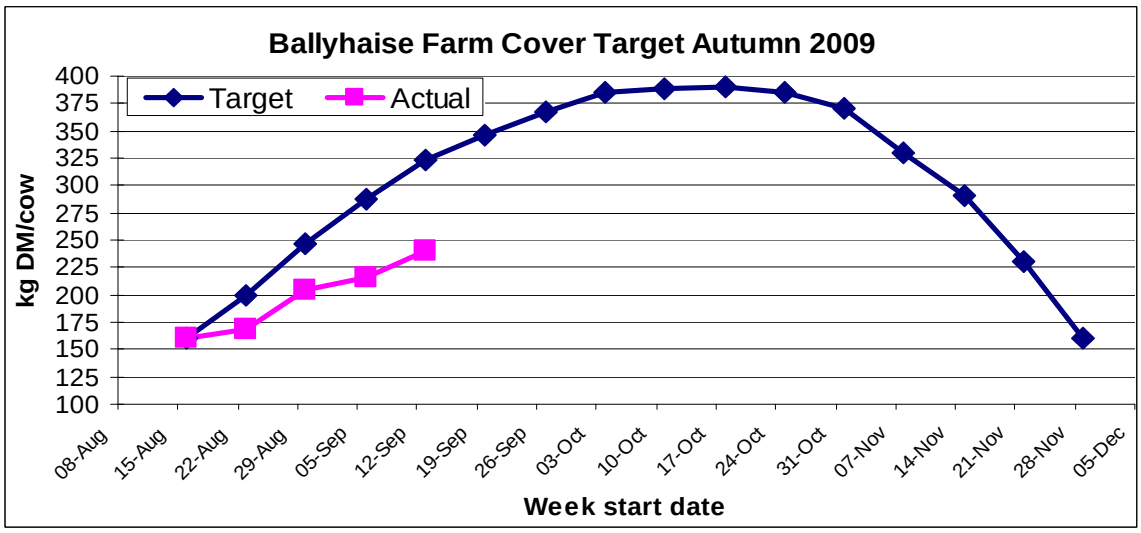
Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 14/9/2009

A. Critical Issues

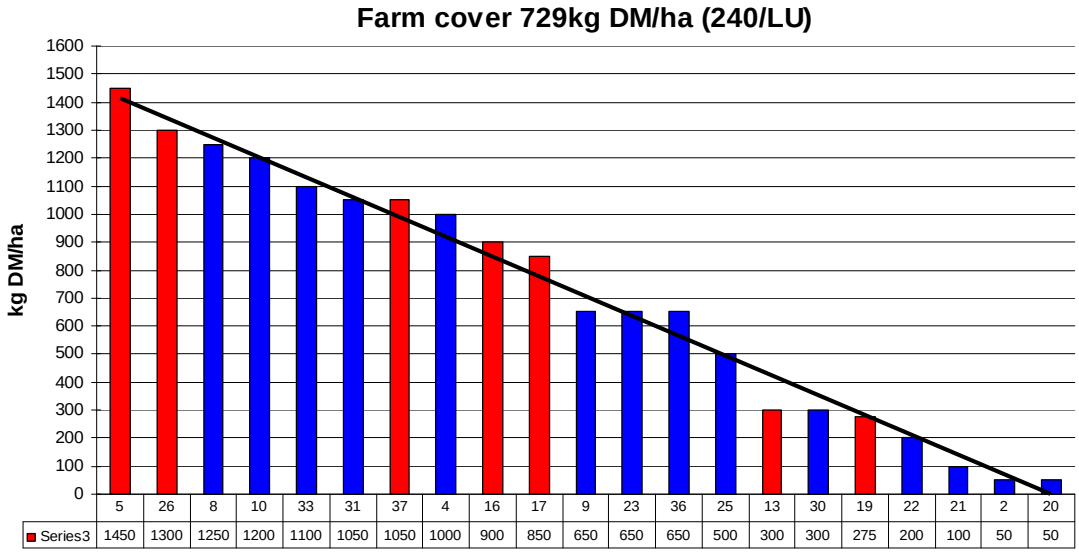
1. **Don't poach.**
2. **Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm.**
3. **Ensure cows are getting better fed each week.**

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 12.6ºC.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 8.1mm.
3. Average growth was 50kgDM/ha/day, (13% DM).
4. Demand is 35kgDM/ha/day (3.48SR * 10kgDM/cow/day).
5. Grass supply is below target (240 vs. 325/cow).
6. Feeding 3kg of concentrate and 3kg of bale silage.
7. Autumn budget.



8. Farm feed wedge (14/9/09).



9. Farm cover is well behind budget again this week. This is due to very low growth rates on the low parts of the farm which were flooded for several days two weeks ago. This 3ha block of the 20ha farmlet (15% of the area) had a growth rate of 5kgDM/ha for the last two weeks. This means that our stocking rate is effectively 3.5cows/ha.

10. Feeding 3kg of concentrate and 3kg of bale silage to help build covers further.

11. 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.

12. Rotation length is 32 days. A peak rotation length of 45 days should be reached around the 25th of September.

13. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.1cm.

14. The farm is being bulk spread with urea (46units) before the 15th of September. Total N usage to the beginning of August is 182kg/ha.

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

16. Average milk yield is 12.6kg at 4.56% fat and 3.75% protein (1.04kg MS/cow), lactose 4.63%, SCC 161k, TBC 3k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 12hr blocks.
- 3kg conc and 3kg of bale silage being fed.

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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:14/9/09	**HG system**	**HS system**
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	**3.1**	**4.6**
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	12.6	13.4
% Fat	4.56	4.52
% Protein	3.75	3.59
% Lactose	4.63	4.64
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.04	1.08
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	3	3
Silage	3	5
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3565	3721
% Fat	4.53	4.46
% Protein	3.38	3.28
% Lactose	4.75	4.76
Milk solids (kg/cow)	281	287
Bodyweight (kg)	461	453
Body Condition Score	2.70	2.77
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	449	667
Silage	60	180
Maize	0	180
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	831	126
Mean Calving Date	4th March	