

## Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 14/3/2011

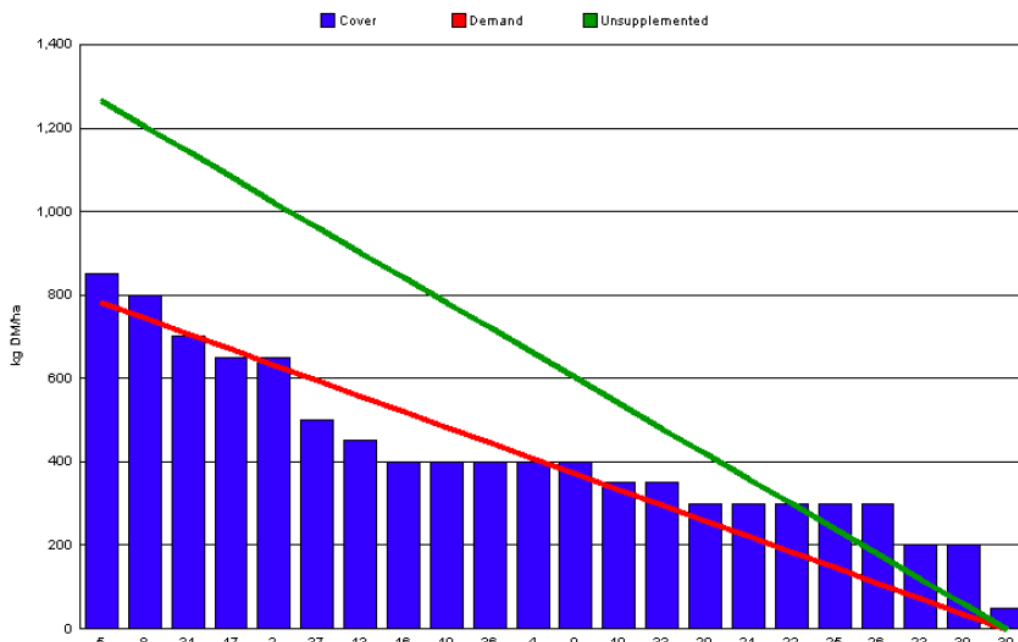
### A. Critical Issues

1. Use rotation planner to allocate grass daily.
2. Maintain residual at 3.5cm.
3. Minimise risk of mastitis infection around calving.
4. Ensure each calf receives adequate colostrum.

### B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 6.5°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 0mm.
3. Average growth was 19kgDM/ha/day, (18% DM).
4. Demand is 13kgDM/ha/day (1.9 SR \* 7 kg DM /cow / day).
5. Feeding 4kg of concentrate and 4kg of silage.
6. Farm feed wedge (14/3/11).

| Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre  |  | GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report     |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS   |  | Date Produced 14-MAR-11                  |  |
| Farm : Ballyhaise Farm   |  | Ballyhaise BMW region systems comparison |  |
| Date : 14-MAR-11   |  | Treatment : 3.1 stocking rate            |  |
| Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) : 7<br>Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : 4<br>Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) : 4<br>N Application Rate (units/acre) :<br>N Application Rate (kg/ha) :<br>Residual Height : 3.5<br>Total Livestock : 38 | Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : 398<br>Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : 210<br>Stock Rate (LU/ha) : 1.90<br>Growth Rate : 19<br>Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) : 13<br>Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : 783 |  |  |

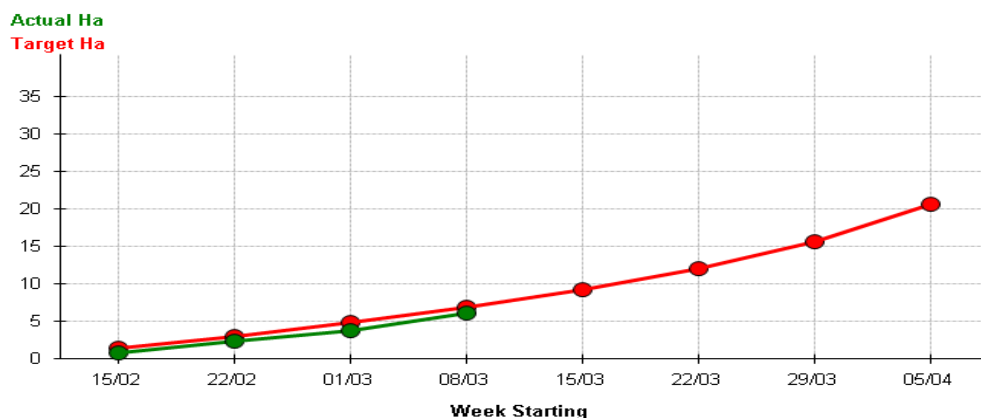


7. Farm cover is low due to very low over winter growth rates. The opening cover on the farm was 419kg DM / ha. The closing cover last autumn was 475kg DM / ha. Growth this week is 19kg DM / ha which is up from 14 kg DM / ha last week. Farm cover has dropped from 425kg DM/ha last week to 398kgDM/ha this week.

## 8. Spring Rotation planner (14/03/11)



| Week Start Date | Ha/Day | Target Ha Grazed | Target % | Actual Ha Grazed | Actual % |
|-----------------|--------|------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| 15/02 - 21/02   | 0.20   | 1.40             | 7.0      | 0.76             | 3.8      |
| 22/02 - 28/02   | 0.22   | 2.94             | 14.7     | 2.2              | 11       |
| 01/03 - 07/03   | 0.25   | 4.69             | 23.4     | 3.68             | 18.4     |
| 08/03 - 14/03   | 0.29   | 6.72             | 33.5     | 6.05             | 30.2     |
| 15/03 - 21/03   | 0.34   | 9.10             | 45.4     |                  |          |
| 22/03 - 28/03   | 0.41   | 11.97            | 59.7     |                  |          |
| 29/03 - 04/04   | 0.52   | 15.61            | 77.9     |                  |          |
| 05/04 - 11/04   | 0.71   |                  |          |                  |          |



9. Area was being allocated on the basis of the SRP last week (0.29 ha / day). We are 0.7ha behind target area grazed because cows were housed over the

weekend due to heavy rainfall and wet conditions. This will not be a problem because the farm cover is low so it will be easy to catch up area.

10. The area allocated this week is 0.34ha per day. At a pre-grazing yield of 800kg DM / ha this area will give each animal an allowance of 7kg DM per day ( $800 * 0.34 = 272 / 38 = 7\text{kg DM} / \text{cow} / \text{day}$ ).
11. Feeding 4kg of concentrate and 4kg of silage to maintain intake at 15kg DM / cow per day.
12. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.6cm.
13. Urea was bulk spread on 70% of the area on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February (23 units N / acre), 20% of the area received 2500 gals / acre. The remaining 10% of the area is the wettest part and will get 23 units of N this week.
14. Calving started on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, 62 % calved to date. Of 76 animals calved 6 were assisted, there have been no cases of milk fever and there was one case of retained afterbirth. There are 33 heifer calves born and no calf deaths to date. There was one calf born dead this week.
15. There have been 9 clinical cases of mastitis since calving started, 5 of these were first calving heifers. There were no new cases this week.
16. Average milk yield is 17.9kg at 5.67% fat and 3.59% protein (1.65kg MS/cow), lactose 4.72%, SCC 116k, TBC 24k.

### C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 12hr blocks.
- 4kg concentrate and 4kg of silage are being fed.

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