

A. Critical Issues

1. 36 hour allocations.
2. Maintain target residual (4cm).
3. Supervision of stock bulls.
4. Control of docks in paddocks.

B. 2014 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.
- Within each group there are equal numbers of Friesian and crossbred cows.

C. Whole farm situation

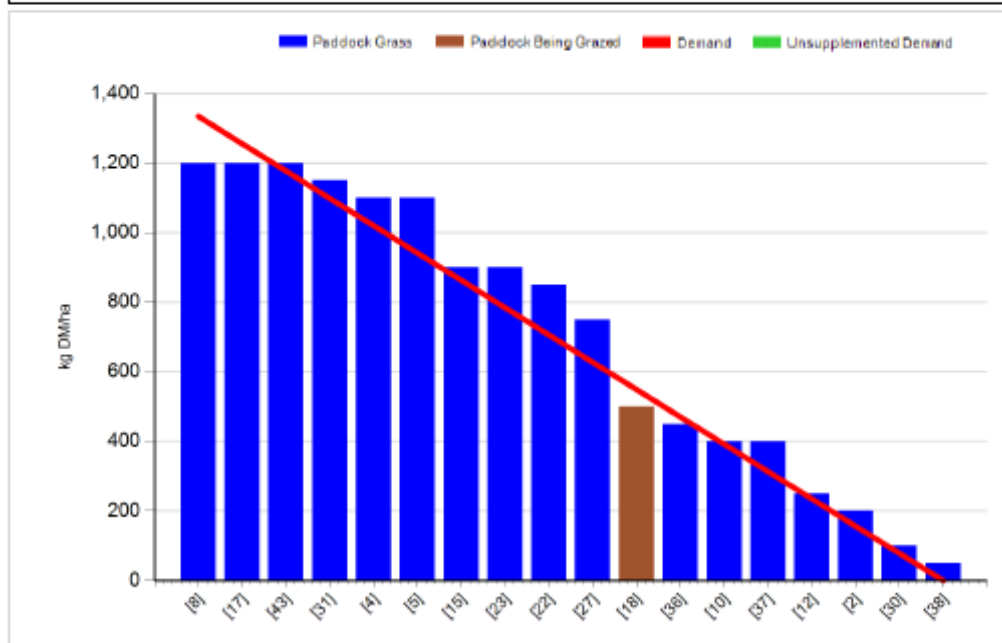
- Soil temperature today is 17.1°C.
- Total rainfall for past 7 days is 12mm.
- Calves were weighed on the 15th of July, they weighed 130kg (well below target of 145kg), and ADG since turnout was 0.63kg / day.
- Milk yield 19.8kg, 4.17% fat, 3.54% protein (1.57kg Ms / cow), SCC 159,000 and TBC 13,000.

D. Early group

Rotation Length (days):	21	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	16.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	60		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	0.5		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	16.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	104
Total Livestock (LU):	60.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	63
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	679	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1334
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	171		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.97		



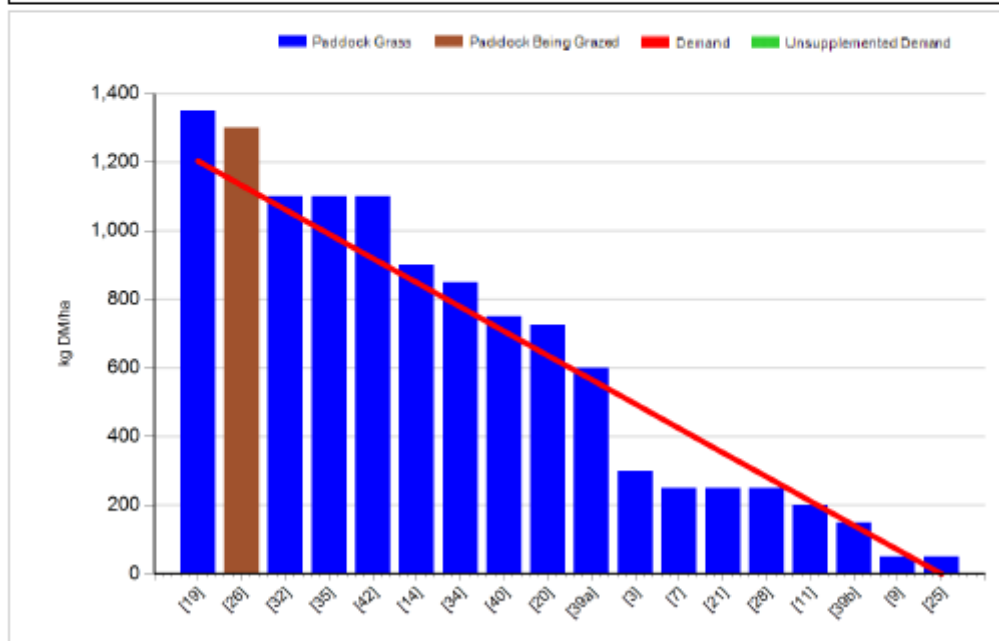
1. Farm cover is 679 kg DM / ha (171kg DM / cow) which is on target.
2. Growth rate was 104 kg DM / ha which is well ahead of demand of 63 kg DM / ha. Moisture deficit was starting to depress growth but we have had enough rain over the last week to boost growth and more is forecast.
3. We have skipped over 24% of the area for silage; none of this is fit for cutting so will wait until next week to take this area out.
4. Pre-grazing yield is 1200kg DM / ha which is slightly below target but should increase since growth is so far ahead of demand.
5. Grazing down to 4.1cm on average. Ground conditions are excellent.
6. Started AI on the 28th of April, 100% submitted in 6 weeks, Non – return rate is 56% which is on the low side. Introduced stock bulls after 6 weeks.

C. Late Group

Rotation Length (days):	21	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	0.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	16.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	59		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	0.5		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	16.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	101
Total Livestock (LU):	59.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	57
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	616	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1203
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	172		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.58		



1. Farm cover is 616 kg DM / ha (172kg DM / cow) which is on target.
2. Growth rate was 101kg DM / ha which is similar to demand of 57kg DM / ha.
3. We have skipped 16% of area for silage but similar to the early group we will wait until next week to cut.
4. Pre – grazing yield is 1350kg DM / ha which is on target and quality is excellent.
5. Grazing out to 4.1cm on average.

6. Ai started on the 13th of May, 100% submitted in 5 weeks, stock bulls introduced after six weeks.

D. Critical short term actions :

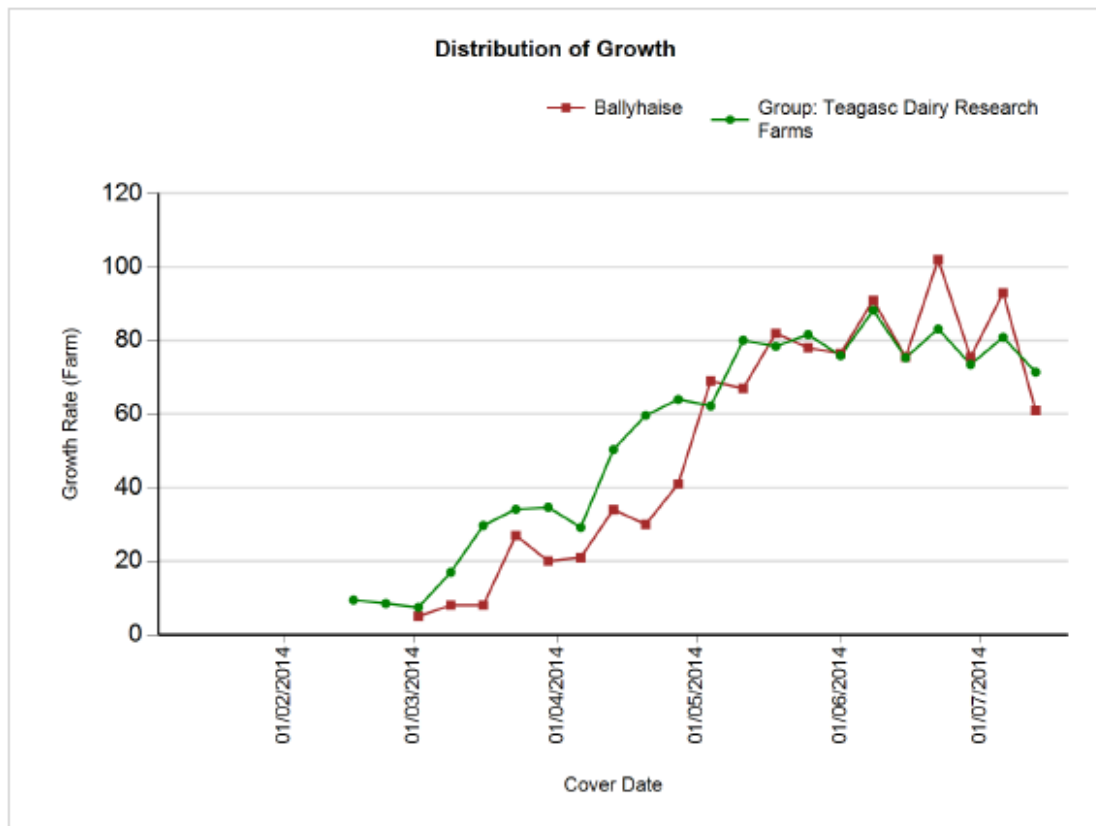
- Maintain pre grazing covers at 1400kg DM / ha
- Monitor stock bull activity.
- Improve grass for calves and heifers.
- Spray for docks where needed.

Date : 13/07/2014 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)	20.7	18.4	22.0	19.4
% Fat	4.60	4.92	4.32	4.36
% Protein	3.48	3.66	3.53	3.67
% Lactose	4.74	4.75	4.73	4.65
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.67	1.58	1.73	1.56
Supplement (kg/cow/day)				
Concentrate	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Silage	0	0	0	0
Cumulative				
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3,326	3,045	3,116	2,885
% Fat	4.26	4.55	4.40	4.44
% Protein	3.32	3.48	3.45	3.51
% Lactose	4.91	4.97	4.88	4.88
Milk solids (kg/cow)	252	245	245	229
Weight	514	470	512	446
Body Condition Score	2.84	2.89	2.87	2.87
Supplement (kg/cow)				
Concentrate		329		310
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)		125		80
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)		560		450

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Growth to date compared to average of all Teagasc Research Farms



Growth To Date – 8.3 tonnes DM / ha.