

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 18/5/2009

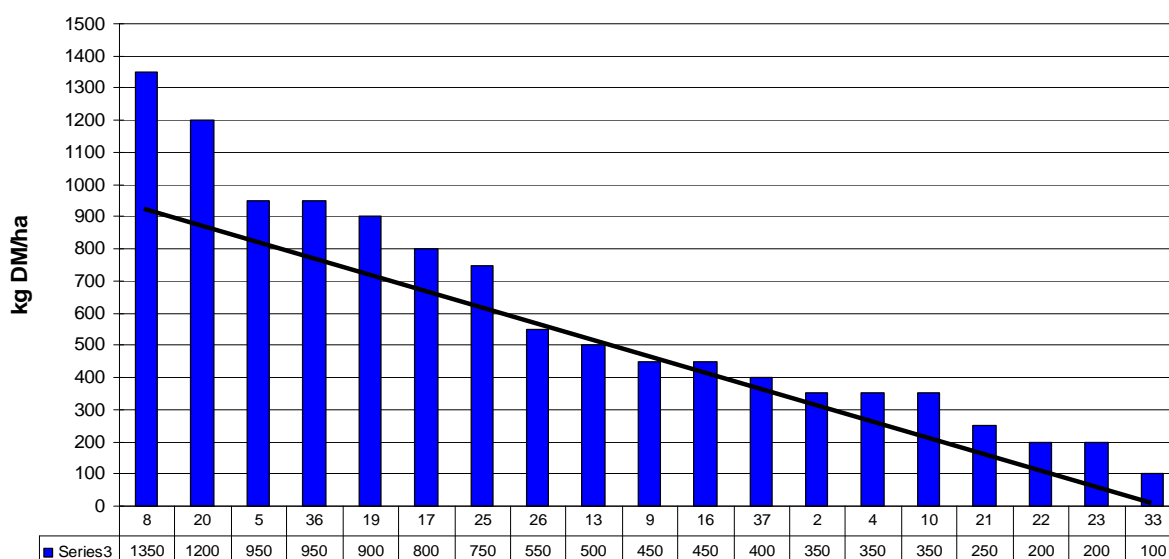
A. Critical Issues

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 10°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 40mm
3. Average growth was 38kgDM/ha, (15% DM)
4. Grass supply below target (139 vs. 150/cow)
5. Farm feed wedge (18/5/09)

Farm cover 561kg DM/ha (139/LU)



6. Three paddocks which have been baled last week are now back in the grazing rotation, this drops the stocking rate back to 4.04 cows/ha. Therefore our demand is now 64kgsDM/Ha but growth rate has dropped to 38kgs/ha. 4Kgs of concentrate have been introduced to drop demand back to 48kgs. If pre-grazing yields fall below 900kgDM/ha we will feed 2kgs of straight citrus pulp.
7. At stocking rate of 4.04 cows /ha, a 12kg per cow grass allowance and an 18 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is now 900kg DM/ ha (4.04*12*18= 900).
8. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 4.7cm.
9. Rotation length 24 days.
10. Total N application to date is 79kg N/ha. Half a bag of urea is spread after grazing (18.4 kgs/ha) or as weather conditions allow.
11. Submission rate of 57% after second week of breeding season.

12. Average milk yield is 20.06kg at 4.08% fat and 3.16% protein (1.45kg MS/cow), lactose 4.87%, SCC 237k, TBC 4k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- 4kgs of concentrate introduced.
- Allocating grass on a 12hr basis.
- On/off grazing during wet conditions.

www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/

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)	20.06	20.46
% Fat	4.21	4.69
% Protein	3.21	3.17
% Lactose	4.76	4.78
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.54	1.61
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	2	6
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1486	1463
% Fat	4.64	4.64
% Protein	3.30	3.21
% Lactose	4.77	4.81
Milk solids (kg/cow)	117	114
Bodyweight (kg)	453	470
Body Condition Score	2.8	2.82
Supplement (kg/cow)	205	285
Mean Calving Date		4 th March

