

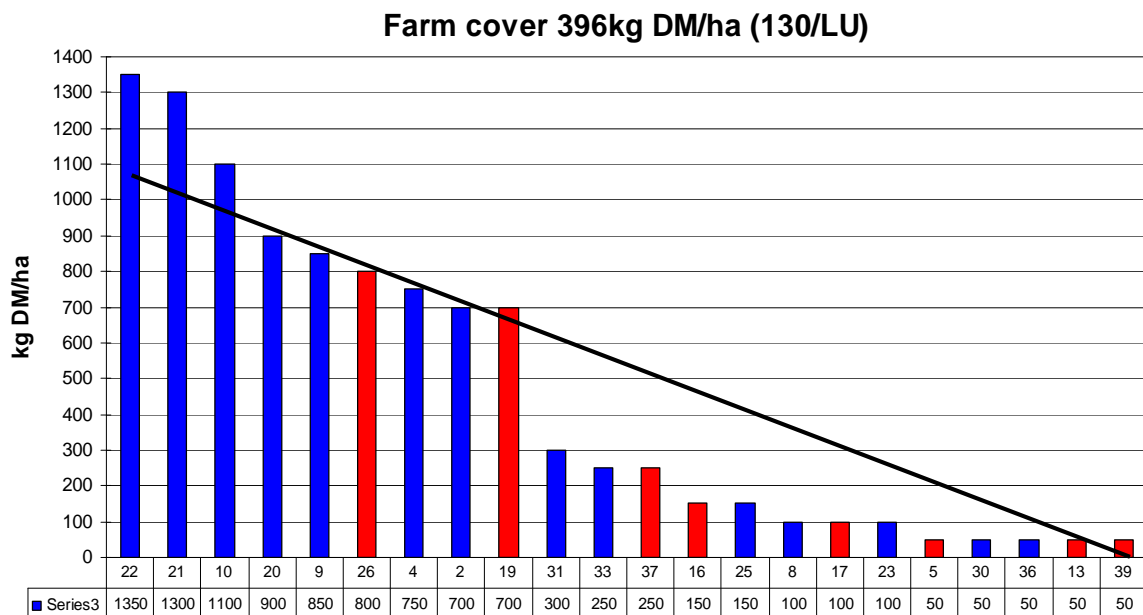
Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 10/8/2009

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 16.5°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 8.5mm.
3. Average growth was 61kgDM/ha/day, (15% DM).
4. Demand is 49kgDM/ha/day (3.1SR * 16kgDM/cow/day).
5. Grass supply is below target (130 vs. 150/cow).
6. Farm feed wedge (10/8/09).



7. All surplus paddocks were baled last week. This means that entire area is now available for grazing. There is plenty of grass on the farm (130kgDM / cow), but a possible future deficit is obvious on the wedge. This was caused by having to bale 5 paddocks last week. This should not be a problem as these paddocks will re-grow quickly and growth this week should be ahead of demand.
8. The red paddocks on the wedge are the wettest paddocks on the farm, they will be grazed first during dry periods once they are in the top third of the wedge. This will help minimise pasture damage on these paddocks during wet periods.
9. At a stocking rate of 3.1 cows /ha, a 16kg per cow grass allowance and a 22 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1090kg DM/ ha (3.1*16*22= 1090).

10. Rotation length is 21 days; this should increase by about 2 days per week and should be around 30 days by the end of August. A peak rotation length of 45 days should be reached around the 20th of September.

11. Autumn budget:

Week	Cover	Cover	Growth (kg dm/day)			Closing cover (kg dm/ha)
	(kg dm/ha)	LU		Grass	Conc	
16-Aug	500	161	68.8	16	0	623
23-Aug	623	201	68.8	16	0	763
30-Aug	763	246	67.0	16	0	891
06-Sep	891	288	64.8	16	0	1004
13-Sep	1004	324	55.5	15	1	1073
20-Sep	1073	346	55.0	15	1	1139
27-Sep	1139	367	53.7	15	1	1195
04-Oct	1195	385	44.2	14	2	1206
11-Oct	1206	389	43.0	14	2	1209
18-Oct	1209	390	40.7	14	2	1195

12. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.7cm.

13. 27 units of N spread on grazed paddocks once every 10 days. Total N usage to the first of August is 182kg/ha.

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

15. Average milk yield is 16.35kg at 4.39% fat and 3.44% protein (1.28kg MS/cow), lactose 4.74%, SCC 228k, TBC 4k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- 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:9/8/09	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	16.35	16.65
% Fat	4.39	3.75
% Protein	3.44	3.47
% Lactose	4.74	4.70
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.28	1.20
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	0.5	1
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	2970	3076
% Fat	4.53	4.43
% Protein	3.32	3.22
% Lactose	4.77	4.78
Milk solids (kg/cow)	232	235
Bodyweight (kg)	456	482
Body Condition Score	2.75	2.78
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	318	509
Silage	60	110
Maize	0	180
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	831	126
Mean Calving Date		4 th March

