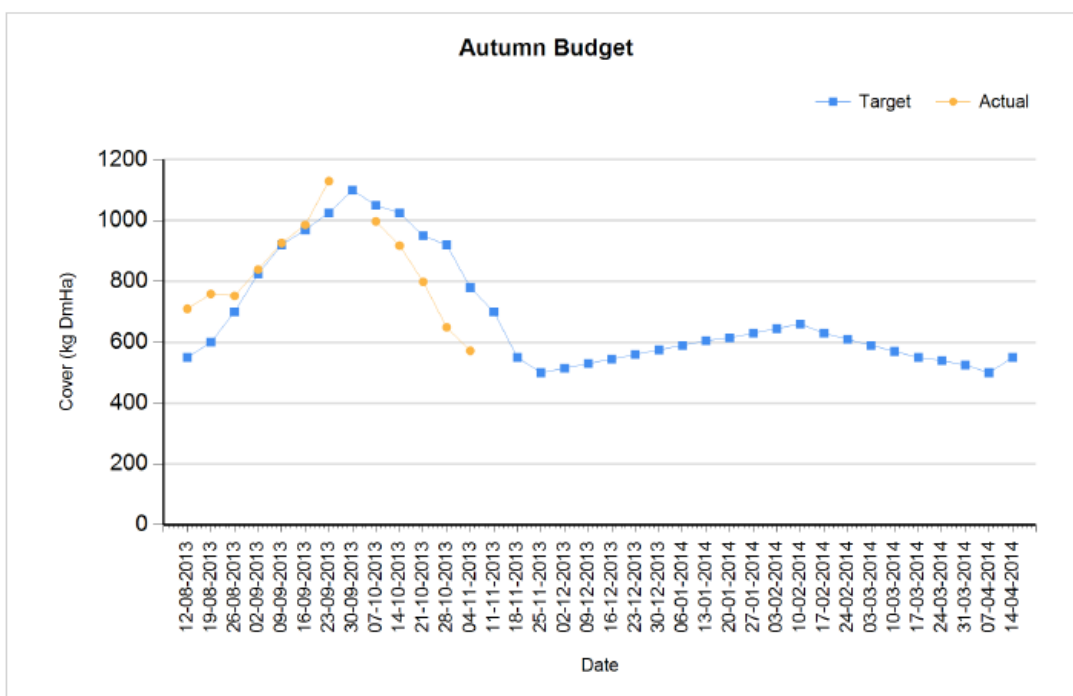
1. Soil temperature today is 6.3°C.
2. Total rainfall over the past seven days was 35mm.
3. Average growth was 17kgDM/ha/day, (13% DM).
4. Rotation length 45 days.
5. Feed wedge 06/11/2013

Rotation Length (days):	42	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	6.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	6.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	60		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	4.0		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	6.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	17
Total Livestock (LU):	60.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	18
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	572	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	761
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	189		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.02		





6. Farm cover is 572 kg DM / ha (189 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 1700 kg DM / ha.
7. Farm cover has dropped rapidly over the last two weeks; we introduced silage to the diet at the end of last week to slow down rotation. When paddock 3 is grazed farm cover will be 480kg DM / ha. We are budgeting for a growth rate of 10kg this week which will bring cover to 550kg DM / ha for next week. This is target closing cover so cows will be housed at this stage
8. Paddock 19 has a cover of 1300kg DM / ha but it was cut for silage in last rotation so is very clean. We will have to carry this over winter to ensure adequate grass on the farm for next spring.
9. Grazing conditions have been difficult but cows are still grazing out to 3.5cm. Grass is allocated in 12 hr blocks and on-off grazing is used when there is heavy rainfall.
10. Total N spread to date is 250 kg N / ha
11. Total growth to date is 12.8 tons DM / ha.
12. 11 cows were dried off this week, 6 of these were low yielders (below 7 litres) and the rest were early calving heifers. All heifers will get 12 weeks dry, cows will get 8 weeks dry and thin cows will get 12weeks dry.
13. All young stock were housed last week. Both in-calf heifers and calves were weighed this week. Both batches are above target and reached target daily weight gain over the autumn period. Weanlings will be fed 1.5kg of an 18% protein concentrate per day to maintain growth rates.

	Fr	JFX	ADG
Calves	234kg	216kg	0.75kg / day
Target	220kg	212kg	
In-calf Heifers	463kg	442kg	0.9kg / day
Target	440kg	420kg	

14. 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 (05/11/2013) 11.1kg, Fat 5.36%, Protein 4.19% (1.06kg MS) SCC 250,000, TBC 4,000

Date : 03/11/2013 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)	11.9	10.4	13.4	11.8
% Fat	5.10	5.54	4.93	5.23
% Protein	4.06	4.55	4.11	4.26
% Lactose	4.42	4.40	4.50	4.53
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.09	1.05	1.21	1.12
Supplement (kg/cow/day)				
Concentrate	3	3	3	3
Silage	0	0	0	0
Cumulative				
Milk yield (kg/cow)	5.003	4,557	4,620	3,165
% Fat	4.47	4.72	4.52	4.72
% Protein	3.47	3.74	3.56	3.65
% Lactose	4.69	4.72	4.70	4.72
Milk solids (kg/cow)	398	386	373	349
Weight	518	476	524	451
Body Condition Score	2.87	2.92	2.84	2.83
Supplement (kg/cow)				
Concentrate		756		638
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.

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