

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes – Monday 23/5/2011

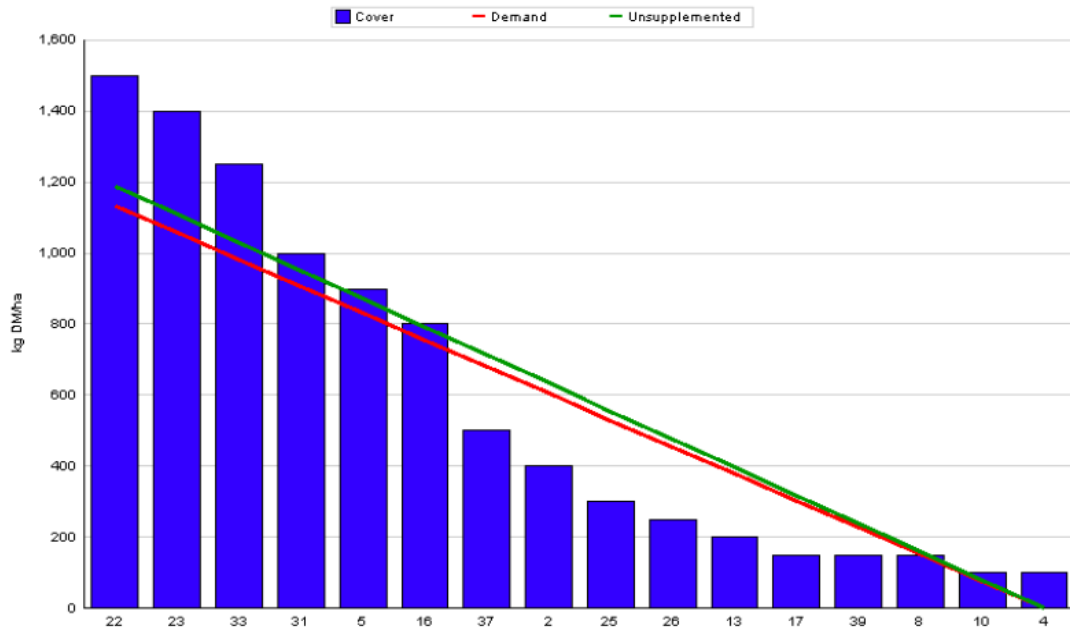
A. Critical Issues

1. **Maintain residual at 3.5cm.**
2. **Ensure cows and heifers are on rising plane of nutrition.**
3. **Heat detection and breeding management.**

B. On farm situation

1. Average growth was 83kgDM/ha/day, (15% DM).
2. Demand is 63kgDM/ha/day (4.19 SR * 15 kg DM /cow / day).
3. Soil temperature is 12°C.
4. Total rainfall for the past week was 28mm.
5. Feeding 0.75kg of concentrate.
6. Farm feed wedge (23/5/11).

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced 26-MAY-11	
Farm : Ballyhaise Farm		Ballyhaise BMW region systems comparison	
Date : 23-MAY-11		Treatment : 3.1 stocking rate	
Rotation Length :	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	545
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	15	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	130
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	.75		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	4.19
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	83
Residual Height :	3.5	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	63
Total Livestock (LU) :	63	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1132



7. Growth rate this week was 83kg DM / ha which is the same as last week 85kg DM / ha.

8. Recent heavy rainfall has not affected ground conditions which remain excellent. The average post grazing height this week is 3.8cm.
9. Paddocks 39 and 4 were baled last weekend and are now back in the grazing rotation. As can be seen from the wedge this has dropped the demand line to 1200kg DM / ha. Paddock 31 has been skipped because the cover was in excess of 1500kg DM / ha. Although the next three paddocks are above the demand line they will be grazed as the cover is at or below 1500kg DM / ha. Also a possible deficit is appearing in the lower half of the wedge.
10. In total 24% of the area is now closed, 8% for reseeding and 16% for silage.
11. Paddock residency time ranges from 24 to 48 hours.
12. Feeding 0.75kg of concentrate to carry sufficient Cal Mag.
13. Following cows with 27 units of N (Can) after grazing.
14. There have been 16 clinical cases of mastitis since calving started, 6 of these were first calving heifers. One new case of mastitis this week.
15. Second batch of calves were weaned last week at an average weight of 75kg, these are all jersey crossbreds. 63% of heifer calves have been weaned to date.
16. Heifers were weighed prior to the start of breeding, the Friesian heifers averaged 321kg and the Jersey crossbreds averaged 299kg. Started breeding to AI on the 5th of May, all heifers were served once over 12 days. Stock bull is now with the heifers.
17. The average body condition score of the herd is 2.95, with 6% of the animals with a score less than 2.75 and 2% with a score greater than 3.25.
18. Started breeding season on the 10th of May with the milking cows. Submission rate for the first 14 days of breeding is 68%. Tail paint is being used as a heat detection aid and is topped up twice a week. Bulls being used are-
FR – MWW, WNE, WDS, MJD.
JE – SYI, HWY, WFM, RVW, PKU, TIO.
19. Average milk yield is 24.9kg at 4.44% fat and 3.29% protein (1.9kg MS/cow), lactose 4.82%, SCC 122k, TBC 2k.
20. Average days in milk are 85 days with 135kg of solids produced per cow.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 36hr blocks.
- Feeding 0.75kg of concentrate.

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Week:23/05/11	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	24.9	24.07
% Fat	4.44	4.41
% Protein	3.29	3.49
% Lactose	4.82	4.95
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.9	1.89
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	1	1
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1621	1644
% Fat	4.81	4.68
% Protein	3.54	3.52
% Lactose	4.87	4.88
Milk solids (kg/cow)	136	132
Bodyweight (kg)	450	453
Body Condition Score	2.96	2.9
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	186	252
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	77	140
Maize (kg DM/cow)	0	0
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	474	95
Total silage fed (kg DM/cow)	1100	1400