Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 03/09/2012

A. Critical Issues

1. **Feed supplements to increase grass cover.**
2. **Maintain cow condition.**
3. **Keep young stock moved regularly.**

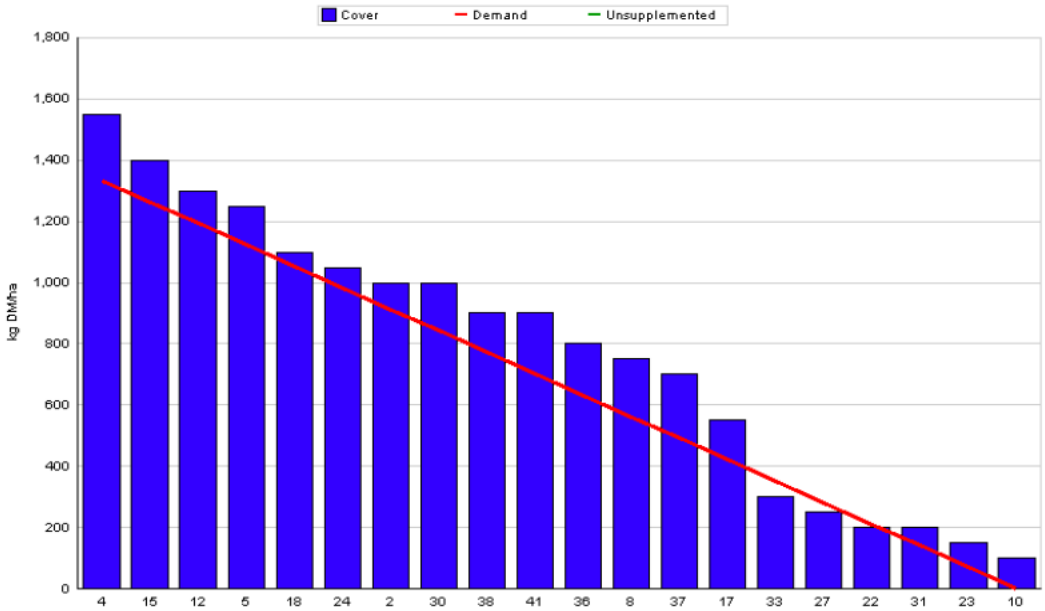
B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 15ºC.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 11mm.
3. Average growth was 59kgDM/ha/day, (16% DM).
4. Feeding 3kg of concentrate.
5. Farm feed wedge (03/09/12).

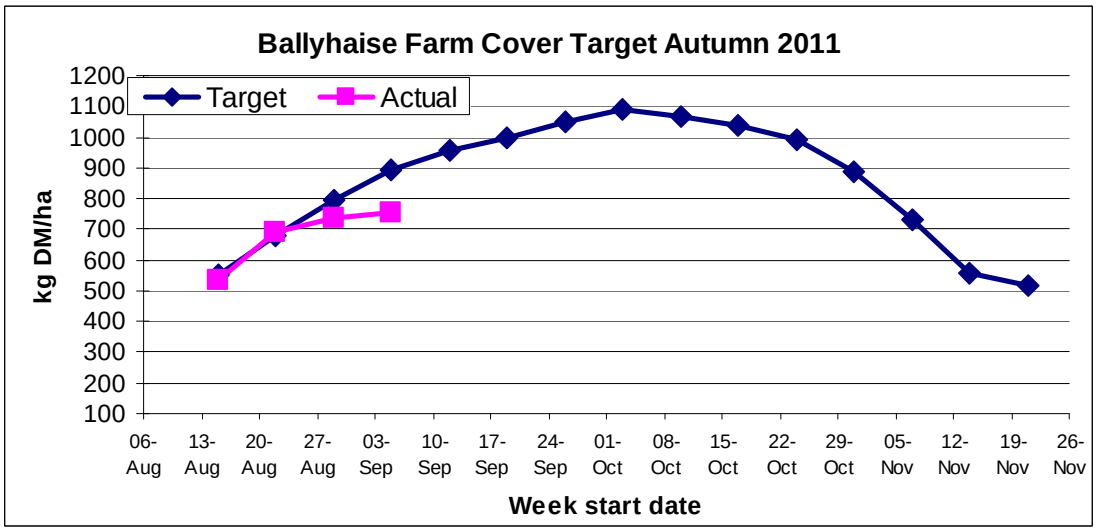
Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre — **GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report**

Group :	TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		**Date Produced** 05-SEP-12
Farm :	Ballyhaise Farm	Ballyhaise calving date and genotype study 2012	
Date :	03-SEP-12	**Treatment :**	Jersey Fresian crossbred

Number of Cows :	56	**Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :**	13
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	13	**Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :**	756
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3	**Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :**	243
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		**Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :**	3.11
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		**Growth Rate :**	59
Residual Height :	4	**Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :**	40
Total Livestock (LU) :	56	**Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :**	1333



6. Autumn Budget



7. The graph above shows the target farm cover for each week over the autumn period. The target is to reach a peak average farm cover of 1100 kg DM / ha on the first week of October. The target closing cover is 500 kg DM / ha.

8. Farm cover is 756 kg Dm / ha (243 kg DM / LU), and cows are grazing covers of 1550kg DM / ha. Farm cover is well below target for this week so concentrate will continue to be fed to reduce demand. Weather forecast is good for the remainder of this week so growth rates should improve.

9. Grazing conditions have improved greatly this week on the majority of paddocks. We will graze some of the wetter paddocks now that conditions are good to minimise poaching.

10. Grass is being allocated in 12 hour blocks to help maintain a good grazing residual. The average residual on the paddocks grazed this week was 3.8 cm.

11. Watery slurry is being spread on paddocks grazed over the past week as ground conditions allow. A bulk spread of 30 units of N will be spread next week on all paddocks.

12. Full herd scan was done last Thursday. There were 8 cows empty out of 114 cows milking (7%) over a 13 week breeding season. The six week in-calf rate was 71% (81 cows); these are due to calve before the 22nd of March next year. There was one heifer empty out of 35 (3%) over a seven week breeding period. There are 25 heifers in-calf to first service (71%) and the rest were served with the stock bull. This is a total of 140 cows and heifers scanned in calf for next spring which will give us scope to do some voluntary culling.

13. Heifer calves were weighed, dosed and moved off the milking platform on the 24th of August. There are two groups of calves which were batched on weight. The big batch (25 calves) averaged 158kg and gained 0.73 kg per day over the last month. The smaller batch (15 calves) averaged 130kg and gained 1.02kg per day. The target is to have these calves at 150kg at 6 months old. There are 10 calves below this target and will need to continue to gain 1 kg per day over the next 3 months to catch up.

14. There was one clinical case of mastitis this week.

15. Production per cow this week was 15.9kg at 4.82% fat and 3.51% protein (1.32 kg MS/cow), lactose 4.58%, SCC 195k, TBC 12k.

C. Critical short term actions :

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

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The herd is split on the bases of cow breed with 60 pure Friesian cows in one group and 56 crossbred cows in the other group.

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:03/09/12	**Fr**	**Crossbred**
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	**2.9**	**3.15**
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	16.4	15.4
% Fat	4.32	4.57
% Protein	3.40	3.61
% Lactose	4.67	4.70
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.26	1.26
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	3	3
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3744	3662
% Fat	4.42	4.56
% Protein	3.44	3.45
% Lactose	4.82	4.86
Milk solids (kg/cow)	294	293
SCC	135,000	111,000
Body Condition Score	2.87	2.88
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	548	554
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	274	280
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.**