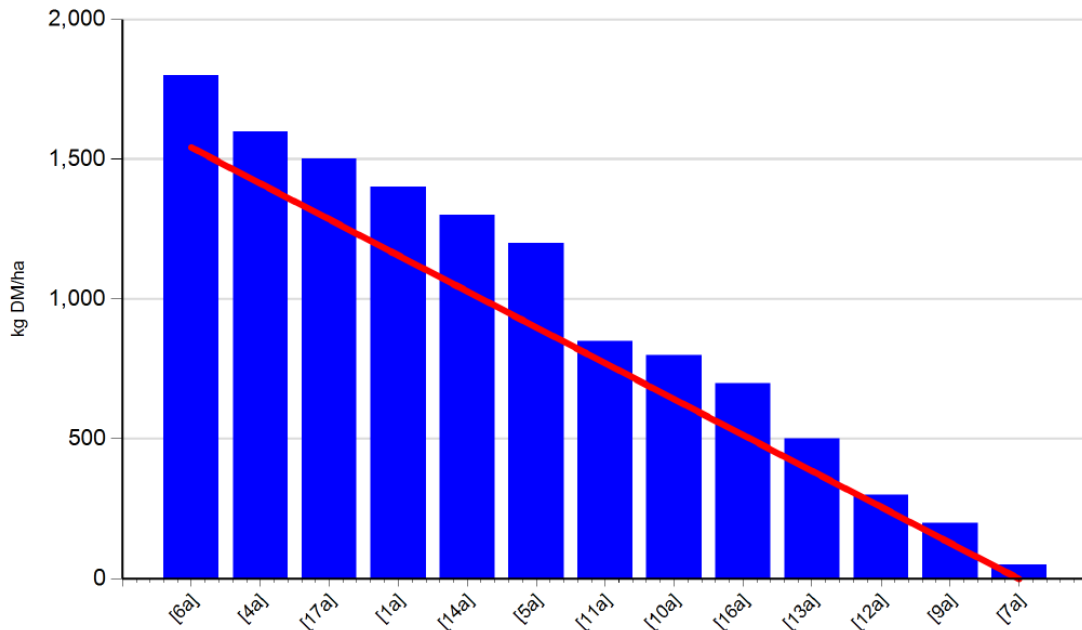


## Farm walk notes 04/06/13

### High SR (3.28 cows/ha)

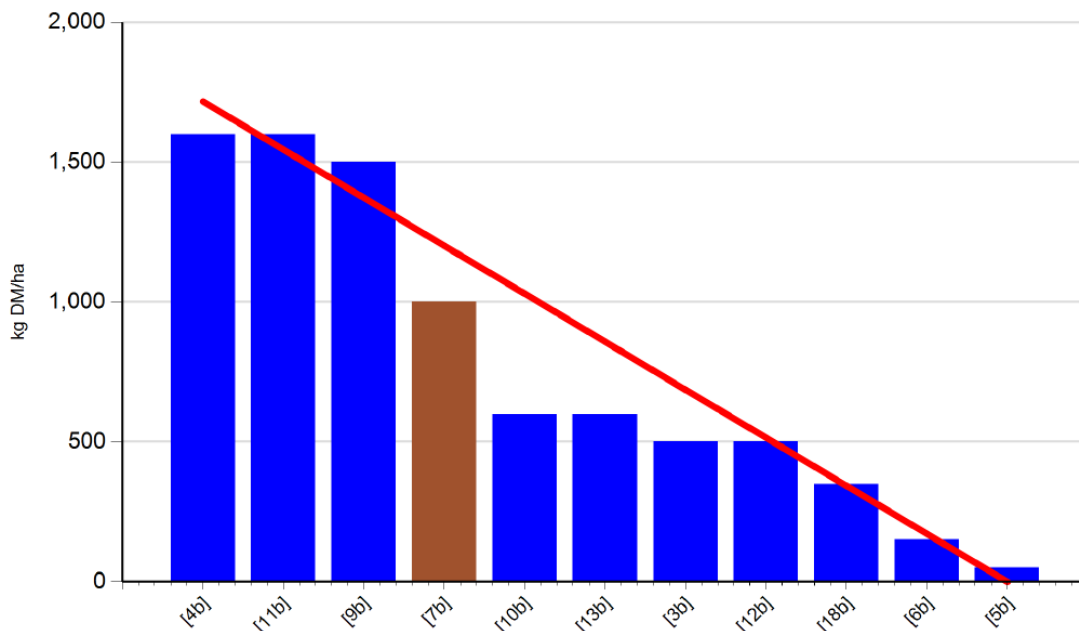
- Grass growth rates have increased to 74kg DM/ha/day this week
- Farm cover 913 kg DM/ha (199 kg DM/cow)
- Rotation length is now set to 23 days
- Feed wedge High SR



- We are disappointed with grass growth rate this week and believe that we are moisture restricted (This is particularly evident in the medium and low SR treatments.) Consequently, we are maintaining an unusually high farm grazing cover for the next week to reduce the growth effects of moisture deficits.
- Although pre-grazing herbage mass is well above desirable levels, we are achieving an excellent clean-out and postgrazing residuals were maintained at 3.3cm during the last week.
- The high SR herd are on a grass allocation of 16kg grass DM plus 0.2 kg of concentrate this week. Grass allocation is on a 24 hr basis.
- We are currently following the grazing herd with 20 units of sulpha-CAN.
- Paddock 4a has been sprayed out with round up and will be grazed in the next 3 days and surface seeded during the next 2 weeks when rainfall is expected.
- We have cut off and baled one third of the silage area to reduce demand. We will cut the remaining area before the weekend. This brings the overall farmlet grazing SR down to 3.5 cows/ha by the weekend.

### Medium SR (2.94 cows/ha)

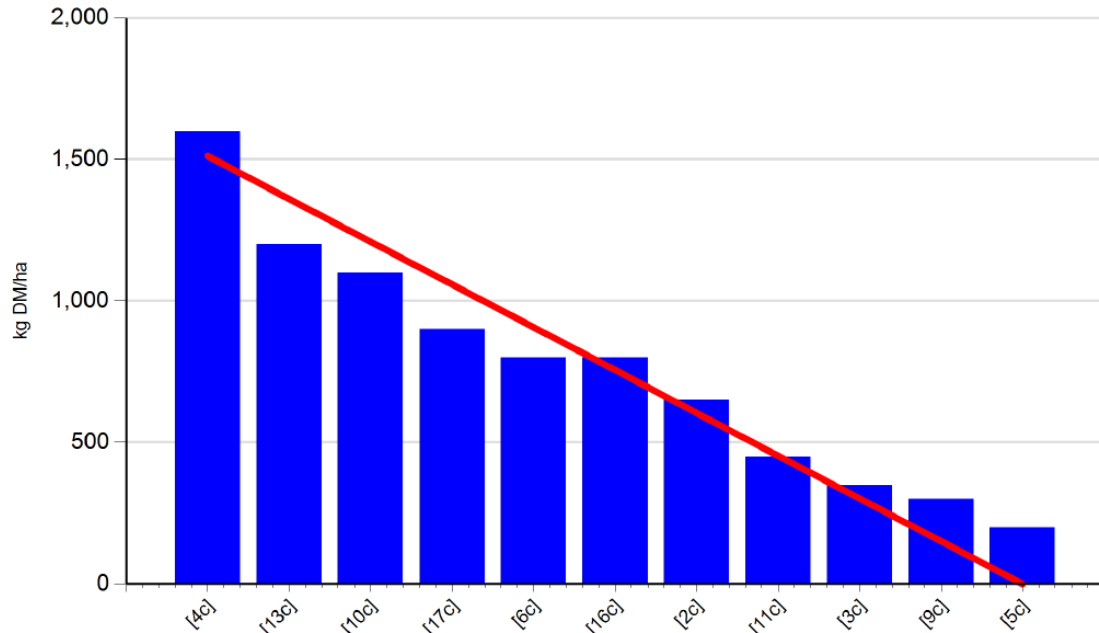
- Grass growth rates have decreased to 68kg DM/ha/day this week
- Farm cover 795 kg DM/ha (165 kg DM/cow)
- Rotation length is now set to 23 days
- Feed wedge Medium SR



- We are disappointed with grass growth rate this week and believe that we are moisture restricted. This is particularly evident in the medium and low SR treatments where a larger proportion of the farmlets have been closed for silage production. Consequently, we will graze 4b which has been sprayed out for reseeding, rather than harvesting silage.
- Pre-grazing herbage mass is at desirable levels and we are achieving an excellent clean-out and postgrazing residuals were maintained at 4.0cm during the last week.
- The medium SR herd are on a grass allocation of 17kg grass DM plus 0.2 kg of concentrate this week. Grass allocation is on a 24 hr basis.
- We are currently following the grazing herd with 20 units of sulpha-CAN
- We have cut off and baled one third of the silage area to reduce demand. We will cut the remaining area before the weekend. This brings the overall farmlet grazing SR down to 3.3 cows/ha by the weekend.

### Low SR (2.52 cows/ha)

- Grass growth rates have increased to 54kg DM/ha/day this week
- Farm cover 754 kg DM/ha (189 kg DM/cow)
- Rotation length is now set to 23 days
- Feed wedge Low SR



- The low SR herd are on a grass allocation of 18kg grass DM plus 0.2 kg of concentrate this week. Grass allocation is on a 24 hr basis.
- This group are grazing laxly - postgrazing height of 4.3cm on Paddock 5c
- We are currently following the grazing herd with 20 units of sulpha-CAN
- We have cut off and baled one third of the silage area to reduce demand. We will cut the remaining area before the weekend. This brings the overall farmlet grazing SR down to 2.9 cows/ha by the weekend.

### Overall farm situation (27/05/13)

- Grass DM % was 18% on the farm walk on Tuesday morning.
  - We are applying Mg and minerals using the doseatron and concentrate supplementation is at 0.2 kg per cow per day. We may begin supplementation by the weekend if growth remains poor.
  - Currently, milk yield for the overall group is 23 kg per cow per day at 4.43% fat and 3.61% protein (equivalent to 1.85 kg MS/cow/day). SCC is 107k and TBC is 3k.
  - First of our silage was harvested, taken by baled silage at a yield of 11 bales to the acer. The grass was given two days on the ground before baling.
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## **EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY 19/05/13**

*Objective: To compare the biological efficiency of alternative animal genotype and stocking rate combinations for Irish spring calving pasture-based production systems*

Herd Details	EBI (€)	MILK (€)	FERT (€)	CALVING (€)	BEEF (€)	MAINT (€)	MANAGE (€)	HEALTH (€)	F + P (kg)
<b>Holstein-Fr</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>HF*J X-bred</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>24</b>

*(April 2013 ICBF)*

Breed Group Stocking rate Group	Holstein-Friesian			Holstein-Friesian Jersey Cross		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.4	2.9	3.3	2.5	3.0	3.4
(lwt/ha)	1250	1450	1650	1250	1450	1650
Mean calving date	21/2	23/2	21/2	15/2	16/2	19/2
Ear-tag Colour	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue
Band Colour	Yellow	Blue	Red	Yellow	Blue	Red

<b>Week Details:</b>						
Area allocated (m <sup>2</sup> /cow/day)	115	90	80	110	85	75
Farmlet cover (kg DM/cow)	188	165	156	184	160	152
Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600
Residual grazing height (cm)	4.5	4.0	3.5	4.5	4.0	3.5
Diet (kg DM/cow/day)						
Grass	18	17	16	18	17	16
Silage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concentrate	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	2.1	2.1	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	25.1	26.8	23.7	22.3	21.5	21.0
% Fat	4.80	4.40	4.20	5.11	4.91	4.99
% Protein	3.50	3.55	3.35	3.79	3.75	3.58
Bodyweight (kg)	501	471	484	420	416	424
Condition Score	2.87	2.87	2.79	2.82	2.81	2.84

<b>Cumulative:</b>						
Milk solids (kg/cow)	160	162	152	160	157	150
(kg/ha)	384	470	502	400	471	510
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1999	2007	1908	1894	1835	1760
% Fat	4.60	4.63	4.58	4.90	5.02	4.98
% Protein	3.47	3.46	3.42	3.59	3.61	3.56
Days in milk	86	85	87	92	91	89
Total supplement fed (kg/cow)						
Concentrate	254	249	258	275	282	264

Silage	57	142	155	62	164	154
Conserved silage (kg DM /cow)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bought in Silage (kg DM /cow)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farmlet area (hectares)	9.17	7.87	7.01	9.17	7.87	7.01
Number of cows in group	22	23	23	23	24	24
Non-lactating cows	0	0	0	0	0	0

**NB: These are raw data that have not been statistically analysed and, therefore, no definite conclusions can be drawn from them.**