

Weekly update Clonakilty Dairy - 18 March 2014

Tetraploid swards (2.75 cows/ha)



Date Produced: 19-03-2014

PastureBase-Ireland

Grass Measurement Report

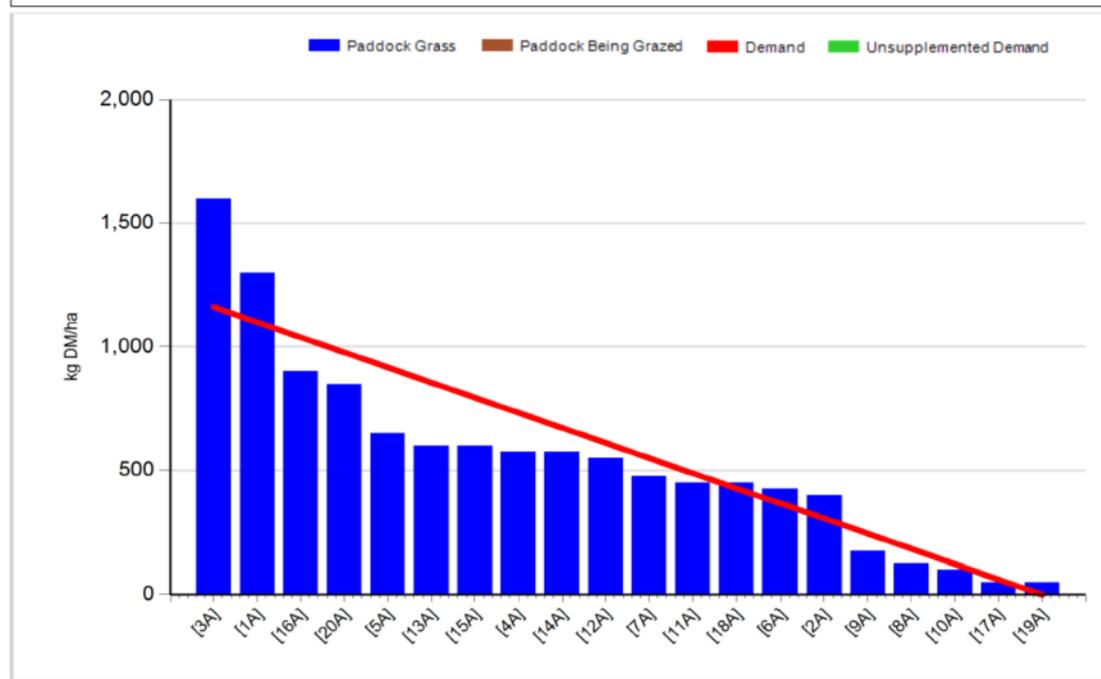
Group:	Cover Date: 18/03/2014
Farm: Clonakilty Farm	Treatment: T

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	39	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	0.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	12.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	27		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	3.0		

Cover Parameters

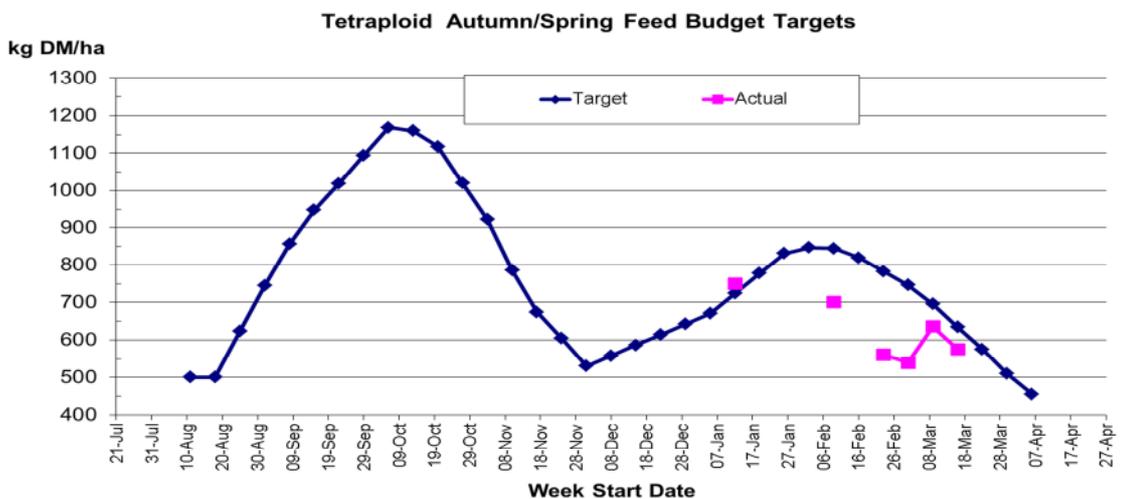
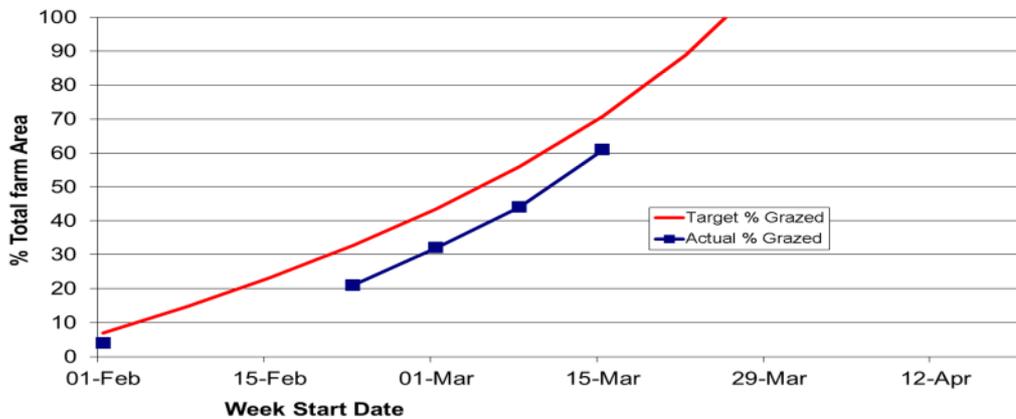
Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	12.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	26
Total Livestock (LU):	27.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	30
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	575	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1161
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	232		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	2.48		



1. I will give a brief overview of what has happened on the farm so far this spring. Like everyone, we have had a tough spring, with February in particular very challenging. However, we were able to have cows out for the most part during February, at least by day. We made a conscious decision that we wanted to get cows out and to get some grass into their diet every day where possible and also to stick to our spring rotation plan in terms of area grazed each week. We did very little poaching damage as we practiced a lot of on/off grazing. Three weeks ago our AFC was below

target (539 kg DM/ha actual compared with 694 kg DM/ha target, see budget below). We were feeding 6 kg of grass, 4 kg of concentrate and 5 kg of silage and cows were housed by night. Our demand was 13 kg DM/ha per day. We had a growth rate of 20 kg DM/ha per day that week and as our demand was 13 kg DM/ha per day this allowed AFC to increase to the point where we were back on target (636 kg DM/ha actual vs. 634 kg DM/ha target). This allowed us to take silage out of the diet and we are now allocating 12 kg of grass and 3 kg of concentrate.

2. We have 27 cows calved and milking in this group.
3. Average farm cover (AFC) is 575 kg DM/ha (232 kg DM/LU) which is on target (575 kg DM/ha, see budget below).
4. Growth rate last week was 26 kg DM/ha per day
5. Stocking rate is 2.48 LU/ha and demand is 27 kg DM/ha per day
6. We had 61% of the farm grazed by the 18th of March which is on target
7. Pre-grazing yield is 1500 and we are allocating 12 kg DM of grass and 3 kg of concentrate per cow per day
8. 28% of the farmlet received 2500 gallons of slurry in January and 70% of the area received half a bag of Urea in mid-February. We will spread a bag of Urea on any ground that has not received slurry after grazing this week.



Diploid swards (2.75 cows/ha)



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Grass Measurement Report

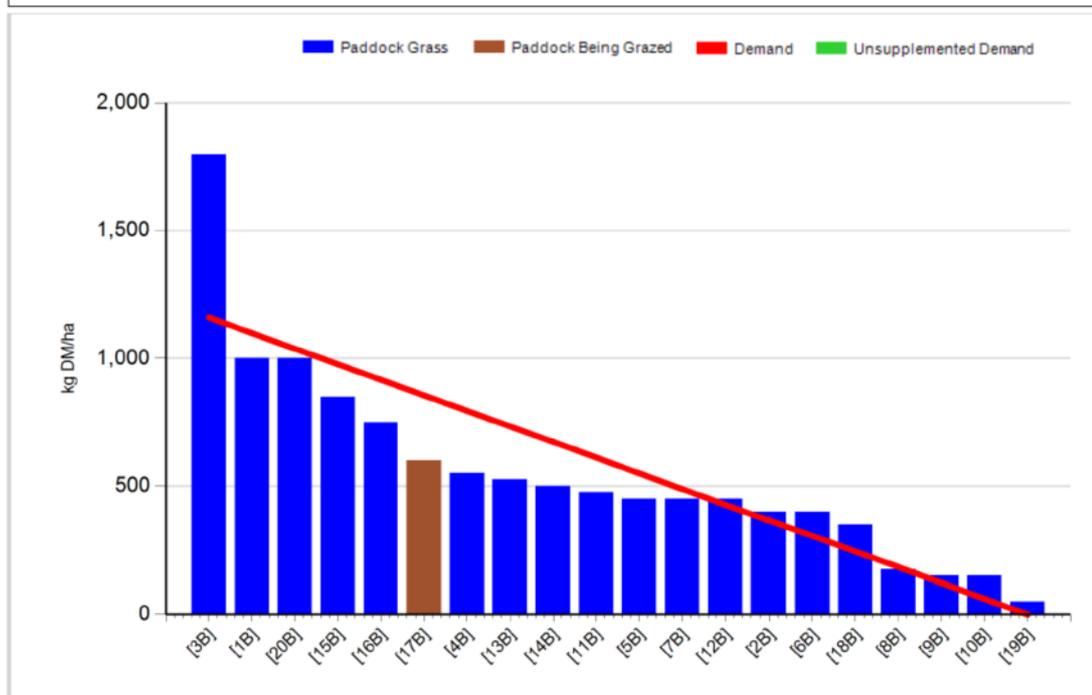
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Farm: Clonakilty Farm	Treatment: D

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	39	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	
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No. of Cows:	27		
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Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	12.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	28
Total Livestock (LU):	27.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	30
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	578	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1161
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	233		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	2.48		



1. We have 26 cows calved and milking in this group
2. Average farm cover 578 kg DM/ha (233 kg DM/LU) and the situation is very similar to what is described above in terms of AFC target etc. so I will not go through it again.
3. Growth rate last week was 28 kg DM/ha per day
4. Stocking rate is 2.48 LU/ha and demand is 27 kg DM/ha per day
5. We had 59% of the farm area grazed by the 18th of March which is slightly behind target but we are not worried as we will make this up
6. Pre-grazing yield is 1500 and we are allocating 11 kg DM of grass and 4 kg of concentrate per cow per day

Whole farm update

1. We had 193 cows to calve this year and there are now 31 left to calve. There are 149 cows being milked, 1 cow died, 8 cows were sold after they calved, another 3 cows have been dried off early and will be sold and we had one abortion.
2. Cows are currently milking 24.3 kg/day at 4.99% fat, 3.35% protein and 4.82 % lactose. Milk solids per cow are 2.03 kg/day. Latest results from the processor 5.09% fat, 3.48% protein, 4.94% lactose 49 SCC and TBC is 9. Average bodyweight of milking cows is 499 kg and average body condition score is 3.06.
3. Average farm cover on the general area is 702 kg DM/ha (358 kg DM/LU). Demand is 22 kg DM/ha per day and growth rate on the general area last week was 21 kg DM/ha per day. Stocking rate is 1.96 LU/ha. We have only 41% of the general area grazed which is way behind target. We are grazing lower covers this week of ground that will be used for grazing in the 2nd rotation to try and increase our area grazed. We have 45 general cows calved and they are being allocated 12 kg DM of grass and 3 kg of concentrate. We have also let out the 48 maiden heifers this week to speed up the area grazed.
4. All cows will get their BVD and Lepto vaccination this week.
5. The maiden heifers will receive their 2nd (booster) shot for BVD and lepto this week. Their average weight was 304 kg last week so they are well on target for breeding.
6. We have 90 heifer calves, 50 of those are on the automatic feeder and 40 are being reared on milk replacer in a separate shed. To date we have sold 58 bull calves. Calf mortality has been excellent this year, we have only had 2 dead calves. One calf was born dead and the other was put down due to suspected meningitis.