

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 09/10/2012

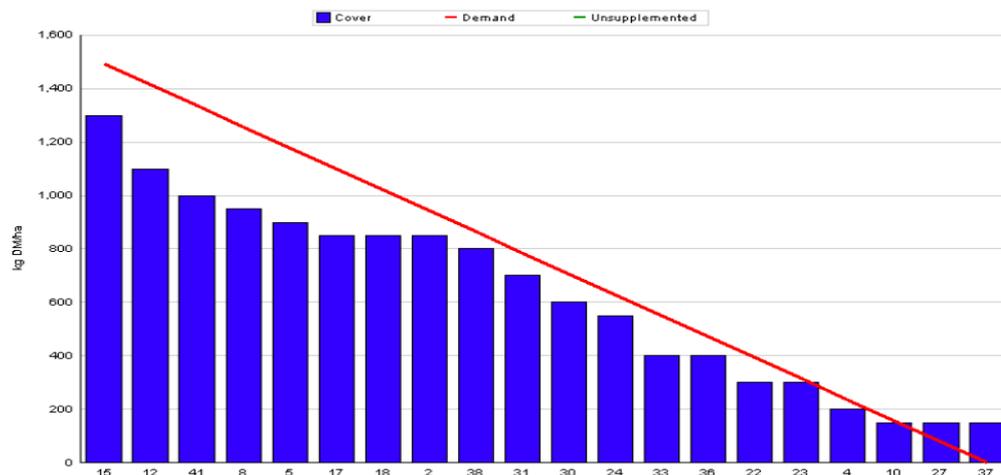
A. Critical Issues

1. Feed supplements to extend grazing.
2. Maintain cow condition.
3. Dry off low yielders.
4. Protect pastures from poaching.

B. On farm situation

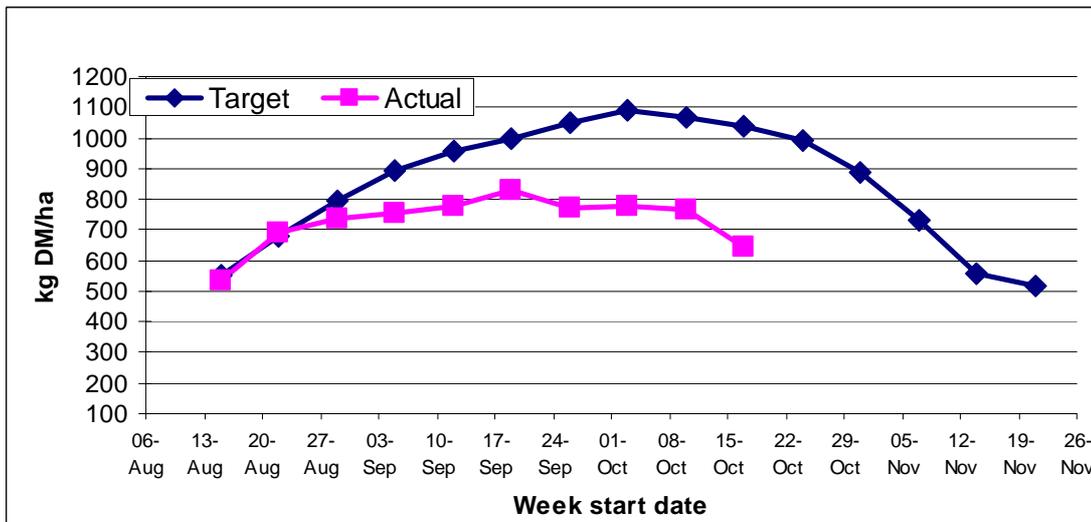
1. Soil temperature today is 8.5°C.
2. Total rainfall over the past seven days was 27mm.
3. Average growth was 30kgDM/ha/day, (14% DM).
4. Feeding 3kg of concentrate and 6kg DM of silage.
5. Farm feed wedge (15/10/12).

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group :	TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS	Ballyhaise calving date and genotype study 2012	Date Produced : 17-OCT-12
Farm :	Ballyhaise Farm		
Date :	15-OCT-12	Treatment :	Jersey Fresian crossbred
Rotation Length :	40	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	12
Number of Cows :	56	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	642
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	7	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	207
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	6	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.11
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	30
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	22
Residual Height :	4	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1492
Total Livestock (LU) :	56		



6. Farm cover is 742 kg DM / ha (207 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 1200 kg DM / ha. Farm cover has dropped significantly over the past seven days and cows are housed at night to make available grass last for another 10 days.
7. Grazing conditions have deteriorated and heavy rainfall over the past 3 days has made it difficult to clean out paddocks properly. Average post grazing height is 4.6 cm.

8. Autumn Budget



9. Based on current conditions and growth rates the farm will be closed by next week. If we continue to graze into November the closing farm cover will be too low and this will affect grass availability next spring. The plan is to graze off paddocks above 900kg DM / ha cover and then close the farm. This should leave a closing cover of 450kg DM / ha which is lower than planned but because the farm will be closed 3 weeks earlier than normal cover should be back above 500 kg DM / ha by mid November.
10. We have picked out 10 cows to dry off this week based on milk yield; they are mostly first lactation animals and are yielding less than 7 litres per day. There is a batch of 20 due for drying off on the 10th of November based on body condition score and expected calving date.
11. In-calf heifers were weighed on the 12th of October; they averaged 407kg which is on target. These are predominantly jersey crossbred animals with a mature live weight of 500kg. Body condition is a bit low so they are being supplemented with 1.5kg of 18% concentrate. They will get a dose for fluke and worms next week. They are on the out wintering pad and getting silage ad lib. There are 10 heifers which will be sold to reduce winter feeding demand as they are surplus to requirement.
12. The big batch of 25 heifer calves were dosed and weighed on the 27th of September, they averaged 188kg and gained 1.03 kg per day over the previous 4 weeks. All calves will be housed by the weekend.
13. Out-wintering pad has been re-chipped in preparation for winter. Four loads of chip were used costing €725 per load. Lagoon is empty but there is still some slurry in cubicle shed that will have to be spread when ground conditions improve.
14. Full herd scan was done on the 30th of August. There were 8 cows empty out of 114 cows milking (7%) over a 13 week breeding season. The six week in-calf

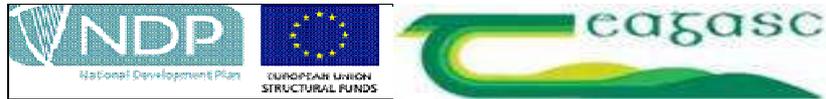
rate was 71% (81 cows); these are due to calve before the 22nd of March next year. There was one heifer empty out of 35 (3%) over a seven week breeding period. There are 25 heifers in-calf to first service (71%) and the rest were served with the stock bull. This is a total of 140 cows and heifers scanned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

15. Production per cow this week was 10.8kg at 4.99% fat and 4.07% protein (0.97 kg MS/cow), lactose 4.48%, SCC 239k, TBC 8k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass in 12 hr blocks.
- House cows by night.
- House calves and heifers.

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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

Fertility 2012	Fr	Crossbred
EBI	142	148
Fertility sub index	90	91
24 day Submission rate (%)	90	91
Pregnancy rate to 1 st service (%)	48	56
42 day in-calf rate (%)	73	69
Straws per cow	1.75	1.74
13 week empty rate (%)	5	7

Week:14/10/12	Fr	Crossbred
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.9	3.15
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	10.95	10.64
% Fat	4.97	5.37
% Protein	3.84	4.06
% Lactose	4.37	4.35
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	0.95	1.00
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	3	3
Silage	6	6
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	4341	4160
% Fat	4.45	4.70
% Protein	3.49	3.64
% Lactose	4.75	4.80
Milk solids (kg/cow)	343	346
SCC	135,000	111,000
Body Condition Score	2.91	2.85
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	674	668
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	382	386
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.**