

Weekly update Clonakilty Dairy – 9 May 2016

Tetraploid swards (2.75 cows/ha)

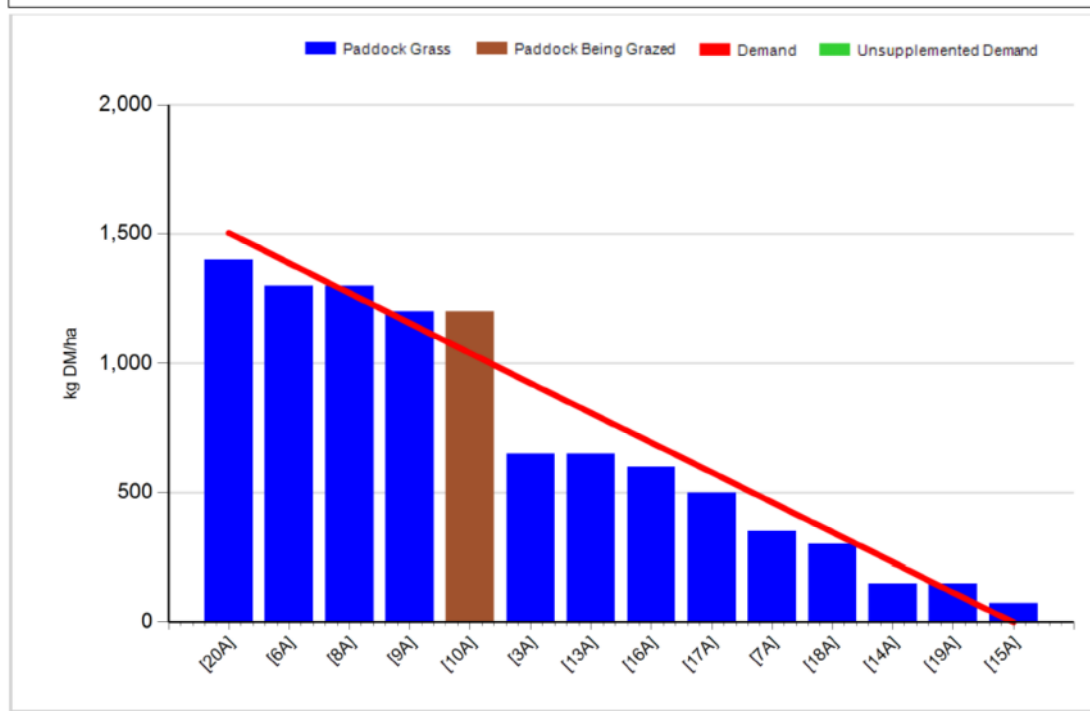
Group:	Cover Date: 09/05/2016
Farm: Clonakilty Farm	Treatment: T

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	21	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	0.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	17.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	30		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	0.0		

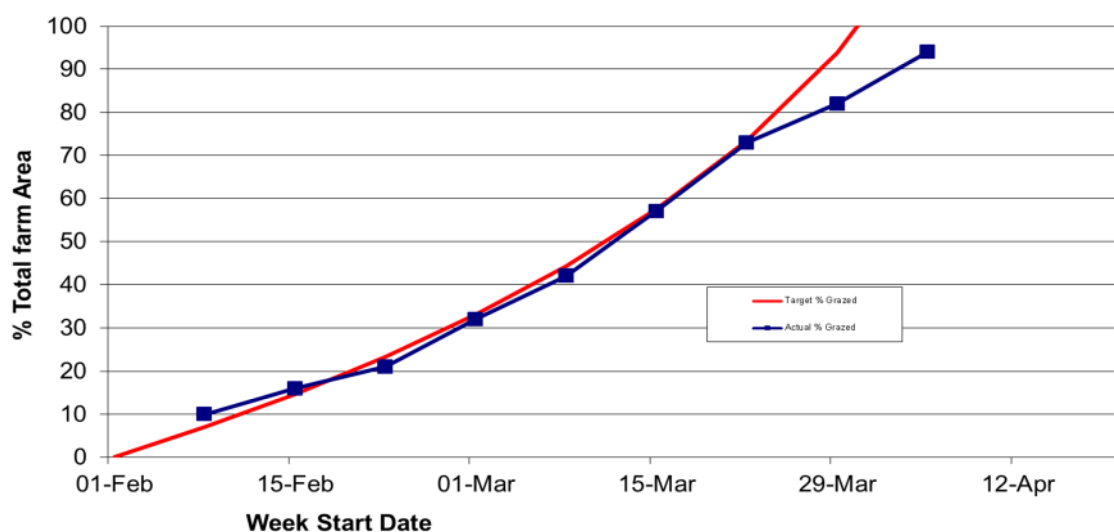
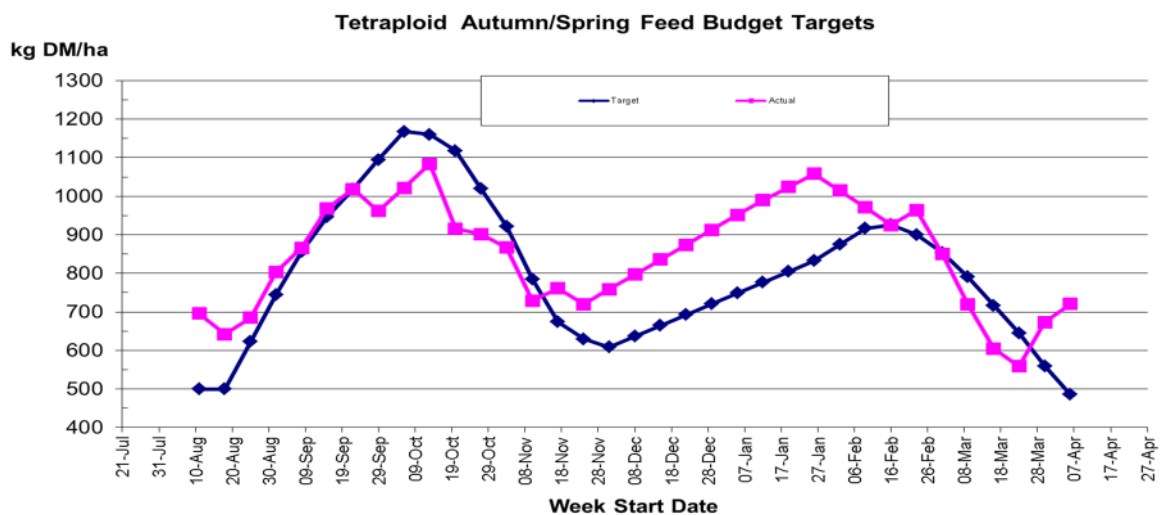
Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	17.0	Growth Rate:	72
Total Livestock (LU):	30.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	72
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	729	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1503
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	173	Days Ahead:	10
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	4.21	LW/ha (Liveweight/ha):	0



1. We have 30 cows calved and milking in this group.
2. Average farm cover (AFC) is 729 kg DM/ha (173 kg DM/LU).
3. Growth rate last week was 72 kg DM/ha per day.
4. Stocking rate is 4.21 LU/ha and demand is 72 kg DM/ha per day.
5. We have 28% of the farm closed and fertilised for 1st cut silage (we will cut the 1st week of June). We skipped paddock one last Thursday as pre-grazing yield was gone too strong, it will be cut for bales this week.
6. Pre-grazing yield is 1500 and we are allocating 17 kg DM of grass and no concentrate is being fed. Minerals (Mg, I, Se, Zn, Cu and Co) are being administered through the water.

7. Cows are currently milking 24.5 kg at 4.20% fat and 3.69% protein giving 1.92 kg milk solids/cow.
8. Our target was to finish the 1st rotation on the 1st of April. However, on the 21st of March we decided to extend the 1st rotation to the 4th of April by supplementing the cows with silage (the diet consisted of 8 kg grass, 4 kg concentrate and 4 kg of silage) for a week. This reduced our area grazed that week and combined with a growth rate of 30 kg DM/ha per day caused AFC to increase (see SRP and budget below). Therefore we removed silage and reduced concentrate to 1 kg in order to finish the 1st rotation on the 4th of April. However, between the 21st of March and the 4th of April cows were housed for 4 days due bad weather so we finished the 1st rotation on Thursday the 7th of April. Since then growth has been roughly half of what it normally would be so we had to delay closing silage ground and continue feeding meal.



Tetraploid + clover swards (2.75 cows/ha)

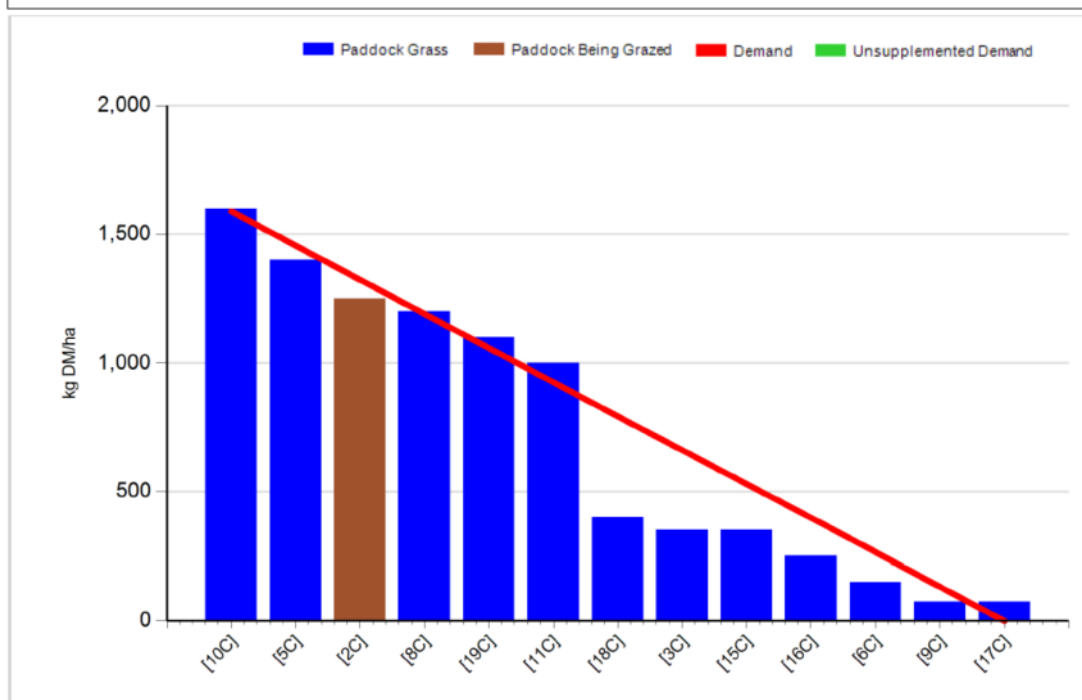
Group:	Cover Date: 09/05/2016
Farm: Clonakilty Farm	Treatment: TC

Management Decisions

Rotation Length (days):	21	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	0.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	17.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	30		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	0.0		

Cover Parameters

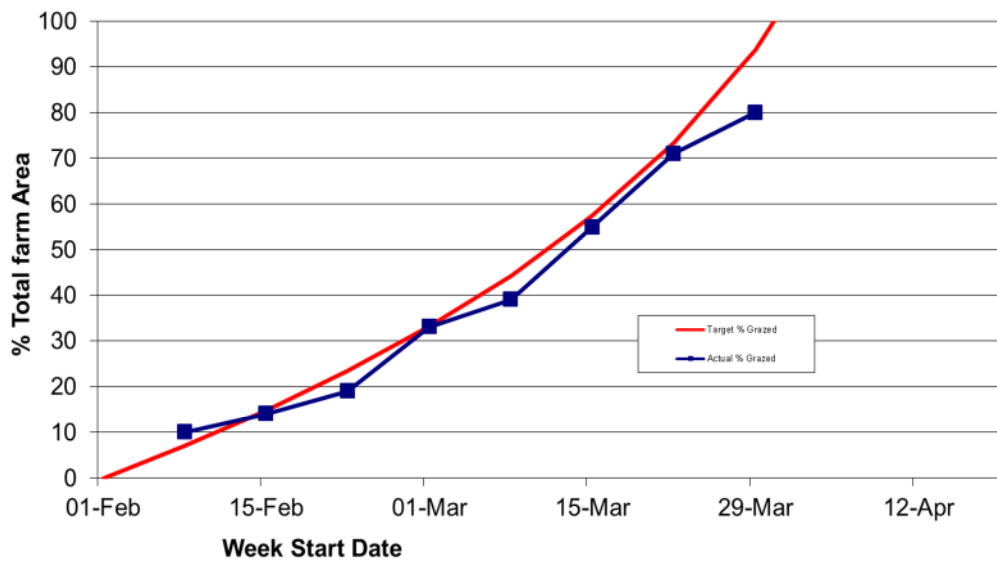
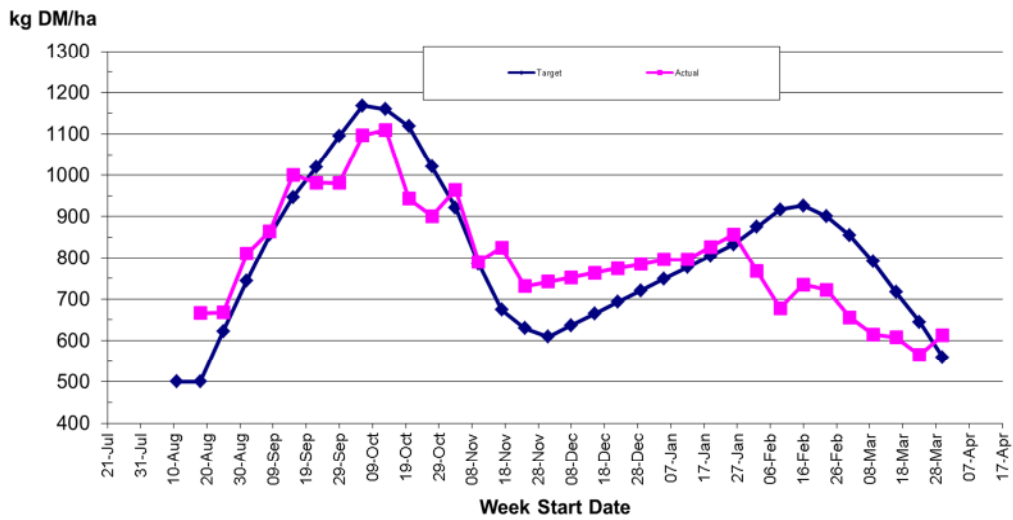
Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	17.0	Growth Rate:	85
Total Livestock (LU):	30.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	76
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	725	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1589
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	163	Days Ahead:	10
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	4.45	LW/ha (Liveweight/ha):	0



1. We have 30 cows calved and milking in this group.
2. Average farm cover (AFC) is 725 kg DM/ha (63 kg DM/LU).
3. Growth rate last week was 85 kg DM/ha per day.
4. Stocking rate is 4.45 LU/ha and demand is 76 kg DM/ha per day.
5. We have 26% of the farm closed and fertilised for 1st cut silage (we will cut the 1st week of June). We skipped paddock one last Thursday as pre-grazing yield was gone too strong, and we also skipped paddock 20 on Monday, these paddocks will be cut for bales this week.
6. Pre-grazing yield is 1500 and we are allocating 17 kg DM of grass and no concentrate is being fed. Minerals (Mg, I, Se, Zn, Cu and Co) are being administered through the water.
7. Cows are currently milking 27.0 kg at 3.88% fat and 3.70% protein giving 2.03 kg milk solids/cow.

As can be seen from the budget below, AFC was well below target for most of the spring and we had to supplement cows with silage to maintain AFC above 600 kg DM/ha. Cows were housed by night for most of the spring and grazing was very challenging. Our target was to finish the 1st rotation on the 1st of April. However, on the 21st of March we decided to extend the 1st rotation to the 4th of April by continuing to supplement the cows with silage and concentrate (the diet consisted of 8 kg grass, 4 kg concentrate and 4 kg of silage). This reduced our area grazed that week and combined with a growth rate of 25 kg DM/ha per day caused AFC to increase (see SRP and budget below). Therefore we removed silage and reduced concentrate to 1 kg in order to finish the 1st rotation on the 4th of April. However, between the 21st of March and the 4th of April cows were housed for 4 days due bad weather so we finished the 1st rotation on Thursday the 7th of April. Since then growth has been roughly half of what it normally would be so we had to delay closing silage ground and continue feeding meal.

Tetraploid + clover Autumn/Spring Feed Budget Targets



Whole farm update

1. We had 205 cows to calve this year. There are 180 cows being milked. All cows are calved. Some late calving cows were sold before they calved, some were sold after calving and some culls went to the factory.
2. Cows are currently milking 25.2 kg/day at 4.15% fat, 3.63% protein and 4.95% lactose. Milk solids per cow are 1.95 kg/day. Latest results from the processor 4.11% fat, 3.73% protein, 5.07% lactose and 59 SCC, TBC 4. Average bodyweight of milking cows is 506 kg and average body condition score is 3.03.
3. Average farm cover on the general area is 749 kg DM/ha (190 kg DM/LU). Demand is 49 kg DM/ha per day and growth rate on the general area last week was 54 kg DM/ha per day. Stocking rate is 3.95 LU/ha. We have 60 general cows calved and they are being allocated 15.5 kg DM of grass and 1.5 kg of concentrate.
4. Breeding started on Monday the 25th of April. We had 63% of the cows submitted in 14 days and we had 88% of the heifers submitted in 12 days. The heifers are no running with 2 stock bulls.