

The Ballyhaise Extended Grazing Study.

The border Midlands and West (BMW) region accounts for 47% of the land yet only accounts for 25% of the milk produced (CSO, 2015). Current National Farm Survey Data for the region is presented in Table 1.

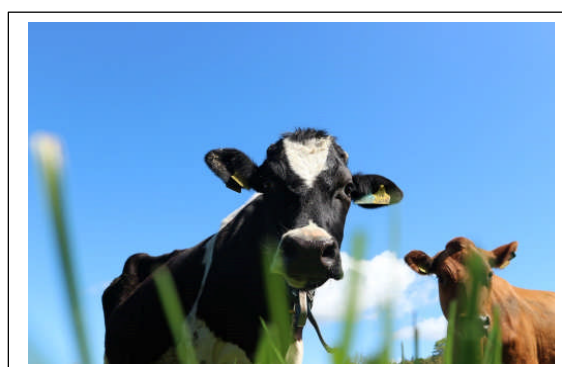
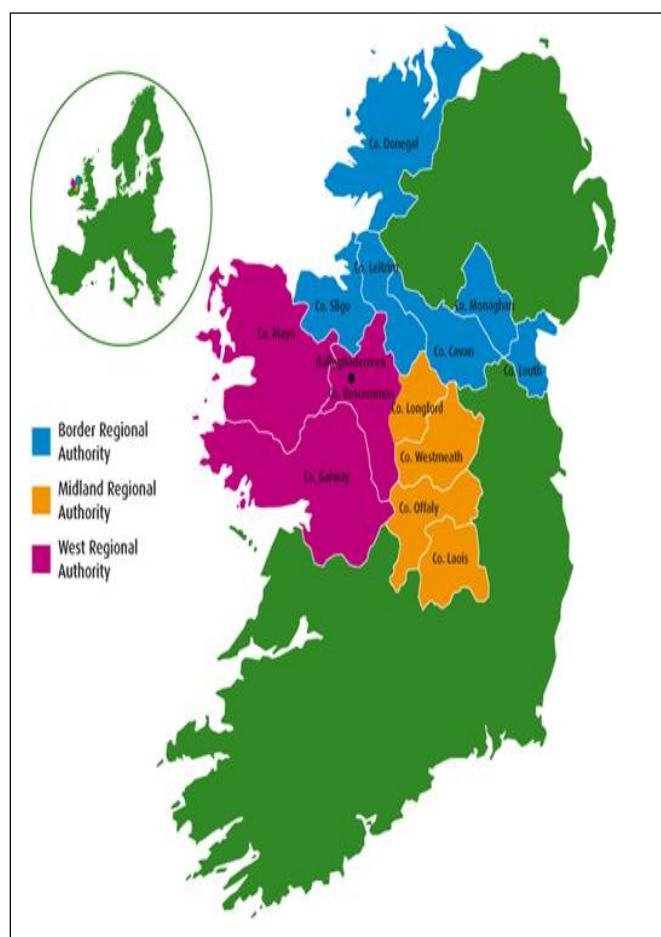
Table 1: National farm survey financial figures for the BMW in comparison to all national farms for 2016.

| Financial Measures | BMW 2016 | All Farms 2016 |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Milk Price | 27.1 | 27.9 |
| Total Gross Output | 27.6 | 28.5 |
| Total Costs | 23.4 | 21.8 |
| Net Margin (c/l) | 4.19 | 6.72 |
| Net Margin (€/Ha) | 466 | 792 |
| | | |
| Milk Solids (kg/cow) | 465 | 414 |
| Concentrate Feed Usage (kg/cow) | 1119 | 935 |
| No. Of Days Grazing | 216 | 235 |

Table 2: Ballyhaise Research Farm Targets 2006-2025.

| | 2006 | 2016 | 2025 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Dairy cows (No.) | 84 | 120 | 200 |
| Stocking Rate (cows/ha) | 2.65 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| Milk solids (kg/ha) | 1,130 | 1,290 | 1,400 |
| 6 week calving rate (%) | 40 | 85 | 90 |
| Herd EBI (€) | -30 | 125 | 200 |
| Profit (€/ha) (excl. DP's) | 1,050 | 1,800 | 2,500 |

Objective of the Study: To evaluate the cumulative effects of extended grazing and stocking rate on the productivity of pasture-based production systems in the BMW region in terms of pasture growth, seasonal quality and utilisation efficiency, soil structure and plant recovery, animal intake and performance, animal health and welfare (incl. lameness and mastitis), supplementary feed requirements and overall farm system financial performance.



Ballyhaise Dairy Research Farm Weekly Updates
Report for week ending Sunday 10th June 2018.

| Turnout | Average | | Early | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Low | High | Low | High |
| Stocking rate | | | | |
| Stocking rate (cows/ha) | 2.5 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.9 |
| Herd mean calving date (d of year) | Mar 6 th | Mar 7 th | Mar 1 st | Mar 6 th |
| Turnout date (d of year) | Mar 26 th | Mar 26 th | Feb 19 th | Feb 19 th |
| Grazing season length (d) | 205 | 205 | 270 | 270 |
| Grazing days (d/ha/yr) | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 |
| Actual grazing days achieved (d/ha) | 75 | 75 | 95 | 96 |
| Daily herbage allow. (kg DM/cow) | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Average Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) | 473 | 482 | 446 | 510 |
| (kg DM/cow) | 172 | 159 | 169 | 145 |
| Average daily growth (kg DM/ha) | 110 | 76 | 80 | 81 |
| Post-grazing residual height (cm) | 5 | 5 | 4.5 | 4 |
| Cumulative growth (T DM/ha) | 5732 | 5467 | 4907 | 5664 |
| Silage conserved (kg DM/cow) | 747 | 525 | 497 | 474 |
| <u>Current performance</u> | | | | |
| Milk solids (kg/cow/d) | 1.93 | 1.88 | 1.6 | 1.78 |
| Milk yield (kg/cow/d) | 25.1 | 23.0 | 19.1 | 21.7 |
| % Fat | 4.29 | 4.75 | 4.85 | 4.96 |
| % Protein | 3.48 | 3.48 | 3.64 | 3.54 |
| % Lactose | 4.90 | 4.79 | 4.70 | 4.76 |
| Bodyweight (kg/cow) | 494 | 505 | 493 | 495 |
| Body condition score | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3 | 3 |
| Supplement (kg DM/cow/d) | | | | |
| Concentrate | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Silage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Cumulative performance 2018</u> | | | | |
| Milk Solids per Ha (kg/ms/ha) | 458 | 522 | 450 | 534 |
| Milk solids (kg/cow) | 183 | 180 | 180 | 184 |
| Milk yield (kg/cow/) | 2273 | 2227 | 2152 | 2206 |
| % Fat | 4.63 | 4.64 | 4.81 | 4.82 |
| % Protein | 3.49 | 3.50 | 3.53 | 3.51 |
| % Lactose | 4.93 | 4.97 | 4.94 | 4.92 |
| Supplement (kg DM/cow) | | | | |
| Concentrate | 296 | 300 | 251 | 234 |
| Silage | 254 | 243 | 203 | 169 |

N.B. This data represents raw mean results and has not yet been subject to statistical analysis.



