

Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 14-03-16

Farm Details

Area available 41 ha

Farm Cover 685kg/DM/Ha

Growth for last 7 days has averaged 11 kg/DM/ha per day.

Demand is 28kg DM / ha

40% of the farm grazed

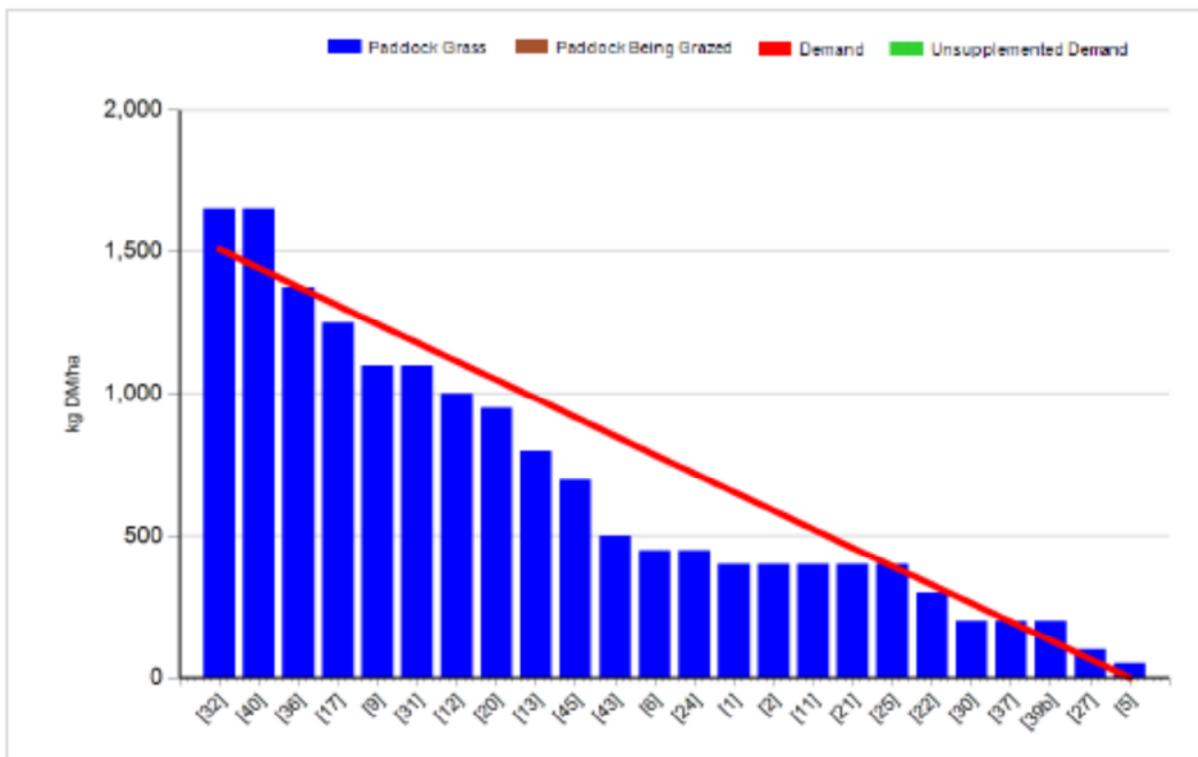
3.0 kgs of a 13% protein ration being fed per day.

Planned calving start date – 10th Feb

93 cows calved (77% of the herd)

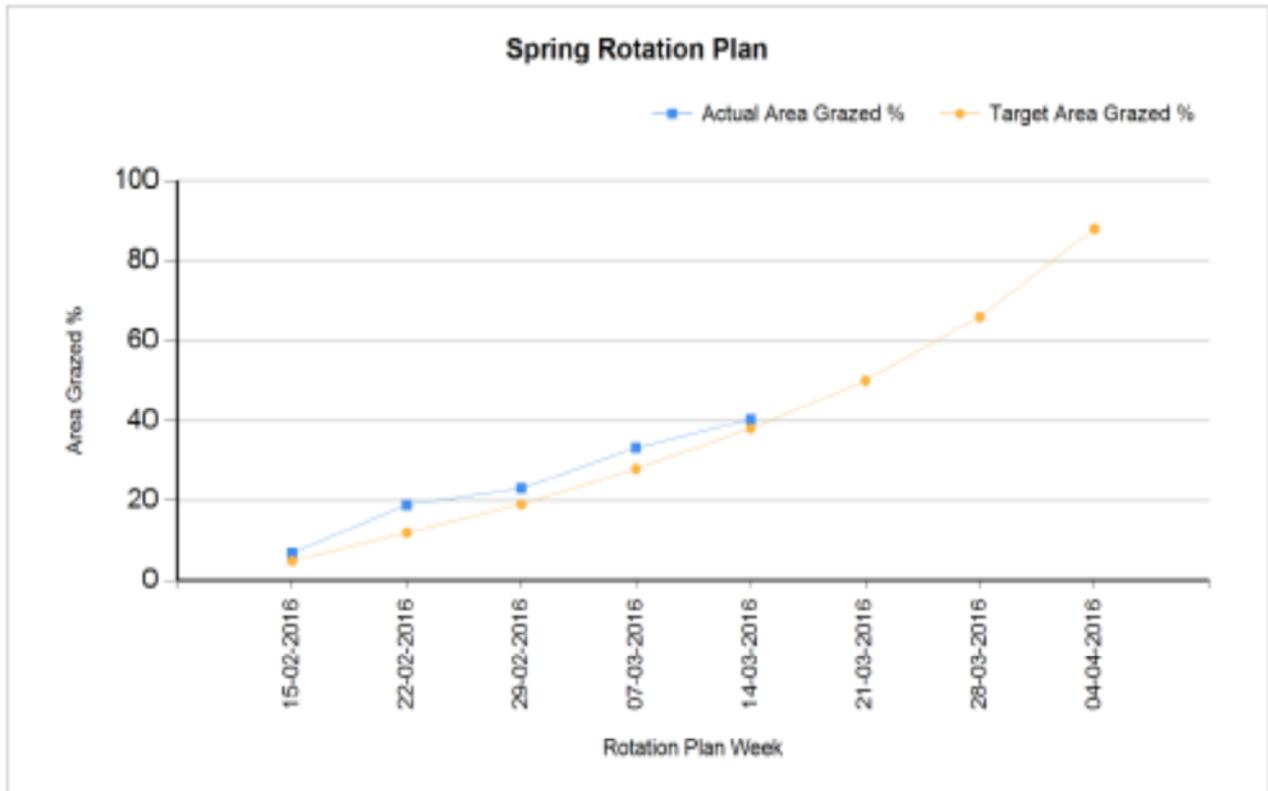
Grass Supply

Farm cover has dropped since last week due to a growing demand and low growth rates. According to our grass budget we will be able to allocate 12kg of grass per cow per day over the next 3 weeks and have an AFC of 450kg DM / ha on the 10th of April. There is 450kg DM / ha of regrowth on the first paddocks grazed in mid-Feb.



Spring rotation plan

Of the 41ha total area only 36ha of this is available to graze in the first rotation (5ha of flood plain). Our target was to get 10 ha (30%) grazed by March 7th. Actual area grazed on the 7th of March was 9.4 ha (26%). To date there is 40% of the farm grazed which is on target.



Grazing conditions

Conditions have improved greatly with no rain over the past few days and good drying. Cows are out full time and doing no damage. We are taking this opportunity to get some of the heavy covers grazed off while also grazing some light covers on wet areas. The heavy covers are grazed at night and wet paddocks with light covers are grazed during the day. Still using 12hr wire to allocate grass.

Supplements

Cows are being fed 3kg of a high energy (0.95 UFL), low protein (13%) ration. No silage fed this week.

Fertiliser

The whole farm will get 46 units of Urea this week.

Calving Pattern and Calves

Due calving start date was 10th of Feb, to date there are 93 cows calved (77%). 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 are fed once a day from 3 weeks old. We have had some issues with scours this week but most are easily cured. We are selling bull calves and surplus heifers as quickly as possible to reduce the disease pressure. Bulling heifers will go to grass this week. Heifers were weighed on the 3rd of March and averaged 297kg.

Milk Production

Average production 22.8 litres per cow, 5.08% fat, 3.49% protein, (1.95kg MS), SCC 337. Have identified 6 high SCC cows which were treated.

Priorities

- Get second round of Urea out
- Get heavy covers grazed when conditions are good
- Condition score herd and pick out any thin cows for OAD milking
- Retest high SCC cows before letting milk back to tank.

