

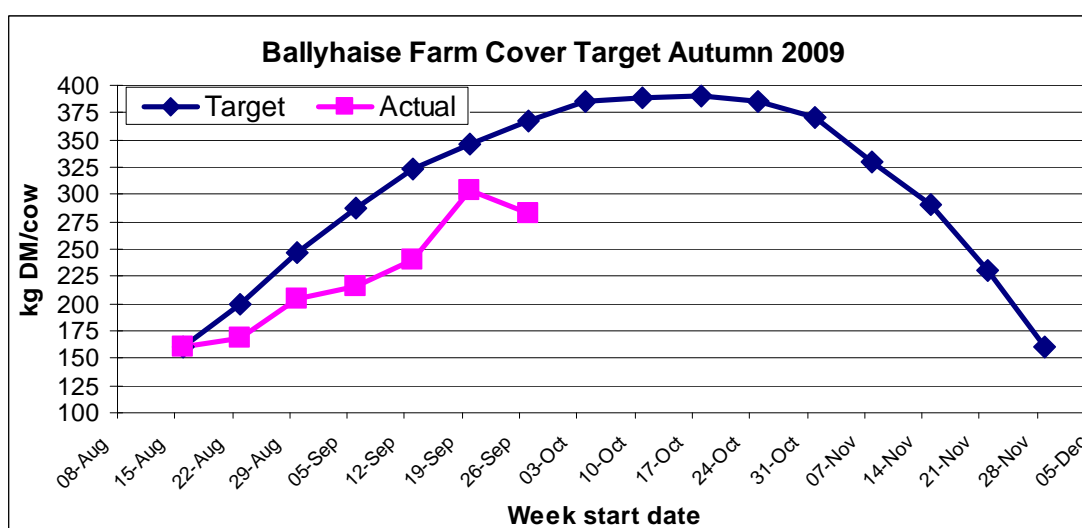
Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 28/9/2009

A. Critical Issues

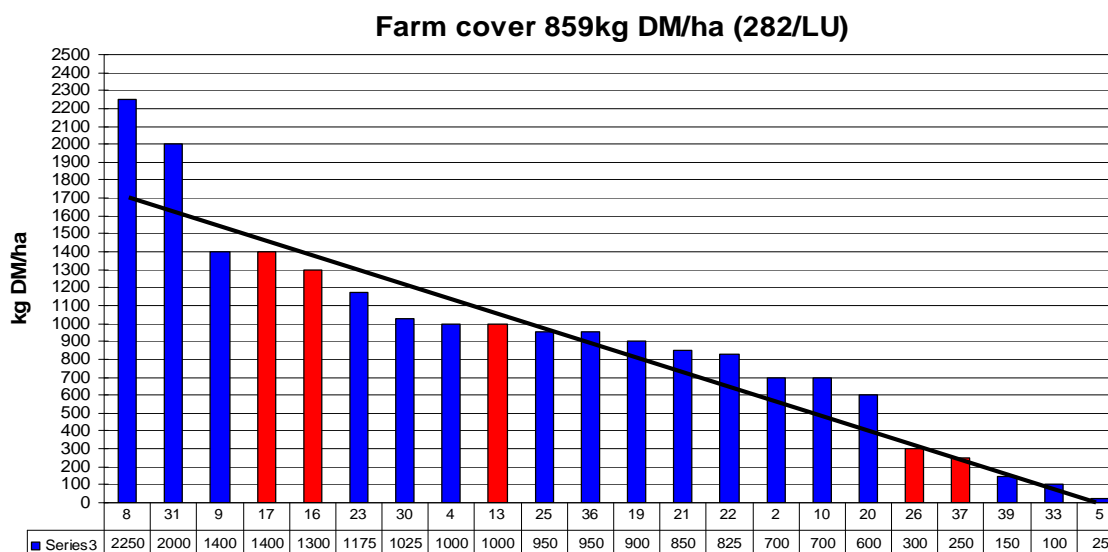
1. Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm.
2. Ensure cows are getting better fed each week.

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 14.5°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 2.4mm.
3. Average growth was 45kgDM/ha/day, (16% DM).
4. Demand is 34kgDM/ha/day (3.1SR * 11kgDM/cow/day).
5. Grass supply is below target (282 vs. 367/cow).
6. Feeding 4kg of concentrate.
7. Autumn budget.



8. Farm feed wedge (28/9/09).



9. Farm cover is still behind budget this week. Growth rate is similar to what was budgeted for this week. Ground conditions are excellent which is allowing good grass utilisation. Because conditions are so good we have decided not to supplement with bale silage this week because we are trying to get the wetter parts of the farm grazed.
10. 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.
11. Empty cows will be sold in the next week to help reduce demand on the farm. This will reduce our stocking rate to 2.5 cows/ha which will mean that cover per cow will be very close to the target ($859\text{kg DM /ha AFC} / 2.5 \text{ SR} = 343\text{kg DM / cow}$).
12. Rotation length is 36 days.
13. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.5cm.
14. Total N usage for the year is 257kg/ha.
15. Cows were scanned last week. 18% empty rate after 12 weeks of breeding. The six week in-calf rate is 57%.
16. Average milk yield is 12.5kg at 4.67% fat and 3.79% protein (1.06kg MS/cow), lactose 4.62%, SCC 173k, TBC 4k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 12hr blocks.
- 4kg concentrate being fed.

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Objective of Dairy Production Research in the Northeast:

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	2009
Grazing season (days)	226	271	280	
Herd EBI (€)	28	51	55	
Stocking Rate (Cows/ha)	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.1
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	57
Farm Profit (30 ha)	37,417	56,182	-	

Week:20/9/09	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	12.5	13.36
% Fat	4.67	4.14
% Protein	3.79	3.67
% Lactose	4.62	4.59
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.06	1.04
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	3	4
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3643	3834
% Fat	4.53	4.42
% Protein	3.39	3.29
% Lactose	4.75	4.77
Milk solids (kg/cow)	287	295
(kg/ha)	890	1,357
Bodyweight (kg)	497	481
Body Condition Score	2.83	2.84
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	486	774
Silage	81	180
Maize	0	180
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	831	126
Mean Calving Date		4 th March