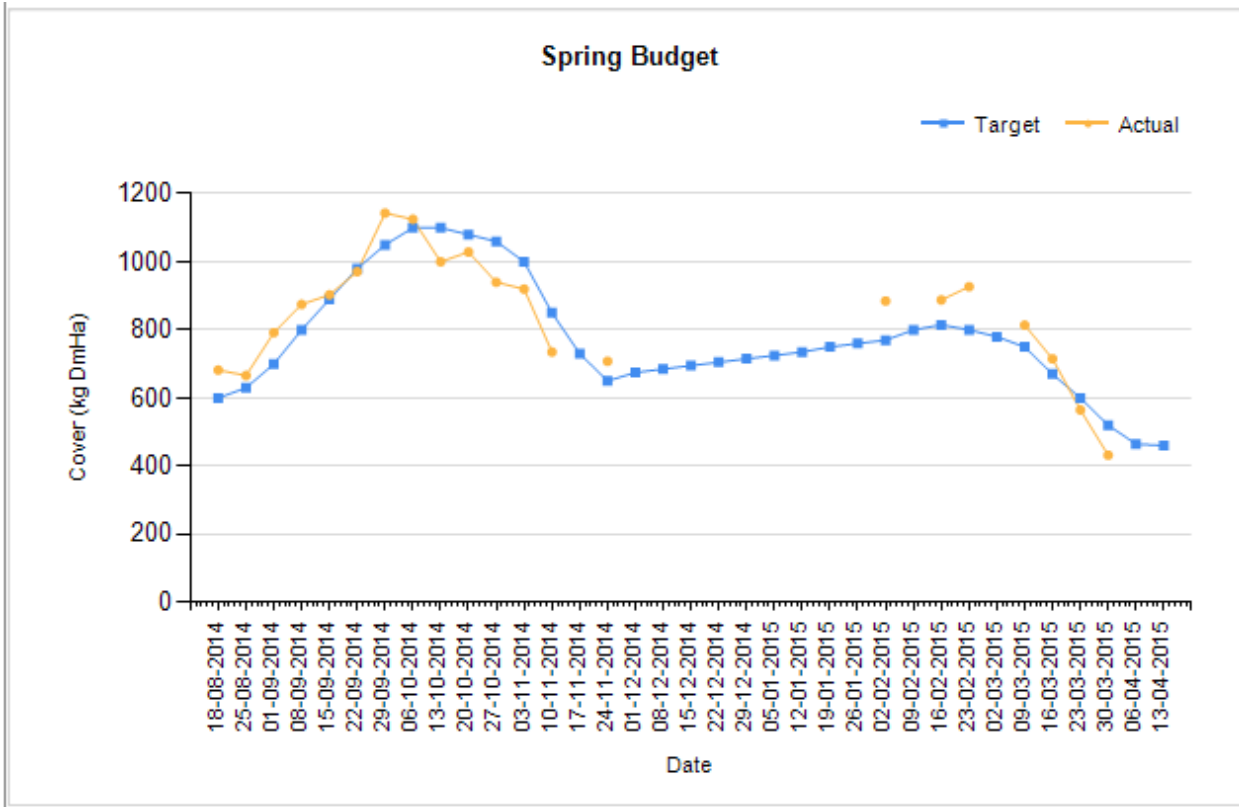


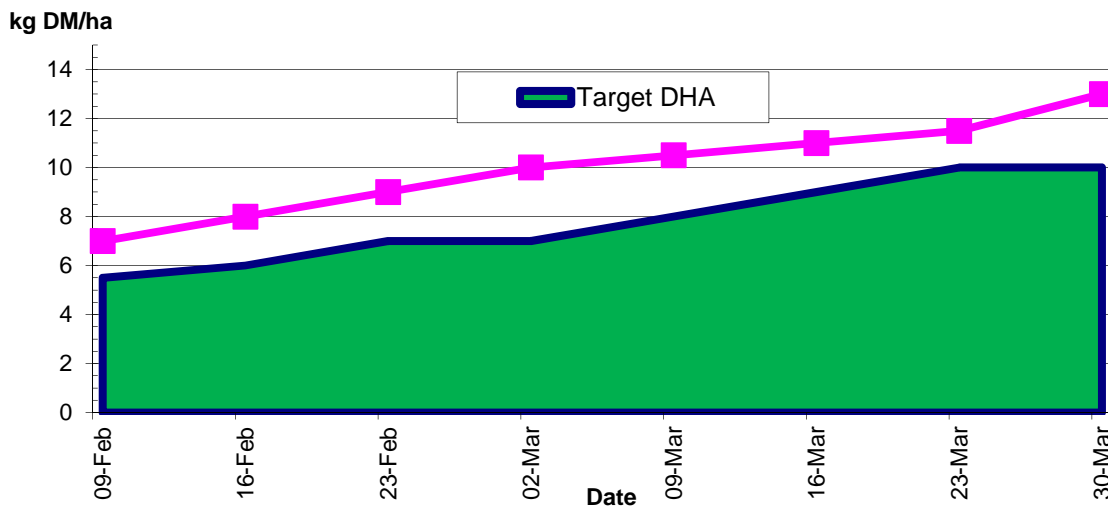
Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 30-03-15

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



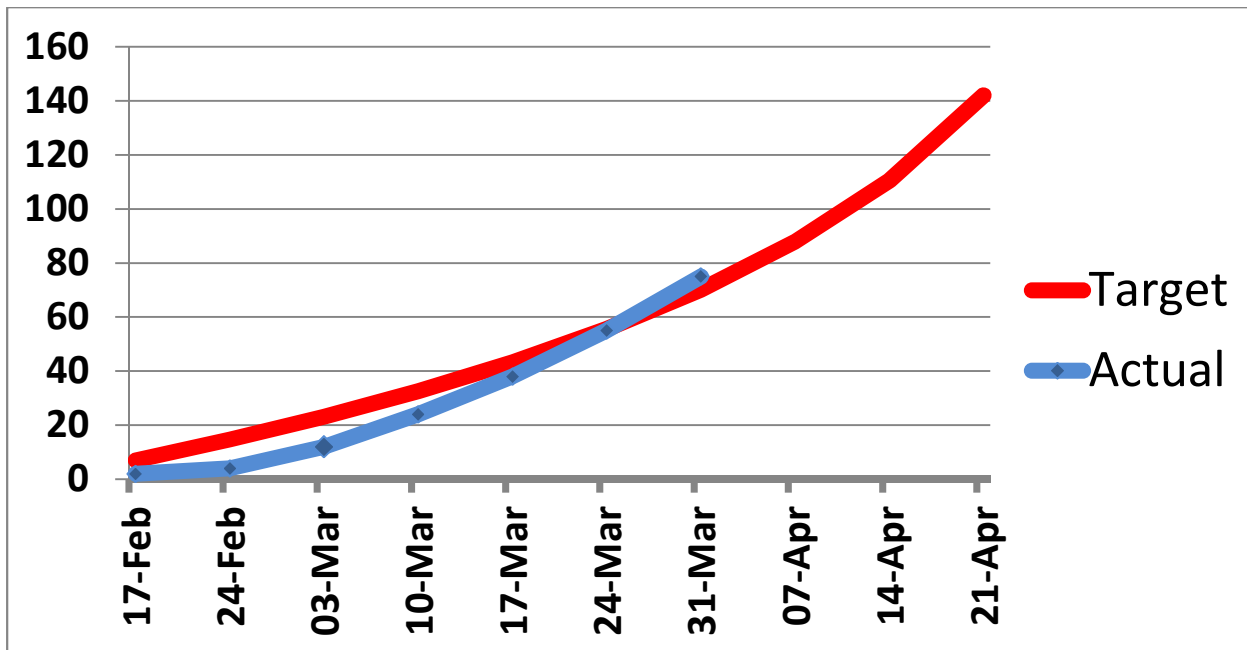
- 89% of the group have calved
- Average farm cover is 432 kg DM/ha (160 /LU) – Below our target of 500kg DM / ha for this week.
- Growth rate for the last 7 days was 17 kg DM/ha/day – soil temperature is 6 deg C this am. We do not want farm cover to drop further so we have housed cows at night and feeding 6kg of bale silage and 3kg of concentrate. This has dropped demand to 19 kg DM / ha, this level of inputs will be sustained until growing conditions improve.
- Cows are on 12-hour block allocations with back-fence. Grazing conditions are difficult and some damage has occurred in the last few days, cows are only getting 3 hours access to grass.
- The herd is on a steadily increasing diet of 7 kg grass and 3 kg of concentrate and 6kg 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 60 units of nitrogen so far. Second round of 46 units of urea was spread last week, some area was still too wet to spread, also slurry on 20% of area which has been grazed.
- Wet conditions have affected post-grazing residuals which have averaged at 4.3cm for this treatment

Figure 3. Medium Stocking Rate (2.9 cows/ha) Spring Rotation Plan on Monday 30/03/15



- 75% of the farmlet area has been grazed up to the 30/03/15 so we are on target. With herbage mass on the 1st 20% of the farm grazed at 800kg DM/ha, recovery on these paddocks has improved this week (average growth 36 kg DM / ha). Second rotation will begin on the 10th of April.
- Average pre-grazing yield for the next seven days will be approximately 1,000kg/ha and based on an average daily area allocation of 80m² per cow. This allows us 8 kg of grass per cow per day; cows struggled to graze this in one grazing so we have reduced allocation to 7 kg for this week. There is quite good forecast for weekend so plan to have cows back out at night by Friday.
- The herd are milking 22.5 kg milk/cow/day and (with latest milk composition details from the co-op of fat 4.78%, protein 3.55%, lactose 4.86% and SCC 151k) are producing 1.87 kg milk solids/cow/day currently.