

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 01/08/2012

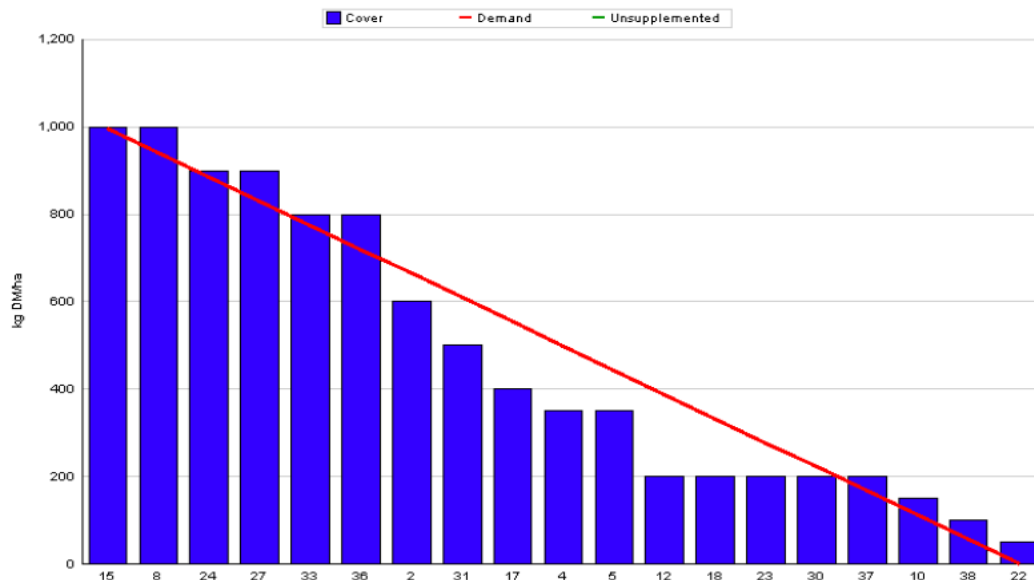
A. Critical Issues

1. **Protect soil from poaching.**
2. **Feed supplements to increase grass cover.**
3. **Maintain cow condition.**

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 15.5°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 35mm.
3. Average growth was 58kgDM/ha/day, (13% DM).
4. Feeding 2kg of concentrate and 3kg of bale silage.
5. Farm feed wedge (01/08/12).

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS	Ballyhaise calving date and genotype study 2012		Date Produced 01-AUG-12
Farm : Ballyhaise Farm			
Date : 01-AUG-12	Treatment : Jersey Fresian crossbred		
Rotation Length :	24	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	12
Number of Cows :	56	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	463
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	12	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	134
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	2	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.46
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	3	Growth Rate :	58
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	42
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	996
Residual Height :	4		
Total Livestock (LU) :	56		



6. Weather conditions improved in the latter half of last week so silage was removed to allow a number of the wetter paddocks to be grazed. Bale silage was fed for two days and then removed.

7. Very heavy rain over the past two days has had a negative impact on ground conditions. Very little poaching has been done but with more rain forecast and cows grazing low covers this will have to be monitored closely.
8. Paddocks 12 and 30 were cut for bale silage last week; both were very poor quality and were not suitable for grazing. These bales will be used to feed dry cows. This aggressive approach to removing poor quality paddocks over the past three weeks has improved grass quality on the farm and will make autumn grass management much easier.
9. Farm cover is 463 kg Dm / ha (134 kg DM / LU), and cows are grazing covers of 1000kg DM / ha. This is too low so bale silage will be reintroduced to reduce demand. Growth rate is 58 kg DM / ha and with silage being fed demand is 42kg DM / ha.
10. A fresh break of grass is allocated after each milking to protect paddocks from poaching. Day allocations are smaller to allow for silage feeding
11. Paddocks 40 and 41 were reseeded on the 28th of May, paddock 41 was sowed with Aston energy and paddock 40 was sowed with Aberchoice. They are being grazed with the heifer calves at low covers of 600 to 800kg DM / ha. These paddocks are too tender to graze with cows.
12. All 41 replacement heifer calves were weighed last week. The majority of these calves are crossbred and will have a mature weight of 500kg. The target is to have these calves at 150kg by six months old (mid August). There were 28 calves above 120kg (average 138 kg) and 13 calves below 120kg (average 105kg). Most of these light calves were April born. They have been separated and will be fed 2 kg ration. All calves are being grazed on reseeded paddocks and are moved twice a week.
13. Production per cow this week was 17.5kg at 4.24% fat and 3.45% protein (1.35 kg MS/cow), lactose 4.7%, SCC 165k, TBC 12k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 12 hr blocks.
- Feeding concentrate and bale silage.
- Fresh grass to calves twice weekly.
- Feeding smaller calves separately.

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The herd has been split into two distinct breed groups since May 2012.

Genetics 2012	Fr	Crossbred
EBI	142	148
Milk sub index	46	46
Fertility sub index	90	91
Milk kg	72	-26
Fat Kg	10	9
Fat %	0.14	0.2
Prot Kg	7	5.5
Prot %	0.09	0.13
Age profile (lactations)	3	2.7
Week:17/07/12	Fr	Crossbred
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.9	3.15
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	18.23	17.9
% Fat	4.18	4.60
% Protein	3.43	3.56
% Lactose	4.72	4.75
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.37	1.45
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	0.5	0.5
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3043	2943
% Fat	4.44	4.58
% Protein	3.45	3.53
% Lactose	4.84	4.89
Milk solids (kg/cow)	239	238
SCC	274,000	92,000
Body Condition Score	2.87	2.88
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	347	350
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	220	210
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	130	140
Sires	RUU, HZO, UYC TZD, CWJ, SBH	WAS, CJY, GHK KLK, ULK

* These are raw data and have not been statistically analysed.