

A. Critical Issues

1. Maintain 4 – 4.5cm grazing residual.
2. Hold rotation length at 21 days.
3. Fix any grass quality issues immediately
4. Maintain pre – grazing covers of 1400 kg DM / ha.

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

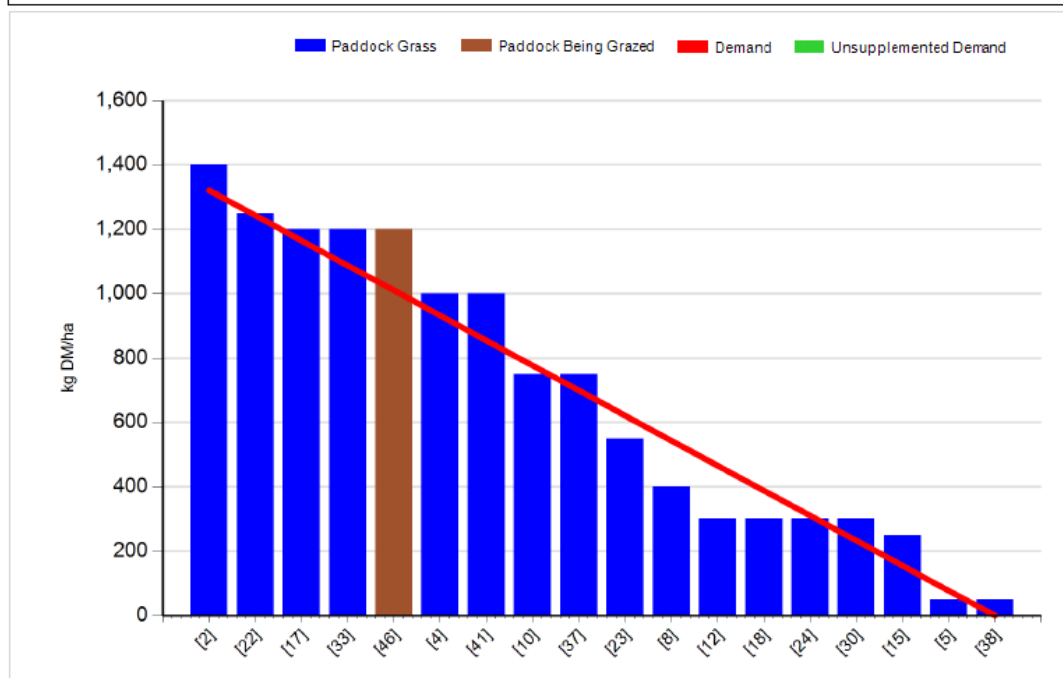
C. Whole farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 18°C.
2. Total rainfall over the past seven days was 34mm.
3. Average growth was 82kgDM/ha/day, (17% DM).
4. Feed wedge 06/08/2013

Rotation Length (days):	21	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	0.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	17.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	60		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	0.0		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	17.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	82
Total Livestock (LU):	60.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	63
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	712	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1321
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	192		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.70		



5. Farm cover is 712 kg DM / ha (192 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is ideal at 1400 kg DM / ha.
6. Last weeks rain and warm temperatures has brought a lift in growth rates for this week, this has allowed us to a 21 day rotation length and remove concentrate from the diet. Cows are being allocated 17 kg of grass per day.
7. Increase in growth has also allowed us to be more selective about paddocks the cows will graze based on quality. We are taking out 3 paddocks for silage this week to keep pre-grazing yield at the target 1400 kg. These paddocks have covers of 1600 – 2200 but are being mowed immediately to prepare for building Autumn covers which will begin in two weeks.
8. Spreading 27 units of CAN per acre on grazed paddocks once weekly.
9. Total growth to date is 7.8 tons DM / ha.
10. Stock bulls were 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.
11. 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 :

- Remove concentrates
- Bale 3 paddocks
- Spread 27 units of Sul-CAN after grazing.

D. Bulk tank details :

Milk yield 19.4 litres, Fat 4.31%, Protein 3.56% (1.57kg MS) SCC 220,000, TBC 36,000.

www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/



Date : 04/08/2013 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)	20.2	17.9	20.2	18.4
% Fat	4.29	4.67	4.13	4.48
% Protein	3.45	3.73	3.37	3.52
% Lactose	4.62	4.65	4.67	4.65
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.56	1.50	1.51	1.47
Supplement (kg/cow/day)				
Concentrate	3	3	3	3
Silage	0	0	0	0
Cumulative				
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3566	3331	3122	2898
% Fat	4.51	4.68	4.55	4.76
% Protein	3.38	3.62	3.46	3.52
% Lactose	4.75	4.79	4.77	4.78
Milk solids (kg/cow)	281	276	250	240
Weight	505	456	523	456
Body Condition Score	2.79	2.88	2.75	2.81
% Calved	100	100	100	100
Supplement (kg/cow)				
Concentrate		635		517
Silage to milking cows (kg DM/cow)		330		180
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)		350 (25%)		350 (25%)

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