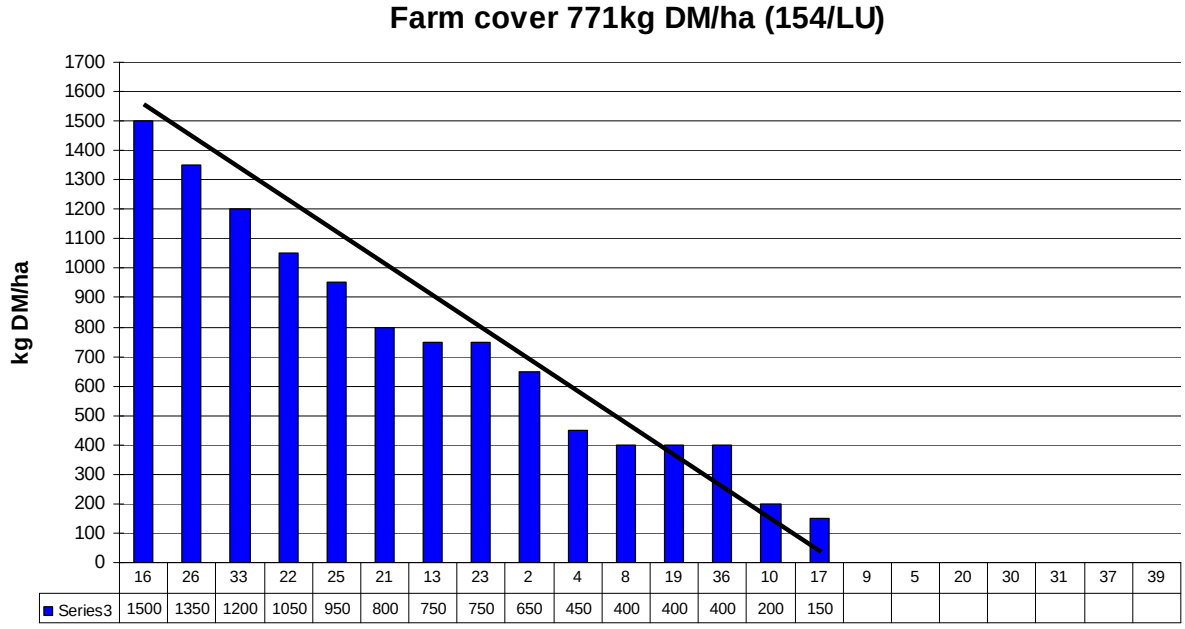
Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 6/7/2009

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 15.8ºC.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 35mm
3. Average growth was 96kgDM/ha/day, (14% DM)
4. Demand is 85kgDM/ha/day (5.0 SR * 17kgDM/cow/day).
5. Grass supply is on target (154 vs. 150/cow)
6. Farm feed wedge (6/7/09)



7. There is a feed deficit evident on the wedge but this of no concern as even at our current stocking rate growth is still 11kgs/ha/day higher than demand. Also with 3 paddocks in line for baling this week this will further reduce our demand. Another cover will be done on Friday to assess if more paddocks need to be skipped.

8. Paddocks 5, 20 and 31 have reached covers of 2500kgsDM/ha, they will be baled this week when weather permits. Paddock 9 was skipped this week to bring cover/ cow back to target. It only has a cover of 900kgDM/ha, but was skipped due to poor quality. It will be topped up with 14 units of N and baled in 12 to 14 days.

9. At stocking rate of 5.0 cows /ha, a 17kg per cow grass allowance and an 18 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1530kg DM/ ha (5*17*18= 1530).

10. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.4cm.

11. Rotation length 18 days.

12. 20 units of N are being spread on grazed paddocks. These paddocks are also receiving 2000gals of watery slurry from the lagoon. Total N usage to the first of July is 160kg/ha.

13. Submission rate of 82% after third week of breeding season.

14. Average milk yield is 18.87kg at 4.32% fat and 3.38% protein (1.44kg MS/cow), lactose 4.77%, SCC 163k, TBC 50k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Concentrate removed.
- Allocating grass on a 24hr basis.
- Cows moved when residual is reached.

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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:6/7/09	**HG system**	**HS system**
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	**3.1**	**4.6**
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	18.87	18.96
% Fat	4.32	4.38
% Protein	3.38	3.18
% Lactose	4.77	4.74
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.44	1.43
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	0.25	0.25
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	2382	2449
% Fat	4.47	4.5
% Protein	3.29	3.17
% Lactose	4.79	4.81
Milk solids (kg/cow)	184	188
Bodyweight (kg)	486	451
Body Condition Score	2.75	2.79
Supplement (kg/cow)	297	464
Mean Calving Date	4th March