

Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 29-02-16

Farm Details

Area available 41 ha

Farm Cover 812kg/DM/Ha

Growth for last 7 days has averaged 5 kg/DM/ha per day.

Demand is 17kg DM / ha

18% of the farm grazed

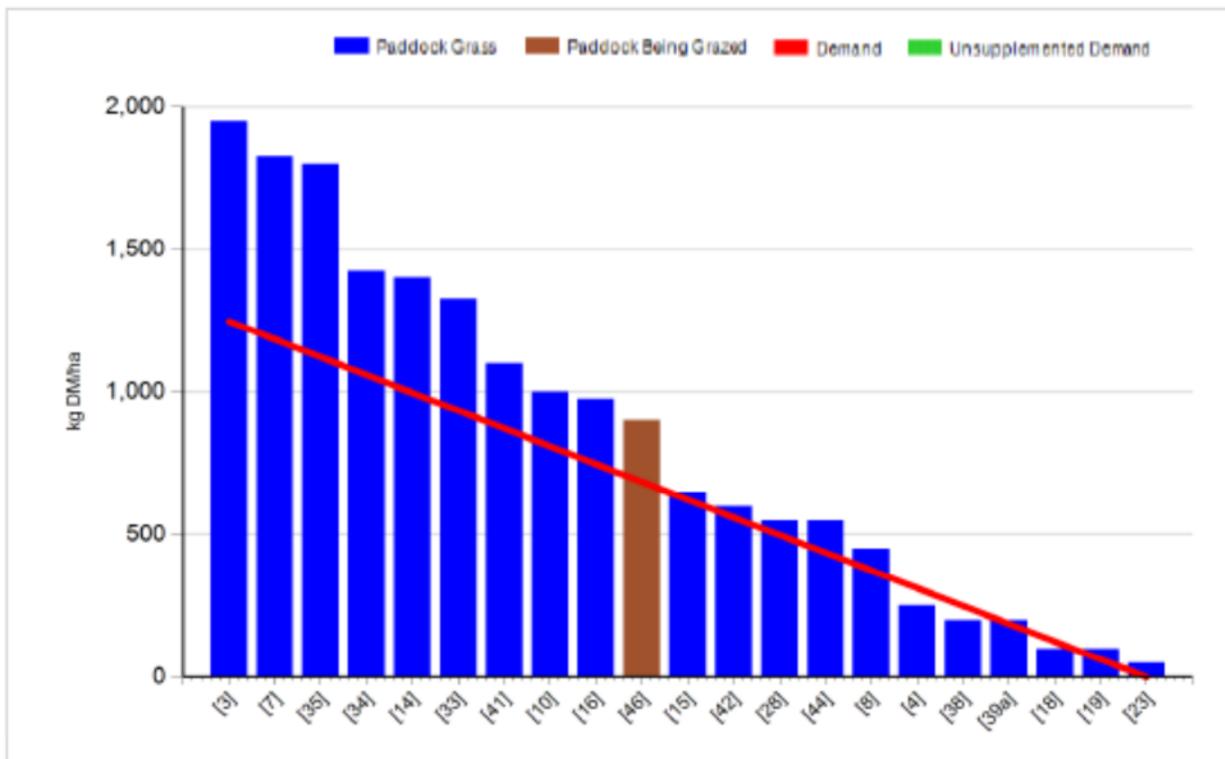
3.0 kgs of a 13% protein ration being fed to milkers per day.

Planned calving start date – 10th Feb

74 cows calved (62% of the herd)

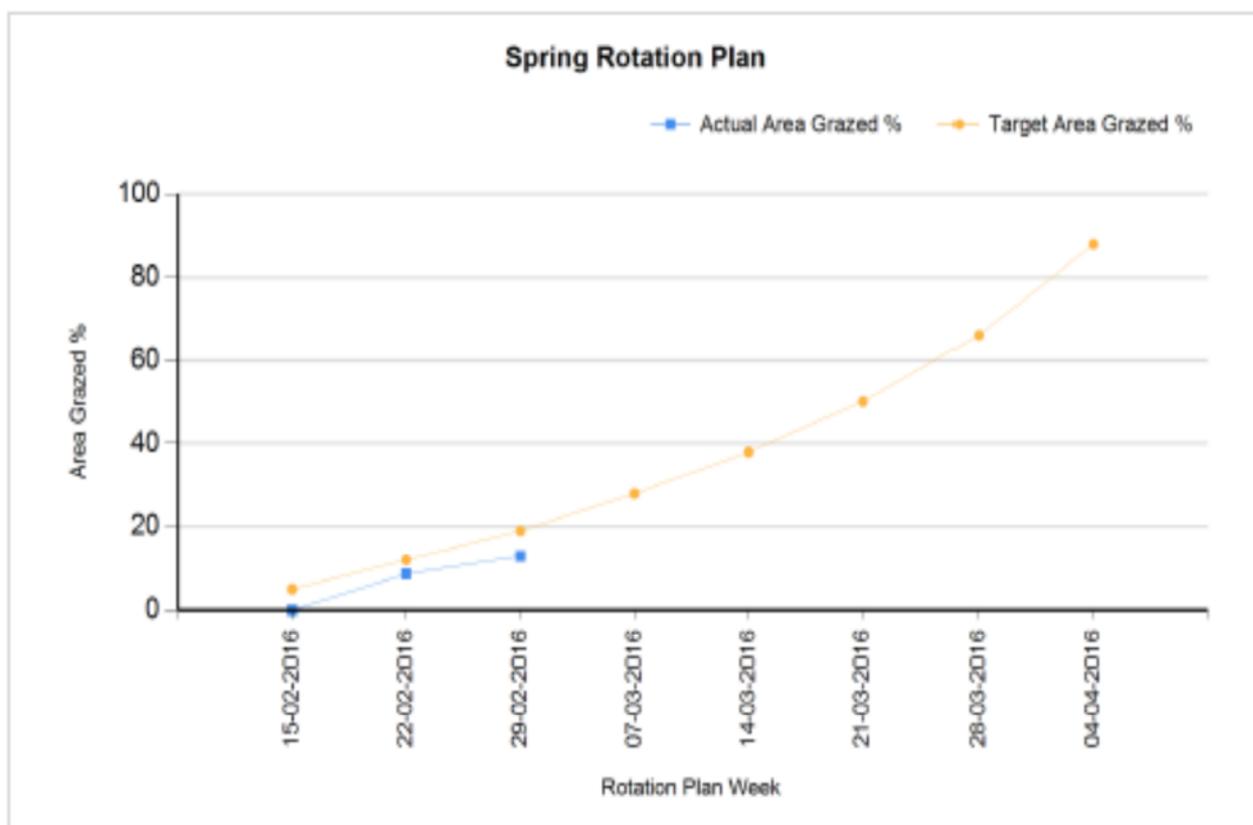
Grass Supply

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 currently alternating between covers of 800kg DM to 1200kg DM, which is allowing us to get through more area. Heavy covers looked perfect until last week but are starting to deteriorate since then. We need to get these grazed off over the next week to 10 days but will avoid them until conditions improve.



Spring rotation plan

Of the 41ha total area only 36ha of this is available to graze in the first rotation (5ha of flood plain). 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. There are 6.2 ha grazed to date so we need to get through another 3.8 ha this week. We have had to move to the driest ground to continue grazing. There is a cover of 1200 kg DM / ha on this area. For 74 cows calved this equates to 9kg DM of grass per cow per day on this area. If we keep the cows out day and night for the next week we will come close to the 30% target by the 7th of March.



Grazing conditions

Ground conditions were starting to improve over the weekend but recent heavy rain and snow has set conditions back this week. We are on-off grazing and have cows out day and night. We left cows out two nights over the weekend but they were doing too much damage so have resumed on-off grazing. We are only leaving them out for 2 hours on the very wet days and supplementing with bale silage (2kg DM / cow) in the shed. Some poaching damage done over the past two days.

Supplements

Cows are being fed 3kg of a high energy (0.95 UFL), low protein (13%) ration. Also feeding some bale silage on days where cows don't get out for the 3 hours.

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 74 cows calved (62%). First bull calves sold last week. 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 16.9 litres per cow, 5.25% fat, 3.73% protein, (1.56kg MS), SCC 122.

Priorities

- Graze as much area as possible this week (3.8 ha).
- Minimise poaching damage (on-off grazing).
- Get smallest bulling heifers out to grass.