

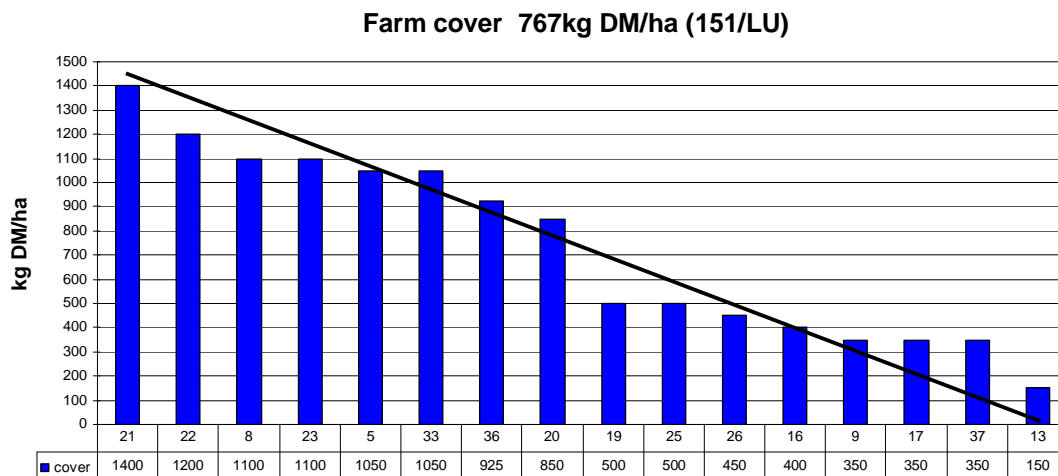
Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 11/5/2009

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 8.5°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 39.9mm
3. Average growth was 46kgDM/ha, (16% DM)
4. Grass supply is on target (150 vs. 150/cow)
5. Farm feed wedge (11/5/09)



6. Cows were housed for three grazings over the weekend due to heavy rain and saturated soils. They were fed baled silage and 5kgs of concentrate. This action was taken to protect paddocks from excessive damage.
7. Grass supply is on target and grazing conditions have improved so concentrate has been removed.
8. At current stocking rate of 5.06 cows/ha, demand is 80kgsDM/ha/day ($5.06 \times 16 = 80$). Growth rate for last week was well below that at 46kgsDM/ha and with dry cool weather forecast this week it probably will not rise above 60kgs. However paddocks 10, 2 and 4 will be mowed out for bales today and will be back in our rotation. This will reduce the stocking rate to 4.28 cows / ha and therefore the demand is also reduced to 68kgsDM/ha/day ($4.28 \times 16 = 68$).
9. At stocking rate of 5.06 cows /ha, a 16kg per cow grass allowance and an 18 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1450kg DM/ ha ($5.06 \times 16 \times 18 = 1450$).
10. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.8cm.
11. Rotation length 19 days.

12. Total N application to date is 79kg N/ha. Half a bag of urea is spread after grazing (18.4 kgs/ha).
13. Average milk yield is 18.93kg at 4.09% fat and 3.03% protein (1.34kg MS/cow), lactose 4.82%, SCC 385k, TBC 32k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Concentrate removed.
- Allocating 36hr blocks.
- Calmag dusting paddocks.

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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:10/05/09	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	18.93	20.35
% Fat	4.16	4.19
% Protein	3.15	3.13
% Lactose	4.79	4.88
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.38	1.49
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	2	4
Silage	0	3
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1342	1321
% Fat	4.68	4.61
% Protein	3.32	3.23
% Lactose	4.77	4.81
Milk solids (kg/cow)	108	104
Bodyweight (kg)	426	436
Body Condition Score	2.8	2.82
Supplement (kg/cow)	184	246
Mean Calving Date		4 th March



