Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 20/9/2010

A. Critical Issues

1. **Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm.**
2. **Monitor soil conditions to reduce risk of poaching.**
3. **Treat high SCC cows and reduce risk of cross infection.**

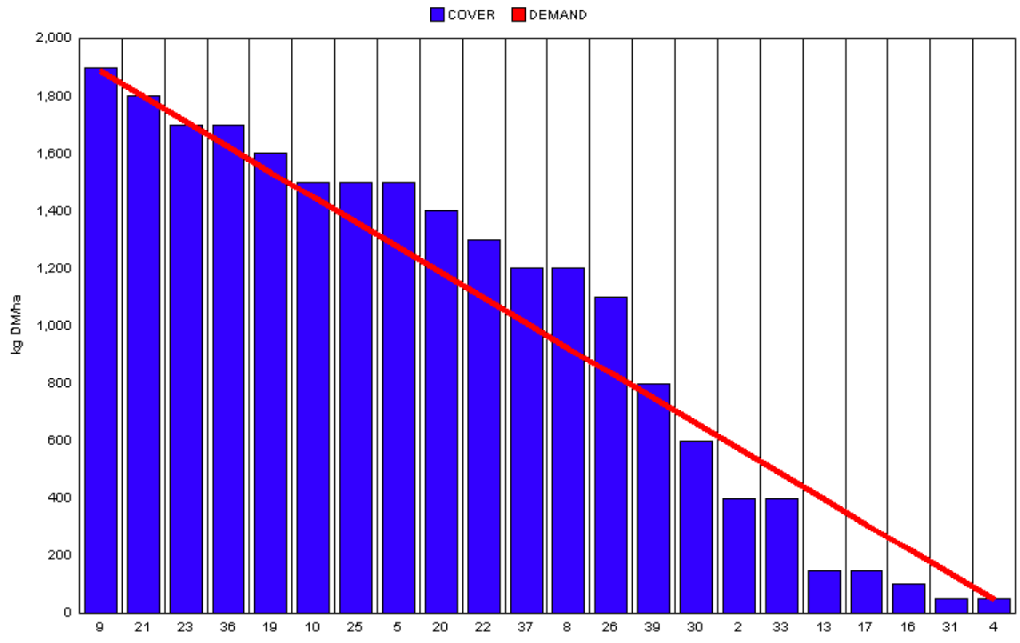
B. On farm situation

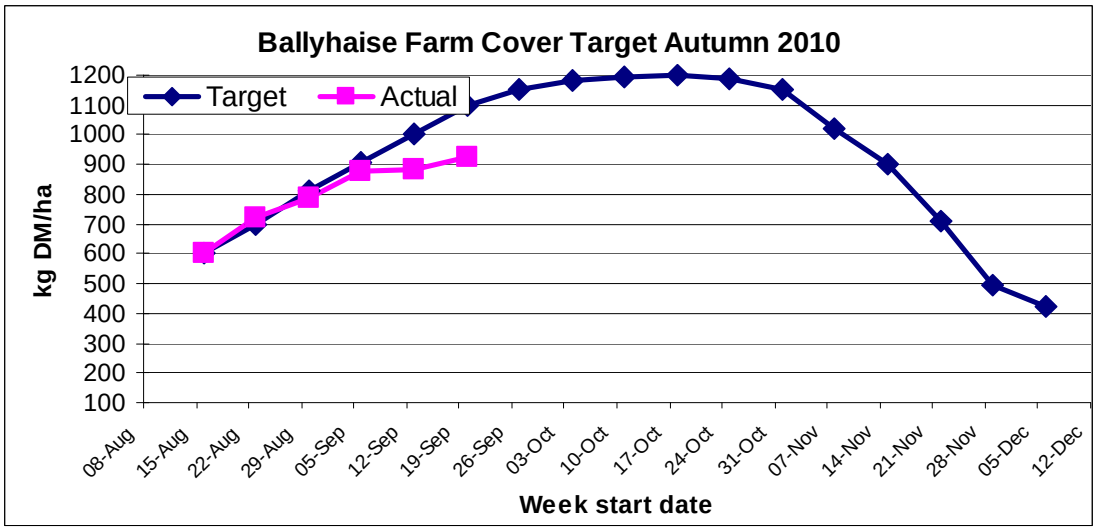
1. Soil temperature today is 13ºC.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 29.6mm.
3. Average growth was 66kgDM/ha/day, (12% DM).
4. Feeding 3 kg of concentrate.
5. Farm feed wedge (20/09/10).

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre — **GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report**

Group :	TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		**Date Produced** 22-SEP-10
Farm :	Ballyhaise Farm	Ballyhaise BMW region systems comparison	
Date :	20-SEP-10	**Treatment :** 3.1 stocking rate	

Rotation Length :	45	**Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :**	923
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	13	**Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :**	294
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3	**Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :**	34
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	**Stock Rate (LU/ha) :**	3.14
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		**Growth Rate :**	66
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		**Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :**	41
Residual Height :	4.2	**Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :**	1888
Total Livestock :	63		





6. Growth rate has increased this week to 66kg DM / ha from 56 kg DM /ha last week. This is ahead of budgeted growth for this week. Soil conditions are still poor on the wetter parts of the farm and grass utilisation is being adversely affected. Grass is being allocated every 12 hours and back fenced where necessary.

7. As can be seen in the graph above we are behind budget. Three kilos of concentrate are being fed to reduce demand to 41kg DM /ha.

8. Rotation length is 39 days. This should increase to reach a peak of 45 days by the 20th of September. The demand line on the wedge is based on a 45 day rotation.

9. Watery slurry from the lagoon is being spread on grazed paddocks (2000gallons / acre) as weather and soil conditions allow.

10. Cows were tail painted on the 10th of April. Mating start date was the 10th of May for the cows and the 5th of May for the heifers. 24 day submission rate is 90% (57 cows out of 63). Bulls were introduced on week seven of the breeding season and breeding commenced after 13 weeks. Scanned last week, 68% confirmed in-calf for first 8 week period. This is disappointing considering submission rate was good. Final scanning will be done next week.

11. Average milk yield is 13.94kg at 4.79% fat and 3.77% protein (1.18kg MS/cow), lactose 4.60%, SCC 222k, TBC 20k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Monitor residuals closely to ensure cows are being well fed.

- Graze wetter parts of the farm during dry periods even if they are not next on the wedge.
- Treat high SCC cows and milk separately.
- Move heifers and calves to fresh grass every 3-4 days.

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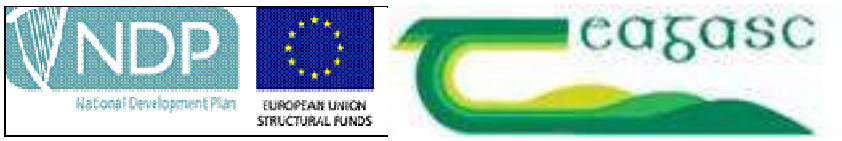

Dairy Production Research in the Northeast

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 Ending :19/09/10	**HG system**	**HS system**
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	**3.1**	**4.6**
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	13.94	17.2
% Fat	4.79	4.48
% Protein	3.77	3.67
% Lactose	4.60	4.65
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.18	1.39
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	2	6
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3905	4051
% Fat	4.35	4.30
% Protein	3.44	3.44
% Lactose	4.77	4.79
Milk solids kg/cow (kg/ha)	303 (951)	313 (1364)
Bodyweight (kg)	488	472
Body Condition Score	2.89	2.97
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	434	864
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	158	188
Maize (kg DM/cow)	0	114
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	817	126
Total silage fed (kg DM/cow)	930	1233