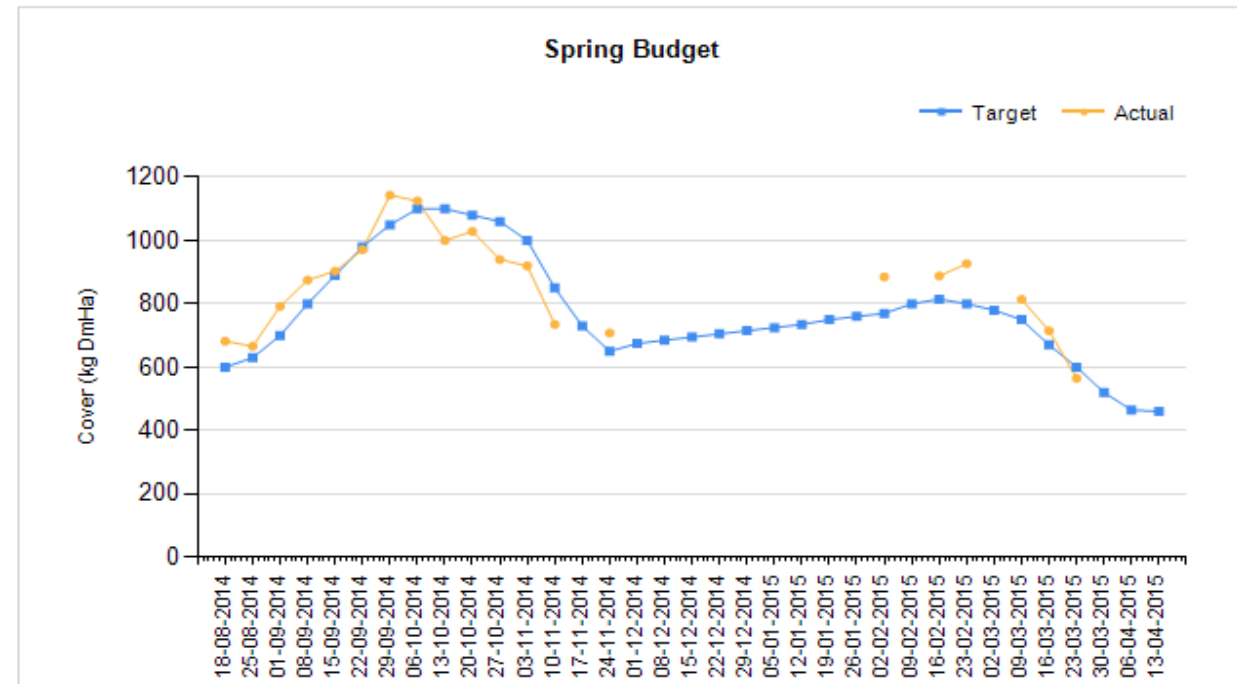


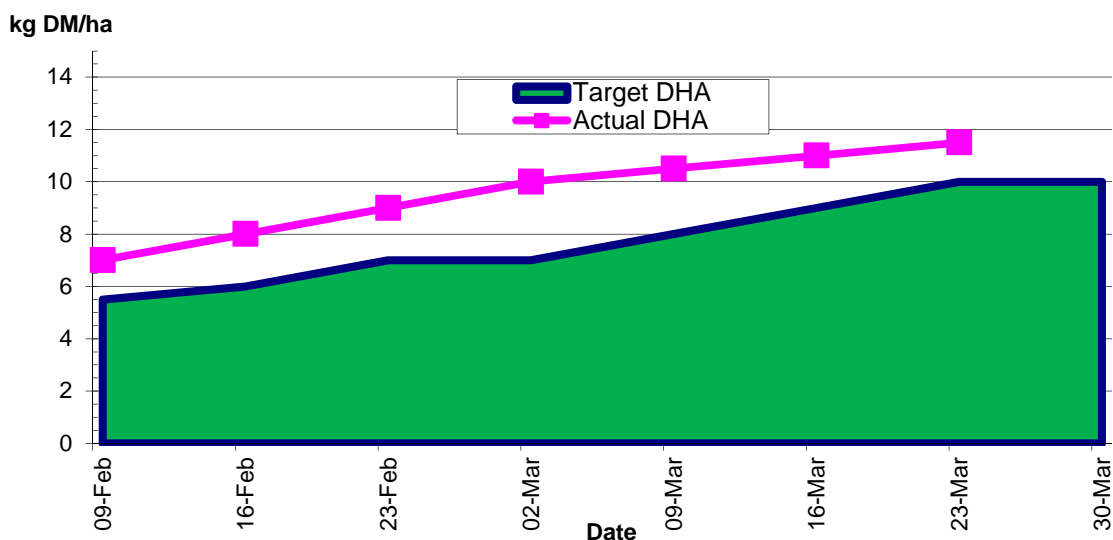
Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 23-03-15

Figure 1. Early Calving (mean calving date 23rd Feb) feed budget on Monday 23/03/15



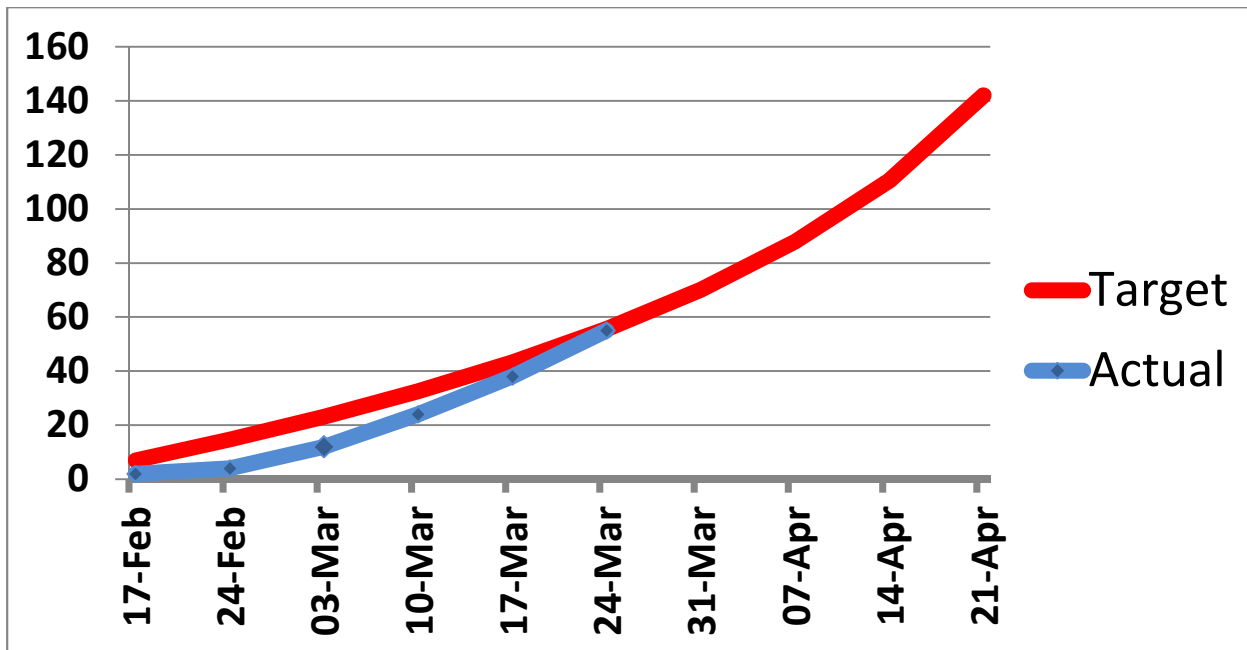
- 86% of the group have calved
- Average farm cover is 565 kg DM/ha (208 /LU) – Below our target of 600kg DM / ha for this week.
- Growth rate for the last 7 days was 14 kg DM/ha/day – soil temperature is 7.8 deg C this am. We expect to grow 20 kg per day for the remainder of March and with demand at 38 kg/ha/day, farm cover will reduce by 240 -250 kg DM/ha per week for the next 2 weeks. We will feed 3kg of concentrate and 3kg of silage per cow this week to reduce demand and reassess next week. We don't want farm cover to drop below 450kg DM / ha.
- Cows are on 12-hour allocations with no back-fence. Grazing conditions are good and we have took the opportunity to graze the wettest paddocks on the farm, PGY on this area was low (600 – 800kg DM / ha) but it is better to use this feed when we can get access to it.
- The herd is on a steadily increasing diet of 8.5 kg grass and 3 kg of concentrate and 3kg of bale silage. See figure 2 for details of the increased DHA (Daily Herbage Allowance) offered due to increased grass availability.

Figure 2. Early calving group (mean calving date 23rd Feb) feed allowance



- Between slurry and chemical fertiliser, the whole farm has received approximately 23 units of nitrogen so far. Second round of 46 units of urea being spread this week, also slurry on 20% of area which has been grazed.
- Post-grazing residuals are being maintained at 3.8cm for this treatment

Figure 3. Medium Stocking Rate (2.9 cows/ha) Spring Rotation Plan on Monday 23/03/15



- 55% of the farmlet area has been grazed up to the 23/03/15 so we are on target. With herbage mass on the 1st 20% of the farm grazed at 550kg DM/ha, recovery is slow and so the planned start of the second round remains April 10th.
- Average pre-grazing yield for the next seven days will be approximately 1,200kg/ha and based on an average daily area allocation of 70 m² per cow. This allows us 8.5 kg of grass per cow per day; supplements will be needed over the next two weeks to meet animals' nutritional requirements.
- The herd are milking 23.6 kg milk/cow/day and (with latest milk composition details from the co-op of fat 4.87%, protein 3.53%, lactose 4.77% and SCC 231k) are producing 1.95 kg milk solids/cow/day currently.
- SCC has been high for most of spring, we have identified 8 high SCC cows and have sent off samples for sensitivity test, they are separated from the rest of the herd and milked last.