

Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 22-02-16

Farm Details

Area available 41 ha

Farm Cover 890kg/DM/Ha

Growth for last 7 days has averaged 4.5 kg/DM/ha per day.

Demand is 14kg DM / ha

6% of the farm grazed

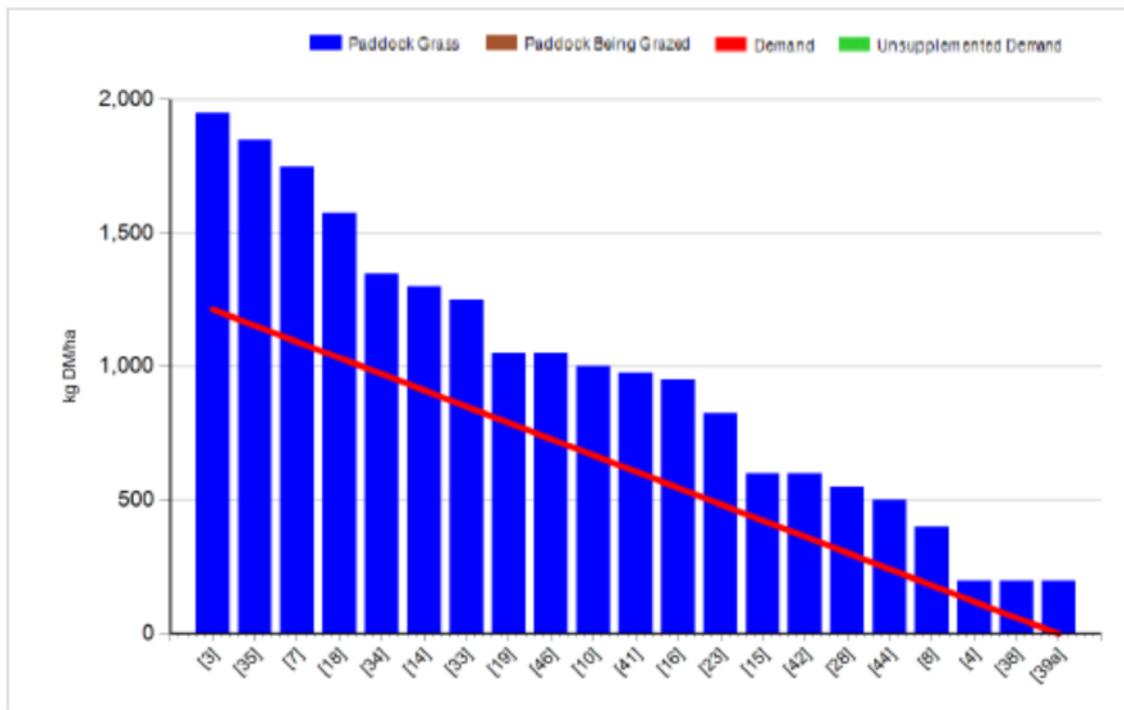
3.0 kgs of a 13% protein ration being fed to milkers per day.

Planned calving start date – 10th Feb

56 cows calved (47% of the herd)

Grass Supply

Average farm cover is higher than normal for the time of year. However the calving pattern this year is more compact and therefore demand will increase rapidly. We are still grazing lower covers and will avoid very heavy covers (1500 kg +) for another week at least.



Spring rotation plan

The plan is to keep grazing day and night this week to get through area. According to the rotation plan we need to get 10 ha (30%) grazed by March 7th. To achieve this we will need to start with low covers of 800 to 1000kg DM / ha. There is 2 ha (6%) grazed to date. The target is to have 2.5 ha grazed so we are slightly behind.

Grazing conditions

Ground conditions were very wet last week, particularly over the weekend. We were on-off grazing and had cows out day and night. Cows were housed over the weekend due to very wet conditions. Allocating fresh grass after every milking. Some damage done to paddocks grazed last Thursday and Friday.

Supplements

Cows are being fed 3kg of a high energy (0.95 UFL), low protein (13%) ration. Also bale silage is being fed when cows are housed.

Fertiliser

23 units of Urea spread on 80% of Farm. The other 20% still too wet to travel. No slurry out yet.

Calving Pattern and Calves

Due calving start date was 10th of Feb, to date there are 56 cows calved (47%). First bull calves sold last week. 30 heifer calves to date. We need 30 heifer calves and rest will be sold at 2 weeks old. Heifers on milk powder twice a day after 4 days. They will be fed once a day from 3 weeks old.

Milk Production

Average production 19.5 litres per cow, no test done yet.

Priorities

- Get smallest bulling heifers out to grass
- Fix fences after flooding
- Clean calving area on pad.