# Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes – Monday 19/08/2013

## A. Critical Issues

- 1. Build covers.
- 2. Use strip wire to maintain residual.

# B. 2013 Calving date trial

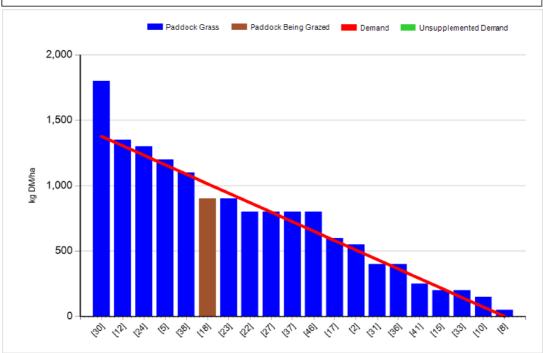
- The herd is split into two separate calving dates
- Early calving group mean calving date is the 25<sup>th</sup> of Feb.
- Late calving group mean calving date is the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.
- Stocking rate is 2.9 cows per ha for both groups and fertiliser input will be constant (250Kg N / ha).
- Within each group there are equal numbers of Friesian and crossbred cows

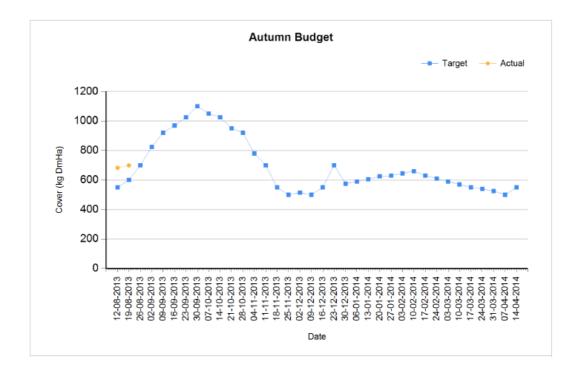
## C. Whole farm situation

- 1. Soil temperature today is 16°C.
- 2. Total rainfall over the past seven days was 16mm.
- 3. Average growth was 75kgDM/ha/day, (18% DM).
- 4. Feed wedge 19/08/2013

26	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	
16.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
60		
1.0		
	16.0 60	16.0 Residual Height (cm):

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	16.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	75
Total Livestock (LU):	60.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	53
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	699	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1377
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	211		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.31		





- 5. Farm cover is 699 kg DM / ha (211 kg DM / cow) and pre-grazing cover is 1700 kg DM / ha.
- 6. Cover is ahead of target according to the autumn budget. Paddock was removed for baling this week as is had a cover of 1850 kg DM / ha. Even though farm cover is above target all other paddocks are good quality and 1500 to 1600 kg DM / ha. We have struggled to reach the peak cover over the last number of years so no more paddocks will be taken out this week.
- 7. We have started to use the strip wire to achieve good graze out on these slightly heavy covers.
- 8. Spreading 27 units of CAN per acre on grazed paddocks once weekly.
- 9. Total growth to date is 8.3 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 were removed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

## C. Critical short term actions:

- Bale 1 paddock
- Spread 27 units of Sul-CAN after grazing.
- Maintain rotation length

## D. Bulk tank details:

Milk yield 16.7 litres, Fat 4.71%, Protein 3.65% (1.43kg MS) SCC 165,000, TBC 6,000.

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Date: 19/08/2013	Early		Late	
Mean calving date	25 <sup>th</sup> Feb		10 <sup>th</sup> March	
	FR	JFX	FR	JFX
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	18.3	15.5	18.3	15.5
% Fat	4.20	4.55	4.40	4.57
% Protein	3.47	3.74	3.55	3.69
% Lactose	4.63	4.71	4.67	4.66
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.41	1.29	1.45	1.28
Supplement (kg/cow/day)				
Concentrate	0	0	0	0
Silage	0	0	0	0
Cumulative				
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3829	3560	3392	3131
% Fat	4.46	4.66	4.53	4.74
% Protein	3.39	3.63	3.47	3.54
% Lactose	4.74	4.78	4.76	4.77
Milk solids (kg/cow)	301	295	271	259
Weight	505	456	523	455
Body Condition Score	2.79	2.88	2.75	2.80
% Calved	100	100	100	100
Supplement (kg/cow)				
Concentrate	635		517	
Silage to milking cows	330		180	
(kg DM/cow)				
Conserved silage (kg	48	30	480	
DM/cow)	(40%)		(40%)	

<sup>\*</sup> These are raw data and have not been statistically analysed.