

## Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 08/04/2013

### A. Critical Issues

1. Feed supplements to extend first round to 15<sup>th</sup> April
2. Improve cow condition
3. Achieve grazing residual 3.5cm.

### B. Whole farm situation

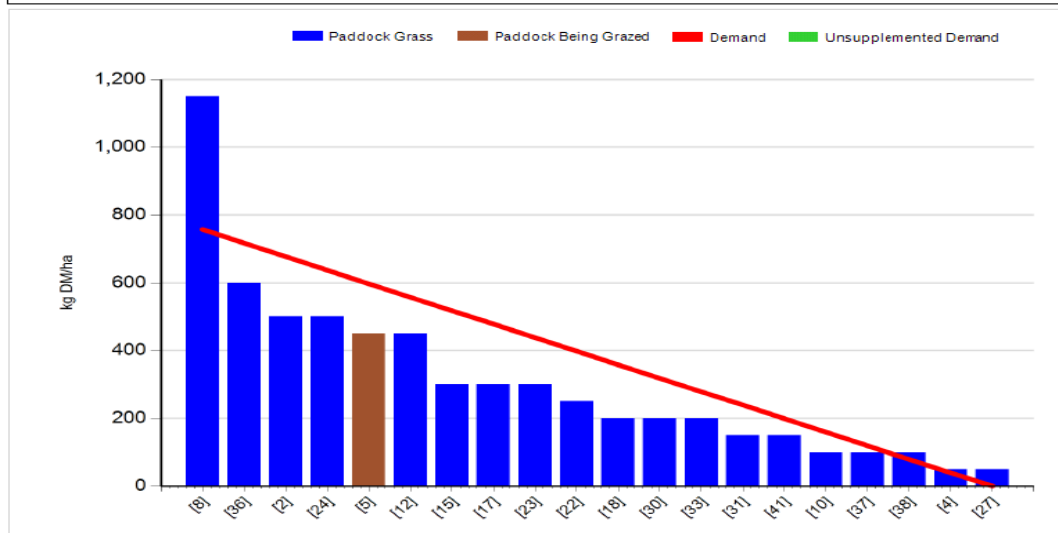
1. Soil temperature today is 4.5°C.
2. Total rainfall over the past seven days was 0mm.
3. Average growth was 7kgDM/ha/day, (25% DM).

### C. 2013 Calving date trial

- The herd is split into two separate calving dates
- Early calving group – mean calving date is the 20<sup>th</sup> of Feb.
- Late calving group – mean calving date is the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.
- Stocking rate is 2.9 cows per ha for both groups and fertiliser input will be constant (250Kg N / ha).
- Within each group there are equal numbers of Friesian and crossbred cows

### Early calving Group

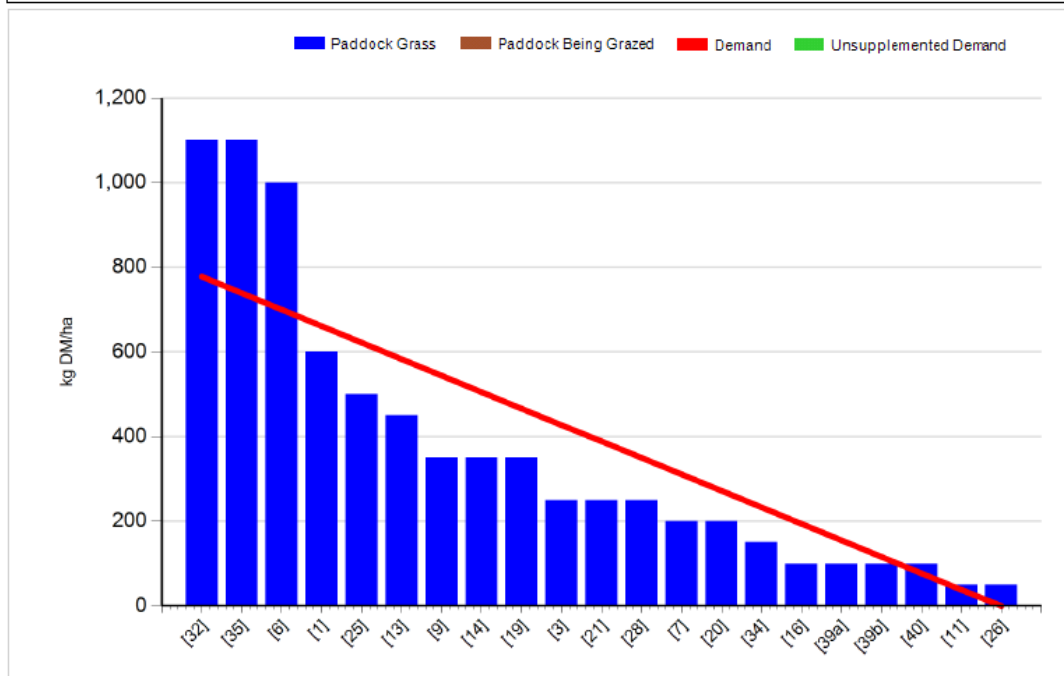
Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms		Cover Date: 08/04/2013	
Farm: Ballyhaise		Treatment: Early calving	
<b>Management Decisions</b>			
Rotation Length (days):	50	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	6.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	5.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	55		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	6.0		
<b>Cover Parameters</b>			
Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	4.4	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	10
Total Livestock (LU):	62.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	15
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	276	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	757
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	80		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.44		



1. Farm cover is 276 kg DM / ha (80 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 1100 kg DM / ha. Farm cover has dropped significantly over the past seven days and cows are being fed 7 kg of concentrates and 5 kg of silage to stretch available grass out to the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.
2. Grazing conditions are reasonable and paddocks are being grazed down to 3.2cm with no poaching. There is 88% of area grazed to date.
3. There are 95% of the cows calved, cows started calving on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb.

## Late Calving Group

Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms	Cover Date: 08/04/2013		
Farm: Ballyhaise	Treatment: Late calving		
<b>Management Decisions</b>			
Rotation Length (days):	65	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	6.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	5.0	Residual Height (cm):	4.0
No. of Cows:	45		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	6.0		
<b>Cover Parameters</b>			
Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	3.5	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	7
Total Livestock (LU):	65.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	12
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	323	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	778
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	94		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.42		



1. Farm cover is 323 kg DM / ha (94 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 1100 kg DM / ha. Farm cover has dropped significantly over the past seven

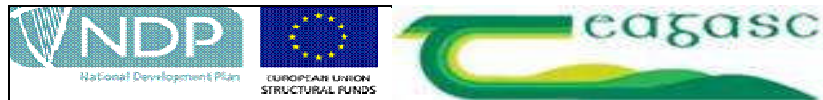
days and cows are being fed 7 kg of concentrates and 5kg of silage to stretch available grass out to the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

2. There is 85% of the area grazed to date.
3. Cows are housed at night.
4. 86% of cows calved, started calving on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Feb.

**C. Critical short term actions :**

- Allocating grass in 12 hr blocks.
- Feed 7kg of meal and 5 kg of silage.
- House cows by night.
- Thin cows OAD milking.

[www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/](http://www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/)



<b>Week:07/04/13</b>	<b>Early</b>	<b>Late</b>
<b>Stocking rate (cows/ha)</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	20.64	19.55
% Fat	4.60	4.89
% Protein	3.34	3.41
% Lactose	4.80	4.82
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.60	1.59
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	7	7
Silage	5	5
<b>Cumulative</b>		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1256	1049
% Fat	4.87	4.95
% Protein	3.54	3.49
% Lactose	4.82	4.85
Milk solids (kg/cow)	93	59
Weight	465	444
Body Condition Score	2.87	2.84
% Calved	95	86
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	210	116
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	180	65
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	0	0

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