

A. Critical Issues

1. Introduce feed to lengthen rotation.
2. Spread dirty water on grazed paddocks.
3. Allocate grass to maintain residual of 4 – 4.5cm.

B. 2013 Calving date trial

- The herd is split into two separate calving dates
- Early calving group – mean calving date is the 25th 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

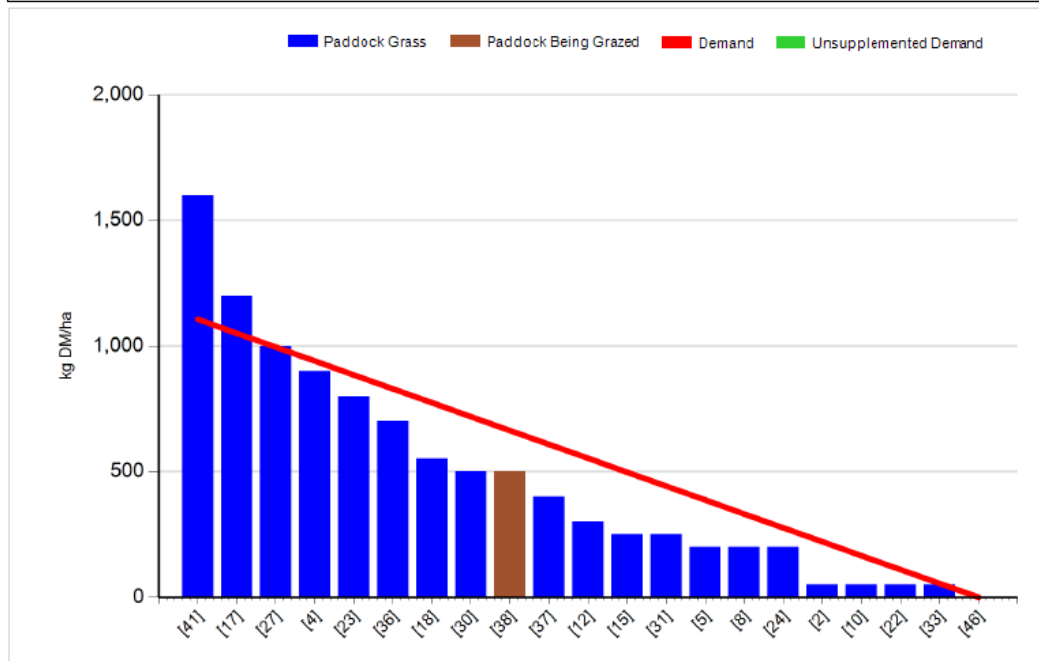
C. Whole farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 21°C.
2. Total rainfall over the past seven days was 0mm.
3. Average growth was 45kgDM/ha/day, (20% DM).
4. Feed wedge 16/07/2013

Rotation Length (days):	35	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	4.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	10.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	60		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	3.0		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	10.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	49
Total Livestock (LU):	60.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	32
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	533	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1106
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	169		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.16		



5. Farm cover is 533 kg DM / ha (169 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 1200 kg DM / ha.
6. Growth has decreased significantly over the past seven days due to high temperatures and low rainfall. Average growth has fallen to 45 kg DM per ha from 82 kg DM / ha last week. With dry warm weather forecast to continue into next week growth rates will most likely drop further.
7. We have decided to introduce feed to slow down rotation length to 35 days. The diet for this week consists of 10 kg of grass, 3 kg of concentrate and 4 kg of silage. We have also pulled back two paddocks closed for silage last week, 41 and 33, into the grazing rotation. These two paddocks are being pre-mowed ahead of the cows to achieve correct residual.
8. Total growth to date is 6 tons DM / ha.
9. Any paddocks below 300 cover will get 3500 gals of dirty water per acre this week. Will follow cows with 27 units of N after grazing.
10. Have conserved 30% of silage requirement from the grazing block to date. Our target is to reach 40% (2.8 ton fresh per cow). We have purchased an additional 500 ton of pit silage at a cost of €13,000
11. Stock bulls have been introduced after 8 weeks of AI to mop up. There are two bulls with 60 cows – one young bull (JFX) and one mature bull (Hereford). Bulls will be removed on the 1st of August.
12. Calves got booster shot of IBR vaccine this week and first worm dose. The average weight of the Friesian calves was 143kg and Jersey crossbreds were 129kg which is on target for bulling May 2014.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Feeding 3kg of concentrate and 4kg of silage.
- Spread 30 units of Sul-CAN after grazing.
- Spread dirty water.
- Keep calves moved to fresh grass regularly

D. Bulk tank details :

Milk yield 19.7kg, Fat 4.26%, Protein 3.47% (1.52kg MS) SCC 118,000, TBC 3,000.

www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/



Date : 07/07/2013 Mean calving date	Early 25th Feb		Late 10th March	
	FR	JFX	FR	JFX
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	21.0	18.4	21.0	18.3
% Fat	4.49	4.80	4.80	5.05
% Protein	3.46	3.69	3.51	3.60
% Lactose	4.70	4.77	4.78	4.78
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.67	1.57	1.75	1.58
Supplement (kg/cow/day)				
Concentrate	1	1	1	1
Silage	0	0	0	0
Cumulative				
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3003	2802	2569	2402
% Fat	4.56	4.70	4.64	4.84
% Protein	3.37	3.61	3.49	3.53
% Lactose	4.78	4.81	4.79	4.81
Milk solids (kg/cow)	238	233	209	201
Weight	505	456	523	455
Body Condition Score	2.79	2.88	2.75	2.85
% Calved	100	100	100	100
Supplement (kg/cow)				
Concentrate		497		362
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)		309		159
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)		350 (25%)		350 (25%)

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