

A. Critical Issues

1. Ensuring new born calves get 3L of colostrum within the first 2 hours of birth and keeping calving pens as hygienic as possible.
2. Getting cows out to grass for a minimum of 3 hours after each milking.
3. Slurry on grazed paddocks.

B. 2014 Calving date trial

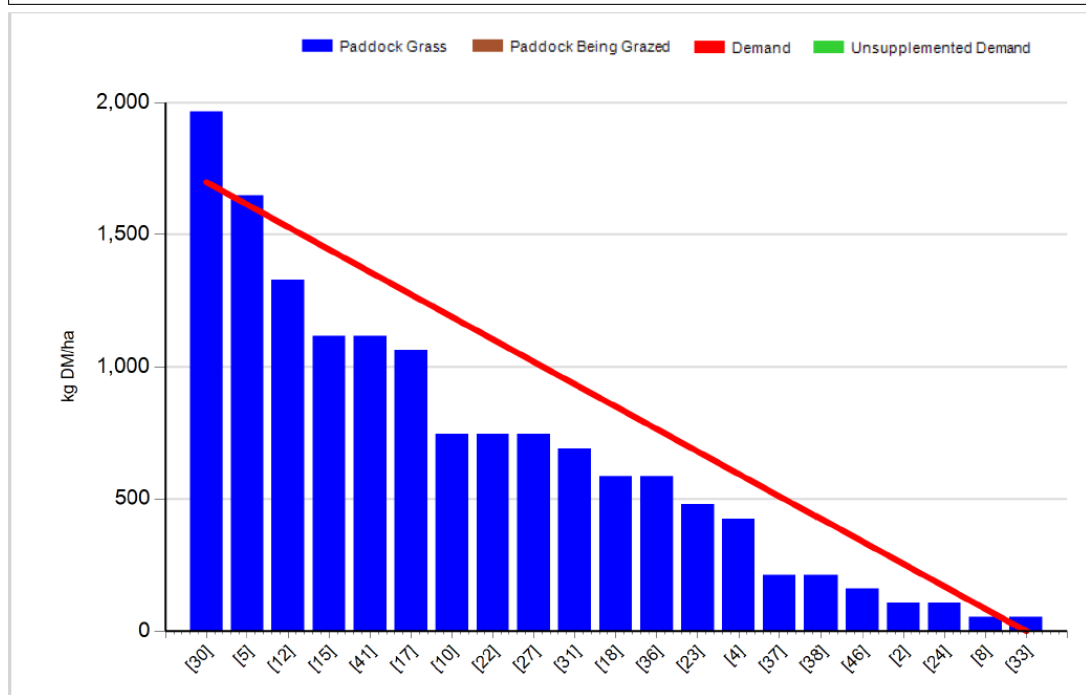
- The herd is split into two separate calving dates
- Early calving group – mean calving date is the 25th of Feb.
- Late calving group – mean calving date is the 10th of March.
- Within each group there are equal numbers of Friesian and crossbred cows.

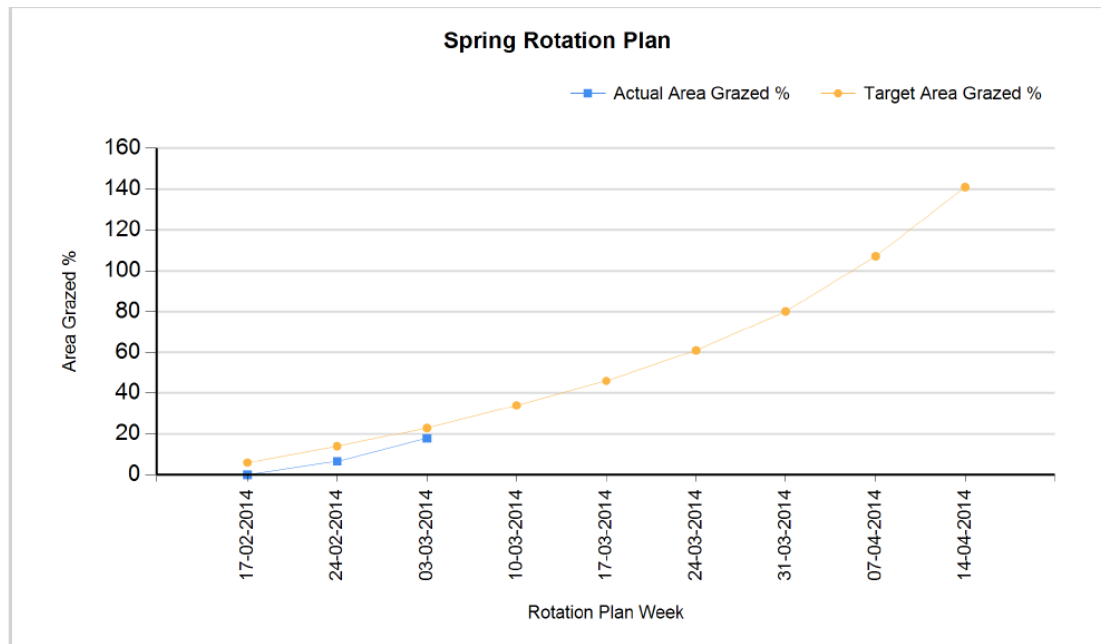
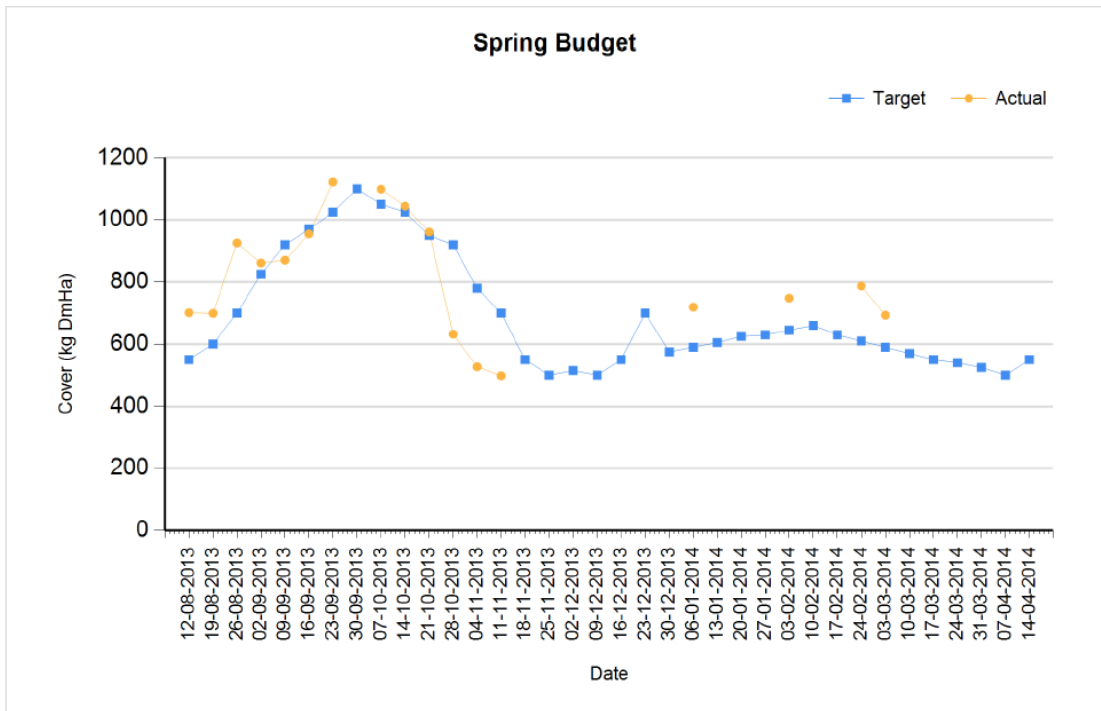
C. Whole farm situation

- Soil temperature today is 5.5°C.
- Heifers weighed 25th of Feb that are due to be served in early May. The target for the Friesian heifers was 290kgs and the average weight was 299kgs. The target for the Jersey Friesian cross heifers was 265kgs and the average weight was 285kgs.
- Total of 75 cows calved and have x replacement heifer calves to date.
- 1 dead calf, put down malformed.
- 5 cows assisted to calve.
- 4 Cows slow to clean.
- 1 Case of Mastitis to date.
- Milk yield 19.4kg, 5.11% fat, 3.68% protein (1.7kg Ms / cow), SCC 236,000 and TBC 10,000.

D. Early group

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	11.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	11
Total Livestock (LU):	43.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	25
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	693	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1698
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	305		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	2.27		





1. Farm cover is 693 kg DM / ha which has dropped from 787kg DM / ha last week.
2. Growth rate has increased to 11 kg DM / ha and demand is 25 kg DM / ha.
3. Cover is ahead of target according to the spring budget. However if growth does not increase this week farm cover is projected to be close to target next week.
4. Have tried grazing some of the heavier covers (1800kg DM / ha) this week, not grazing out as well as on low covers (1200kg DM / ha). Only have one very high cover will get it grazed this week.
5. Cows are on-off grazing with no silage in the diet.

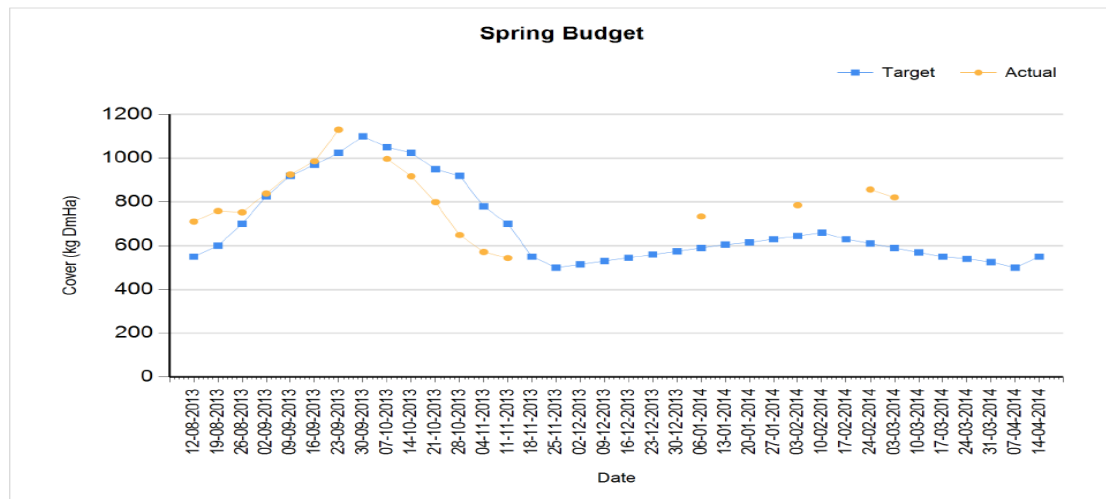
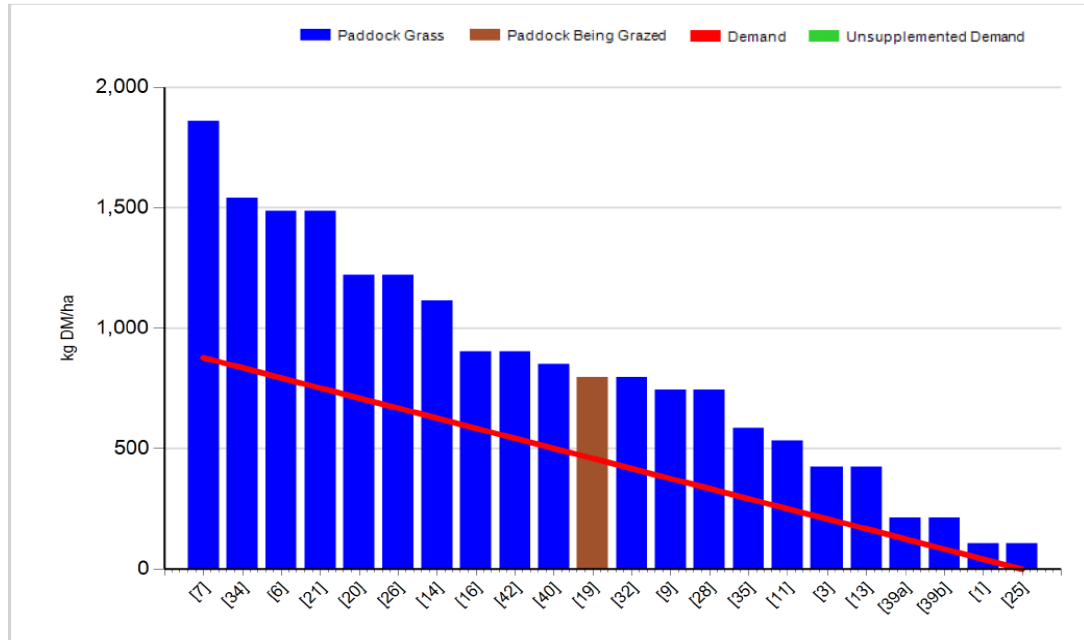
6. Grazing lighter covers has allowed us catch up with rotation plan, these paddocks are greening up nicely and first paddocks grazed have a cover of 150kg DM / ha now.
7. Did some heavy poaching last weekend, small areas will need seed broadcast later in spring.
8. Feeding 4 kg of concentrate and 11 kg of grass.
9. 75% calved in 4 weeks.

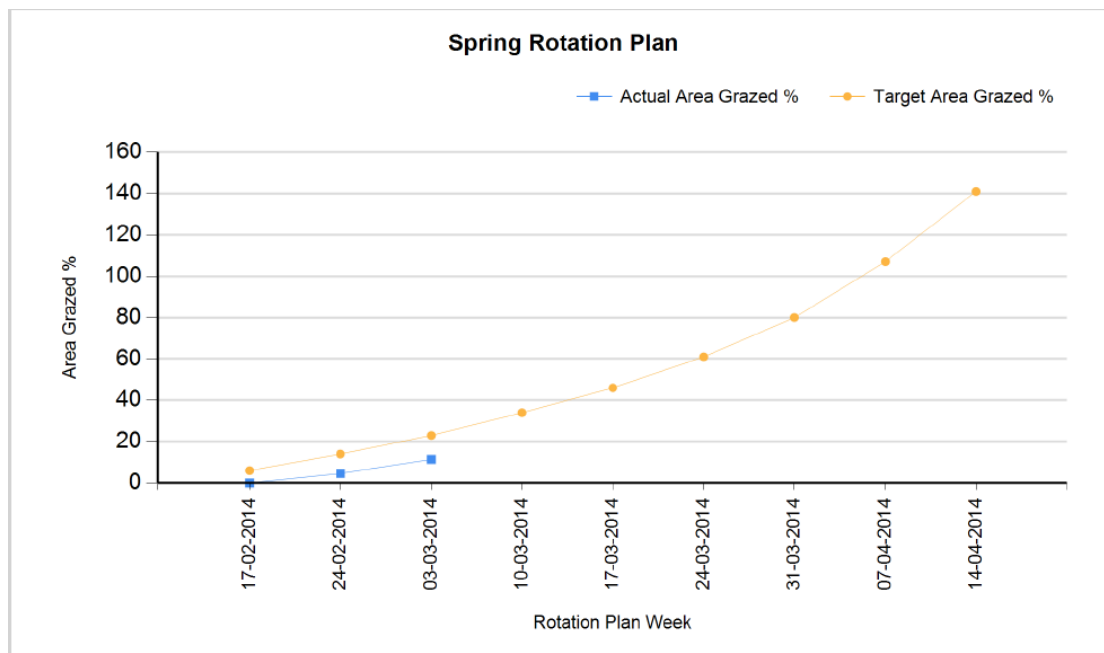
C. Late Group

Rotation Length (days):	79	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	10.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	22		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	4.0		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	10.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	8
Total Livestock (LU):	22.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	11
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	821	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	877
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	740		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	1.11		





1. Farm cover is 821 kg DM / ha which has dropped 857kg DM / ha last week. This is still well above target cover of 600kg DM / ha.
2. Growth rate is 11 kg DM / ha and demand is 12 kg DM / ha.
3. Cows out day and night, on-off grazing.
4. Feeding 4kg of concentrate and 10kg of grass.
5. Will continue to graze 1200 covers to catch up on area grazed.
6. 50% calved in 18 days.

D. Critical short term actions :

- Remove cows from paddocks after 3 hours to prevent poaching.
- Graze lighter covers until weather conditions improve.
- Heifers to be BVD and Lepto vaccinated this week.

www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/



