

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 20/04/2009

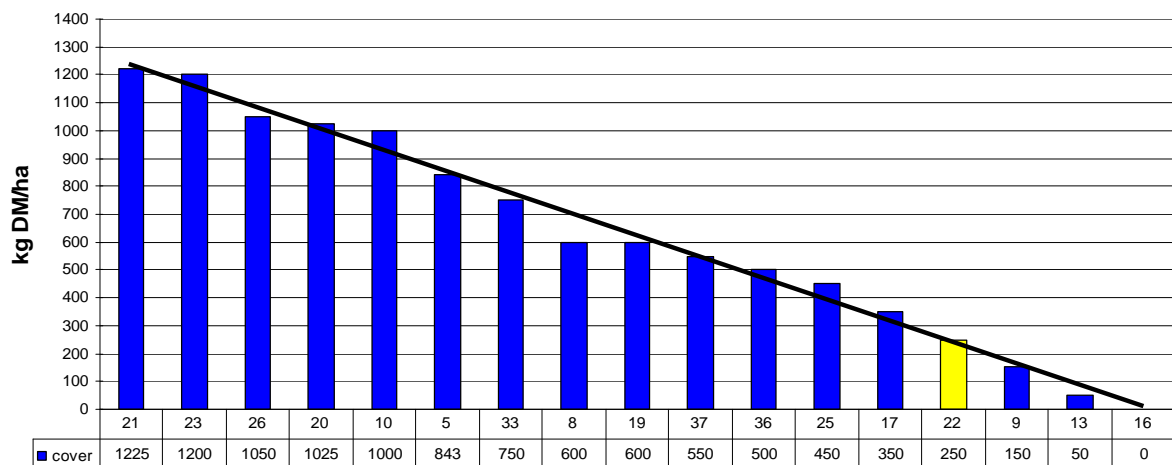
A. Critical Issues

1. Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm
2. Ensure cows are getting better fed each week

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 8.5°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 9.1mm
3. Average growth was 73kgDM/ha, (18% DM)
4. Grass supply is on target (135 vs. 150/cow)
5. Farm feed wedge (20/4/09)

Farm cover 603kg DM/ha (135/LU)



6. Five paddocks have been closed for silage (6.2ha, 31% of the area). This means that our stocking rate on the grazing platform is 4.48 cows/ha.
7. At stocking rate of 4.48 cows /ha, a 15kg per cow allowance and an 18 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1200kg DM/ ha ($4.48 * 15 * 18 = 1200$).
8. Paddocks 10 and 37 have been identified as paddocks which may be skipped next week. This would bring our stocking rate to 5.06 cows / ha on the grazing area.
9. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.2cm.
10. Total N application to date is 37kg N/ha. 15 units of N is being applied after grazing. Silage paddocks are receiving 65 units of N this week.
11. Pre-breeding heat detection is continuing. Breeding season will commence on the 5th of May.
12. 97% of the herd calved to date (expected mean calving date is 4th March).
13. Average milk yield is 20.19kg at 4.22% fat and 3.08% protein (1.47kg MS/cow), lactose 4.84%, SCC 363k, TBC 17k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Calmag dusting of paddocks.
- Concentrate removed.
- Grass allocated on full paddock basis as ground conditions allow.

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Dairy Production Research in the Northeast

Objective:

To increase the profitability of milk production per hectare in the BMW region through improved pasture management and utilisation in combination with genetic improvement using the Economic Breeding Index.

Year	2004	2007	2008
Grazing season (days)	226	271	280
Herd EBI (€)	28	51	55
Stocking Rate (Cows/ha)	2.2	2.6	2.9
Concentrate (kg/cow)	700	400	250
Milk (kg/ha)	12,381	11,890	13,340
Milk Solids (kg/ ha)	928	931	1,150
6 week pregnancy rate (%)	38	55	65
Farm Profit (30 ha)	37,417	56,182	-

Week:19/04/09	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	20.19	19.68
% Fat	4.72	4.60
% Protein	3.30	3.14
% Lactose	4.77	4.88
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.61	1.50
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	0.25	3.0
Silage	0	5
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	987	958
% Fat	4.93	4.72
% Protein	3.42	3.29
% Lactose	4.74	4.80
Milk solids (kg/cow)	85	81
Bodyweight (kg)	429	437
Body Condition Score	2.92	2.93
Supplement (kg/cow)	134	194
Mean Calving Date		4 th March

