Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 27/9/2010

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.**

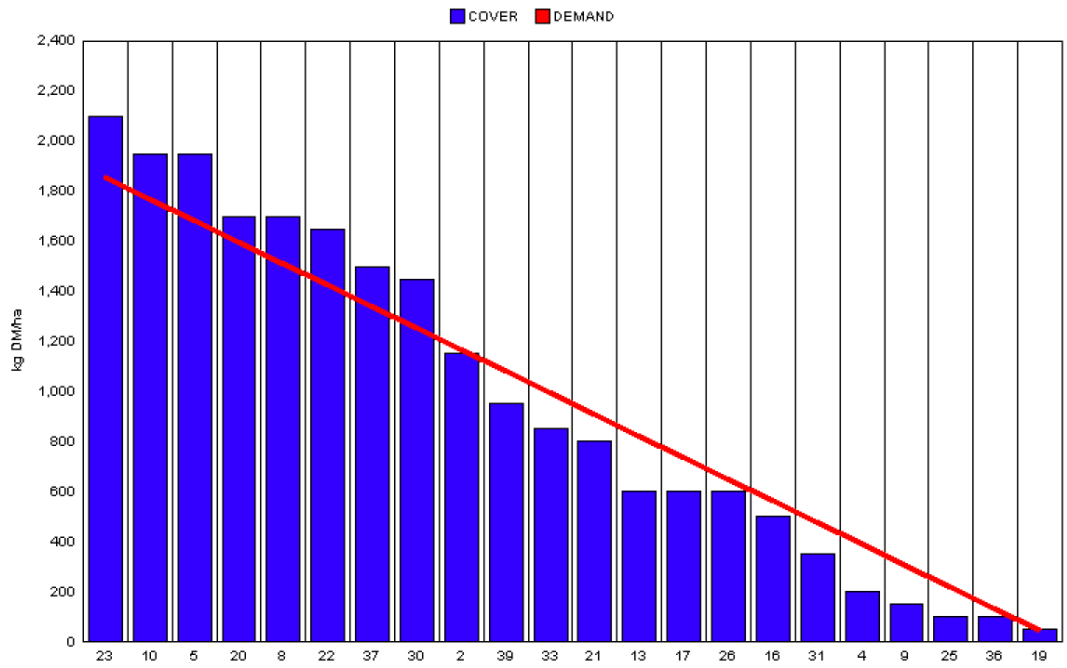
B. On farm situation

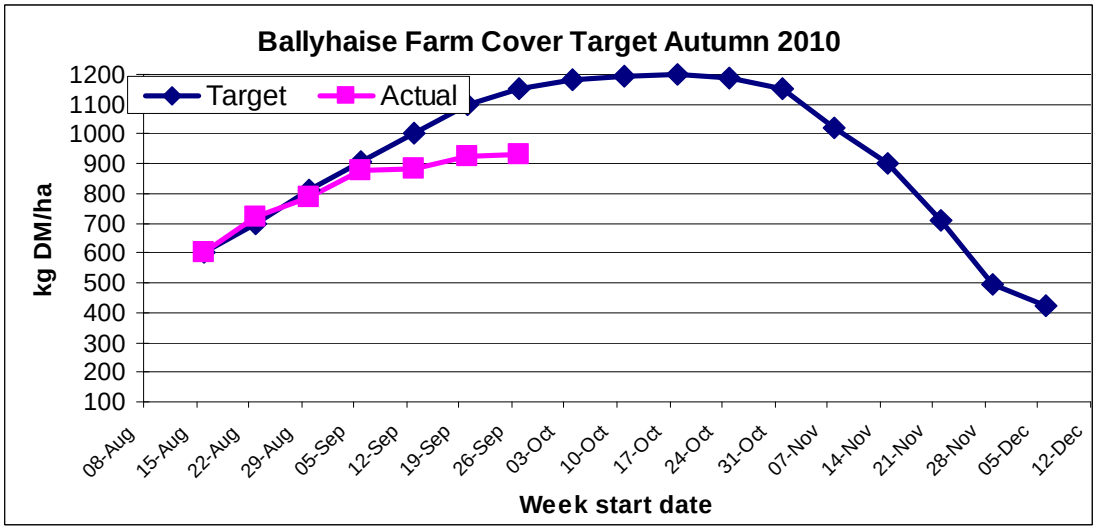
1. Soil temperature today is 12ºC.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 24.7mm.
3. Average growth was 60kgDM/ha/day, (13% DM).
4. Feeding 3 kg of concentrate.
5. Farm feed wedge (27/09/10).

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

Group :	TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		**Date Produced** 29-SEP-10
Farm :	Ballyhaise Farm	Ballyhaise BMW region systems comparison	
Date :	27-SEP-10	**Treatment :** 3.1 stocking rate	

Rotation Length :	45	**Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :**	924
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	13	**Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :**	299
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3	**Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :**	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	**Stock Rate (LU/ha) :**	3.09
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		**Growth Rate :**	60
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		**Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :**	40
Residual Height :	4.2	**Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :**	1859
Total Livestock :	62		





6. Growth rate has remained steady this week at 60kg DM / ha. Soil conditions are still poor on the wetter parts of the farm but these areas are mostly in the lower part of the wedge. The heavy covers are on the hills and dryer parts of the farm. 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. We will remain at this feeding level for the next number of weeks. If growth rates reduce rapidly we will reduce demand by selling off empty cows early.

8. Rotation length is 47 days. 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.

11. Average milk yield is 14.1kg at 4.74% fat and 3.79% protein (1.19kg MS/cow), lactose 4.60%, SCC 222k, TBC 22k.

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 :26/09/10	**HG system**	**HS system**
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	**3.1**	**4.6**
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	14.1	16.1
% Fat	4.74	4.51
% Protein	3.79	3.69
% Lactose	4.60	4.64
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.19	1.31
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	3	6
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	4004	4164
% Fat	4.36	4.30
% Protein	3.45	3.44
% Lactose	4.76	4.78
Milk solids kg/cow (kg/ha)	312 (980)	322 (1400)
Bodyweight (kg)	498	481
Body Condition Score	2.89	2.97
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	455	906
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	158	188
Maize (kg DM/cow)	0	114
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	474	95