

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 19/06/2011

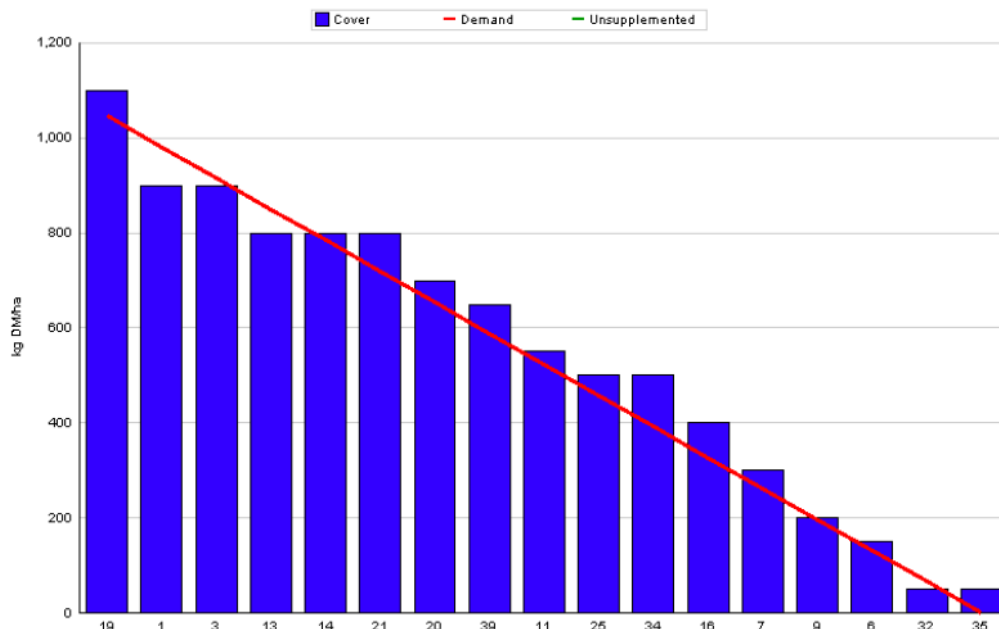
A. Critical Issues

1. **Maintain intakes.**
2. **Protect soil from poaching.**
3. **Maintain grazing residuals at 4cm.**
4. **Monitor bull activity.**

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 13°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 58mm.
3. Average growth was 49kgDM/ha/day, (16% DM).
4. Feeding 3kg of concentrate.
5. Farm feed wedge (19/06/12).

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6. Heavy rainfall over the past two weeks is affecting growth rates with very slow recovery on wetter paddocks. About 15% of the farm was flooded on two separate occasions over the past two weeks. We had to feed 6kg DM per head of bale silage for 4 days last week because farm cover dropped to 110 kg DM per cow and it was not possible to graze the wetter areas.

7. A number of paddocks which had been skipped for bale silage had to be grazed to maintain rotation length; the quality of the re-growth of these paddocks is poor so they have been earmarked for cutting in the next round.
8. Farm cover is 549 kg Dm / ha (143 kg DM / LU), and cows are grazing covers of 1500kg DM / ha. This is on the upper limit of what we would like but removing another paddock for silage will reduce cover per cow to 125kg DM / cow which is too low.
9. Grazing conditions are still reasonable apart from some flooding damage. These paddocks are being grazed over the past few days as conditions have improved. We are using strip wires to allocate 12 hr blocks during wet weather.
10. We have done seven weeks of AI and the stock bulls have been introduced. There are 3 bulls, 1 AA and two Herefords. Each bull will be rested every two days. AI will continue for 5 days to cover up any start up issues with the bulls.
11. There are 36 replacement heifer calves weaned out of 41 to date. All calves weaned to date have been 80kg +, last batch averaged 88kg.
12. Average milk yield is 22.4kg at 4.52% fat and 3.57% protein (1.8kg MS/cow), lactose 4.86%, SCC 150k, TBC 4k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 12 hr blocks.
- 3kg concentrates being fed.
- Keep tail paint topped up.
- Close observation of Bull activity.

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