

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 27/04/2009

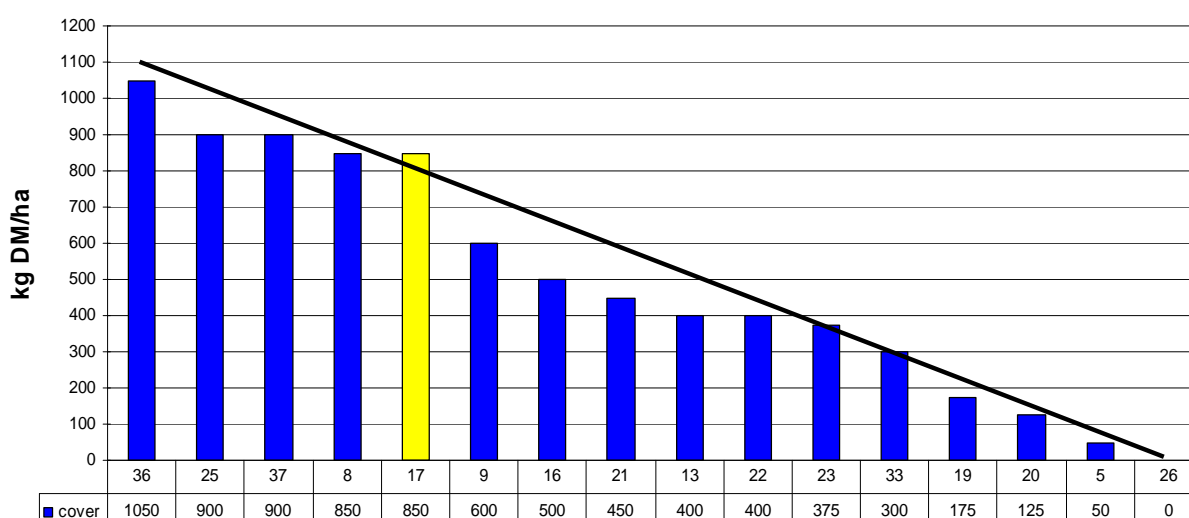
A. Critical Issues

1. **Don't poach.**
2. **Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm**
3. **Ensure cows are getting better fed each week**

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 11.7°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 46.2mm
3. Average growth was 72kgDM/ha, (16% DM)
4. Grass supply below target (105 vs. 150/cow)
5. Farm feed wedge (27/4/09)

Farm cover 499kg DM/ha (105/LU)



6. Paddock ten has been removed from the wedge because pre-grazing yield is too high (2000kgDM/ha). This will be baled next week if weather permits.
7. 3kg of concentrate have been introduced to plug the gap. This will be reviewed next Monday.
8. At stocking rate of 4.73 cows /ha, a 13kg per cow grass allowance and an 18 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1100kg DM/ ha (4.73*13*18= 1100).
9. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 4.6cm.
10. Total N application to date is 37kg N/ha. 23 units of N is being applied after grazing.
11. Pre-breeding heat detection is continuing. Breeding season will commence on the 5th of May.
12. 99% of the herd calved to date (expected mean calving date is 4th March).

13. Average milk yield is 20.72kg at 4.10% fat and 3.09% protein (1.49kg MS/cow), lactose 4.84%, SCC 243k, TBC 17k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- 3kg of concentrate introduced.
- Allocating 12hr blocks.
- On/off grazing.

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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:20/04/09	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	20.72	19.42
% Fat	4.45	4.55
% Protein	3.29	3.04
% Lactose	4.82	4.85
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.6	1.48
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	0.25	0.25
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1107	1098
% Fat	4.87	4.66
% Protein	3.38	3.20
% Lactose	4.75	4.74
Milk solids (kg/cow)	91	88
Bodyweight (kg)	452	451
Body Condition Score	2.8	2.82
Supplement (kg/cow)	136	196
Mean Calving Date		4 th March



