Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes – Monday 12/03/2014

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. Slurry on grazed paddocks.
- 3. Balance grass with concentrate and silage as necessary.

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

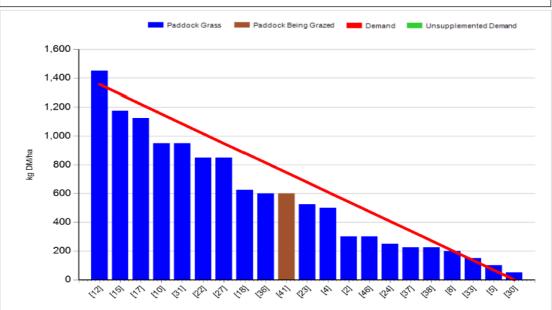
- Soil temperature today is 5.8°C.
- Heifers weighed 25th of Feb that are due to be served in early May. The target for the Friesian heifers was 290kgs and the average weight was 299kgs. The target for the Jersey Friesian cross heifers was 265kgs and the average weight was 285kgs.
- Total of 96 cows calved and have 49 replacement heifer calves to date.
- 2 dead calves, both put down malformed.
- 5 cows assisted to calve.
- 4 Cows slow to clean.
- 1 Case of Mastitis to date.
- Milk yield 21.1kg, 5.11% fat, 3.68% protein (1.85kg Ms / cow), SCC 236,000 and TBC 8,000.

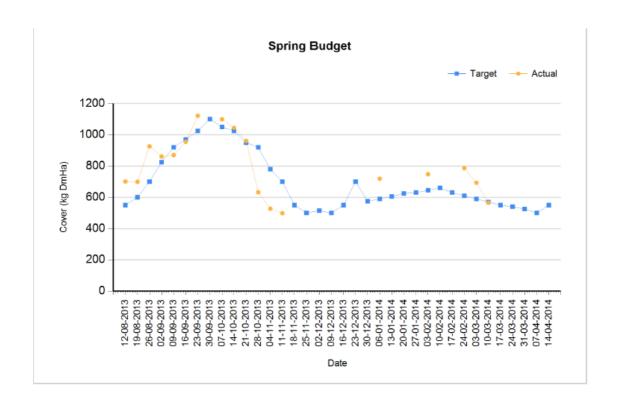
D. Early group

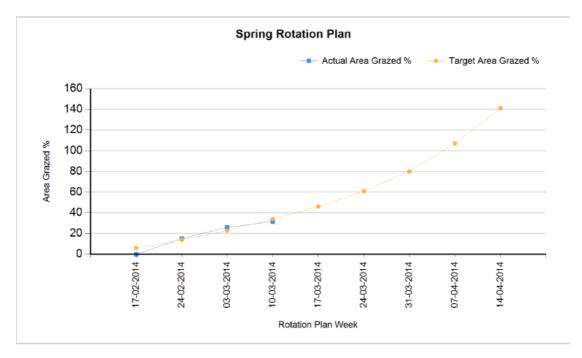
Rotation Length (days):	68	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	4.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	7.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	54		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	4.0		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	7.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	11
Total Livestock (LU):	54.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	20
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	565	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1357
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	198		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	2.85		



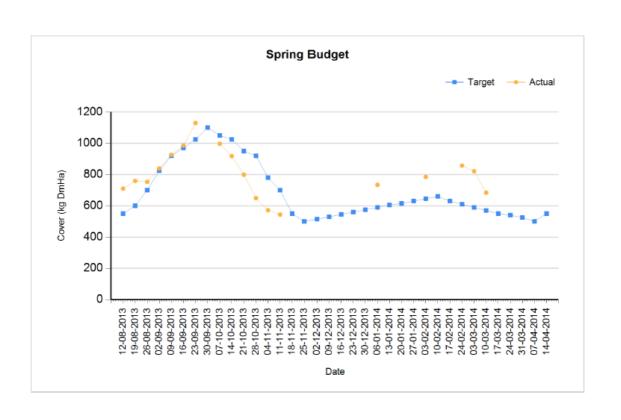


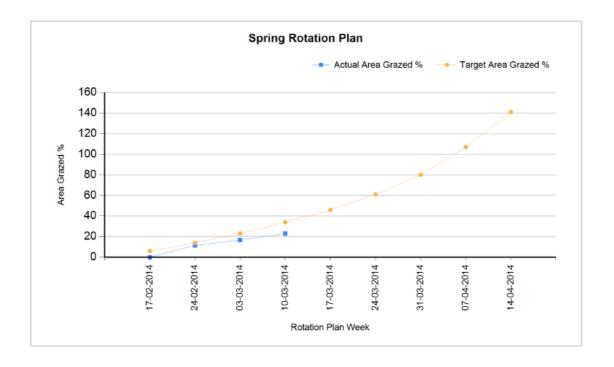


- 1. Farm cover is 565 kg DM / ha which has dropped from 653kg DM / ha last week.
- 2. Growth rate is similar to last week at 11 kg DM / ha and demand is 20 kg DM / ha.
- 3. Farm cover is on target for this week as is area grazed. Based on the rotation planner we can offer 0.266 ha per day, at a cover of 1400kg DM / ha this is 7 kg of grass per cow. 4kg of silage and 4 kg of concentrate will be fed to make up the deficit.
- 4. Grazing down to 3.6cm on average. Allocating fresh break of grass every 12 hours.
- 5. 92% calved in 6 weeks.

C. Late Group

O Allti(O(IDM/)	68	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	11.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	40		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	4.0		
Cover Parameters			
Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU): 11.0		Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	8
Total Livestock (LU):	40.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	22
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	684	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1503
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	340		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	2.01		
1,500 1,000			





- 1. Farm cover is 684 kg DM / ha which has dropped 821kg DM / ha last week. This is still well above target cover of 575kg DM / ha.
- 2. Growth rate is 8kg DM / ha and demand is 22 kg DM / ha.
- 3. Cows out grazing full time day and night.
- 4. Feeding 4kg of concentrate and 11kg of grass.
- 5. Still behind on area grazed but will have to graze heavier covers this week as conditions are good and these are both wet paddocks.
- 6. Grazing out to 3.8cm on average.
- 7. 68% calved in 4 weeks.

D. Critical short term actions:

- Get slurry out on grazed paddocks.
- Feed 4 kg of silage to Early group to slow down rotation length.
- Graze some of the wetter paddocks when conditions are dry.

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