

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes – Monday 15/05/2013

A. Critical Issues

1. Maintain a 30 day rotation length.
2. Allocated 13kg DM of grass / cow.
3. Minimise poaching.

B. Whole farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 9.5°C.
2. Total rainfall over the past seven days was 30mm.
3. Average growth was 48kgDM/ha/day, (14% DM).

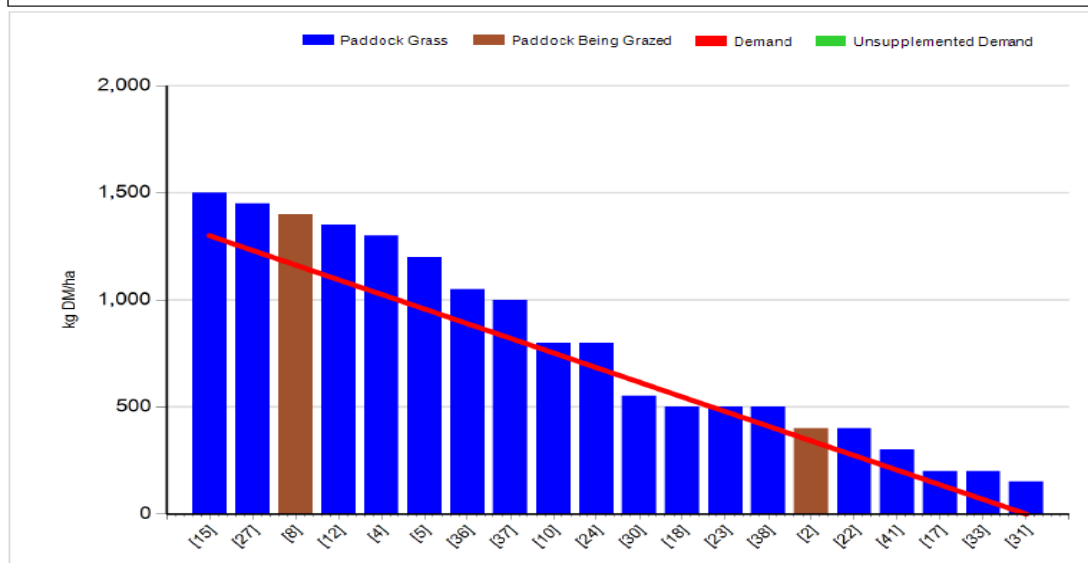
C. 2013 Calving date trial

- The herd is split into two separate calving dates
- Early calving group – mean calving date is the 20th of Feb.
- Late calving group – mean calving date is the 10th 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

Rotation Length (days):	30	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	0.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	13.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	60		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	4.0		

Cover Parameters			
Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	13.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	48
Total Livestock (LU):	60.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	43
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	712	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1299
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	214		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.33		



1. Farm cover is 712 kg DM / ha (214 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 1500 kg DM / ha.

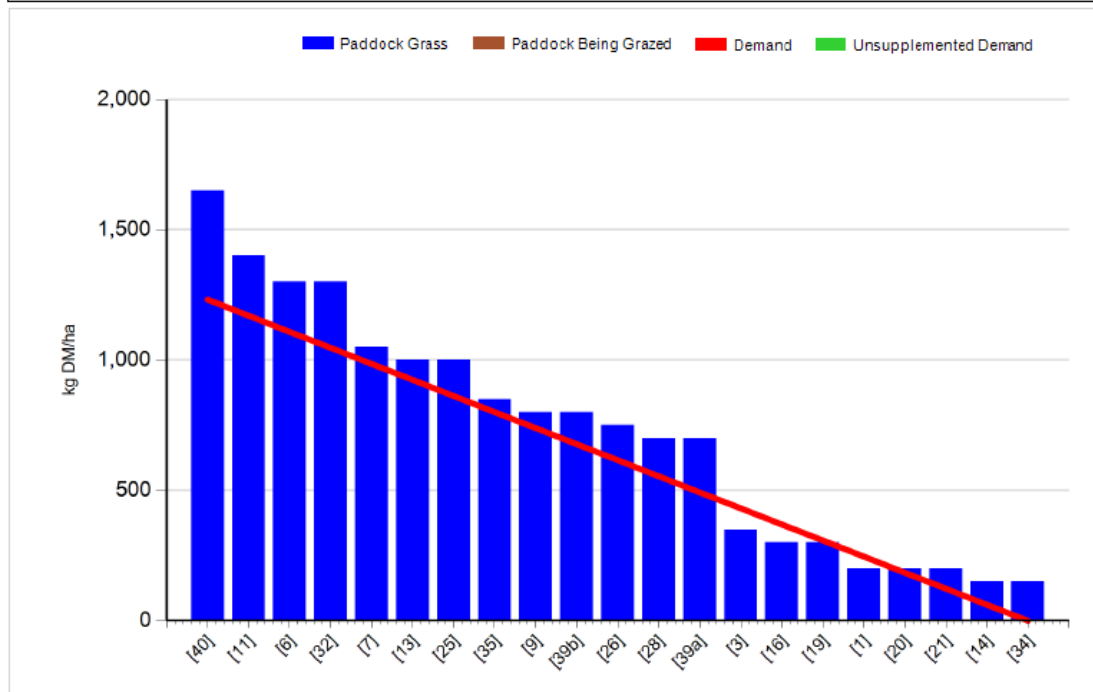
- Pre-grazing yield is on the verge of being too high but we are reluctant to skip paddocks as growth will probably drop over the next weeks due to cold temperatures and high rainfall.
- Silage reserves are gone so we may need to increase concentrate feeding over the week to reduce demand and maintain grass cover.
- Grazing conditions are poor with some damage occurring, using on-off grazing to minimise damage when necessary. Post grazing residual is higher than target at 4.6cm.
- There are 66% submitted in two weeks of breeding.

Late Calving Group

Rotation Length (days):	30	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	0.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	13.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	60		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	4.0		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	13.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	58
Total Livestock (LU):	60.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	41
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	742	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1232
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	235		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.16		



- Farm cover is 742 kg DM / ha (235 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 1600 kg DM / ha. Farm cover has increased over the past seven days.
- Started breeding this week.

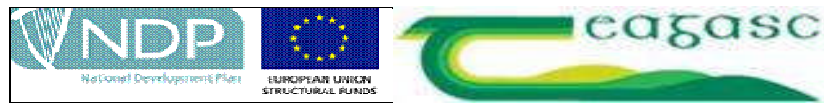
C. Critical short term actions :

- Feed 3kg of meal.
- On-off grazing when needed.

D. Bulk tank details :

Milk yield 24kg, Fat 4.2%, Protein 3.4% (1.82kg MS) SCC 225,000.

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Week:05/05/13	Early	Late
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.9	2.9
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	24.4	24.2
% Fat	4.45	4.93
% Protein	3.51	3.44
% Lactose	4.80	4.82
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.93	2.01
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	7	7
Silage	0	7
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1519	810
% Fat	4.69	5.01
% Protein	3.48	3.52
% Lactose	4.82	4.85
Milk solids (kg/cow)	122	59
Weight	465	444
Body Condition Score	2.87	2.84
% Calved	100	91
Supplement (kg/cow) (15/05/2013)		
Concentrate	329	177
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)	215	75
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	0	0

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