

Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes – Monday 24/03/2014

A. Critical Issues

1. Stick to rotation planner – target 80% grazed by next Monday.
2. Balance grass with concentrate and silage as necessary.
3. Minimise poaching with 12hr allocations.
4. Graze paddocks out well, (3.5cm).

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

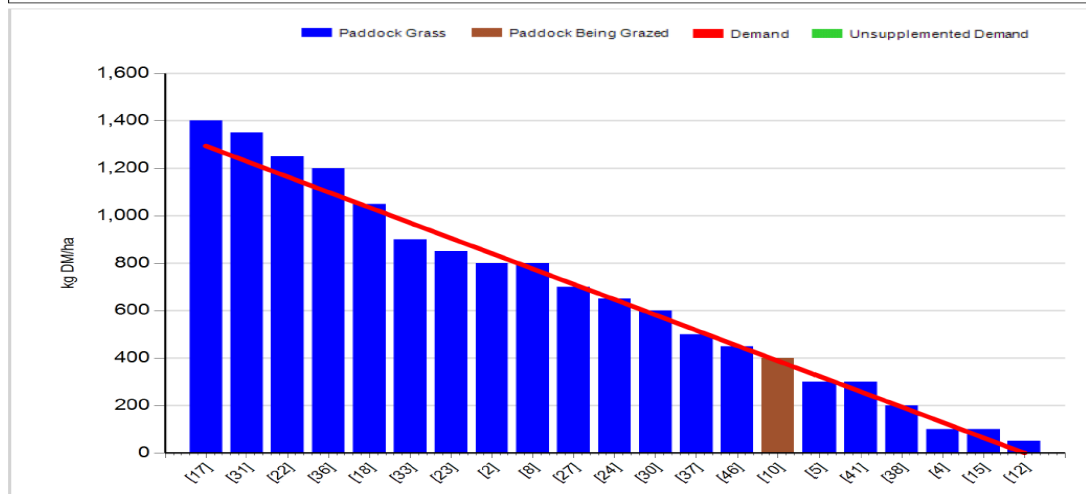
- Soil temperature today is 6.6°C.
- Slurry has been spread on 20% of area at a rate of 2500 gallons per acre.
- Will go with 46 units of urea over whole farm this week, this will be a total of 60 units per acre spread over the whole farm.
- Heifers weighed 25th of Feb that are due to be served in early 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 105 cows calved and have 53 replacement heifer calves to date.
- 3 dead calves to date.
- 5 cows assisted to calve.
- 4 Cows slow to clean.
- 1 Case of Mastitis to date.
- Milk yield 23.6kg, 4.82% fat, 3.36% protein (1.93kg Ms / cow), SCC 159,000 and TBC 8,000.

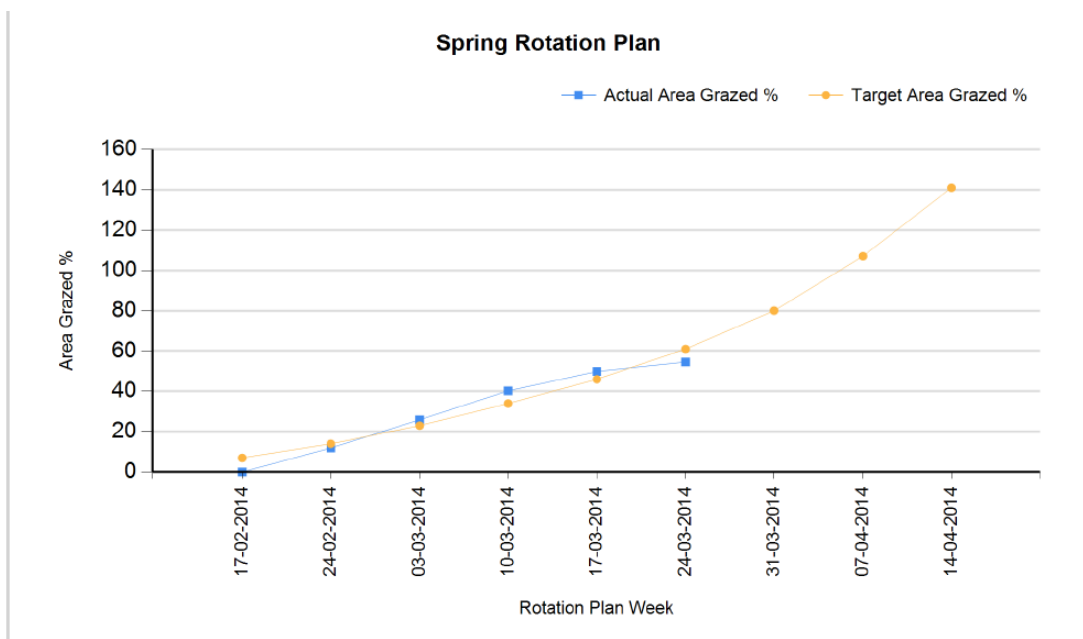
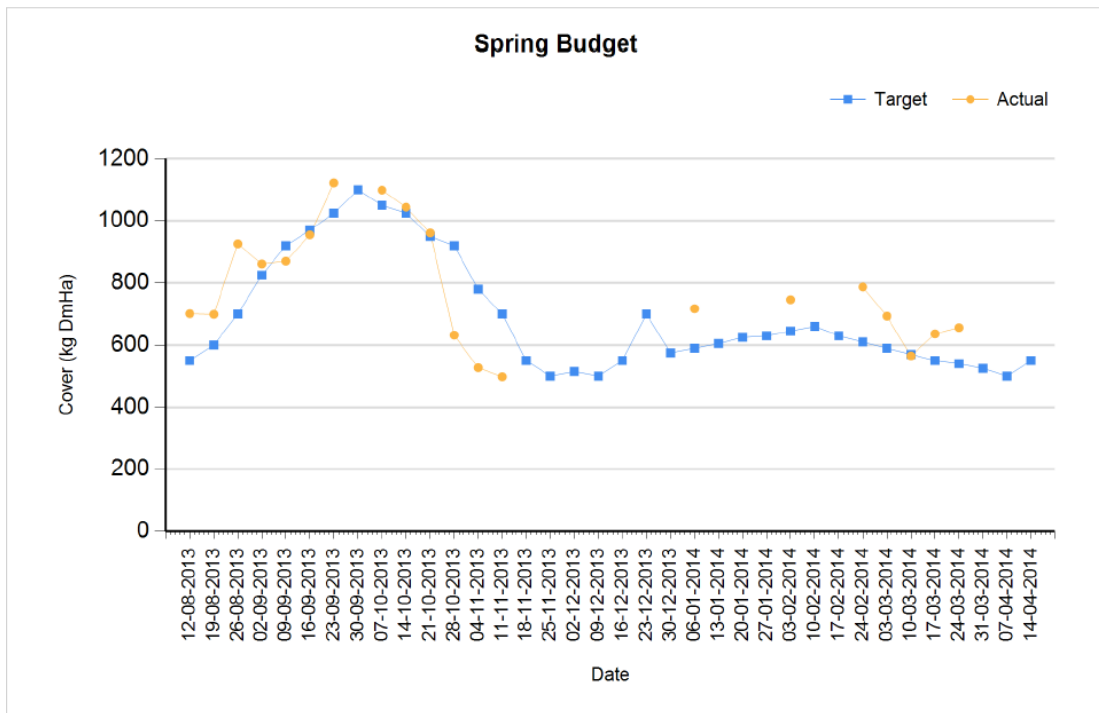
D. Early group

Rotation Length (days):	47	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	3.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	9.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	58		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	4.0		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	9.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	36
Total Livestock (LU):	58.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	28
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	656	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1294
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	214		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	3.06		





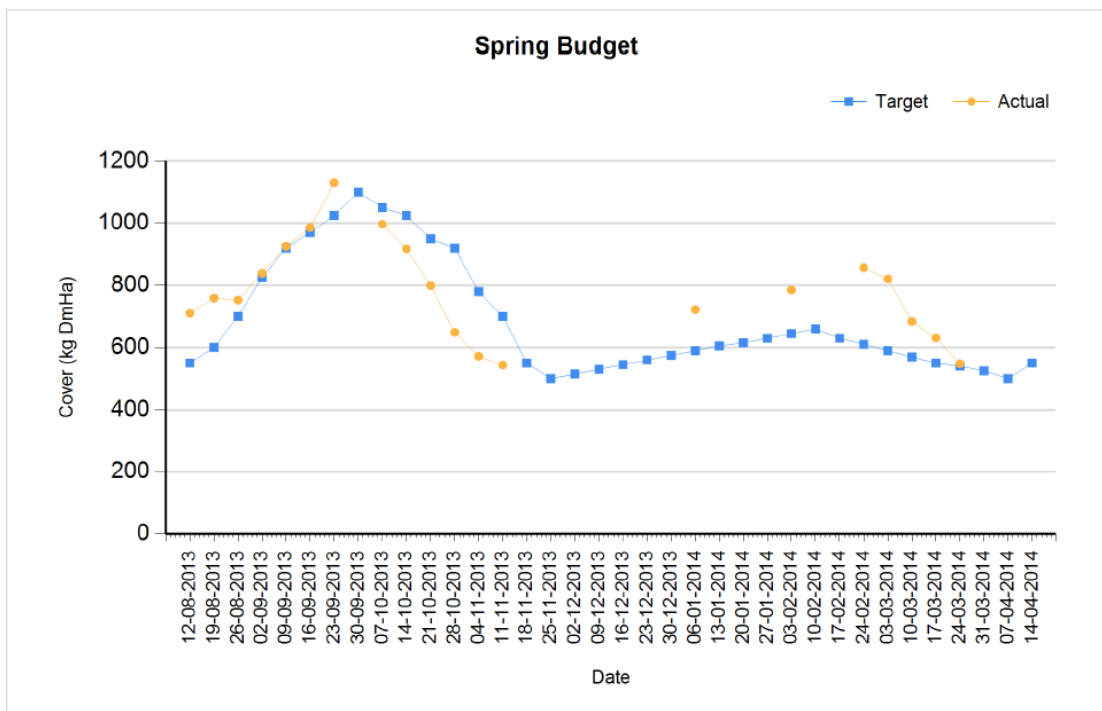
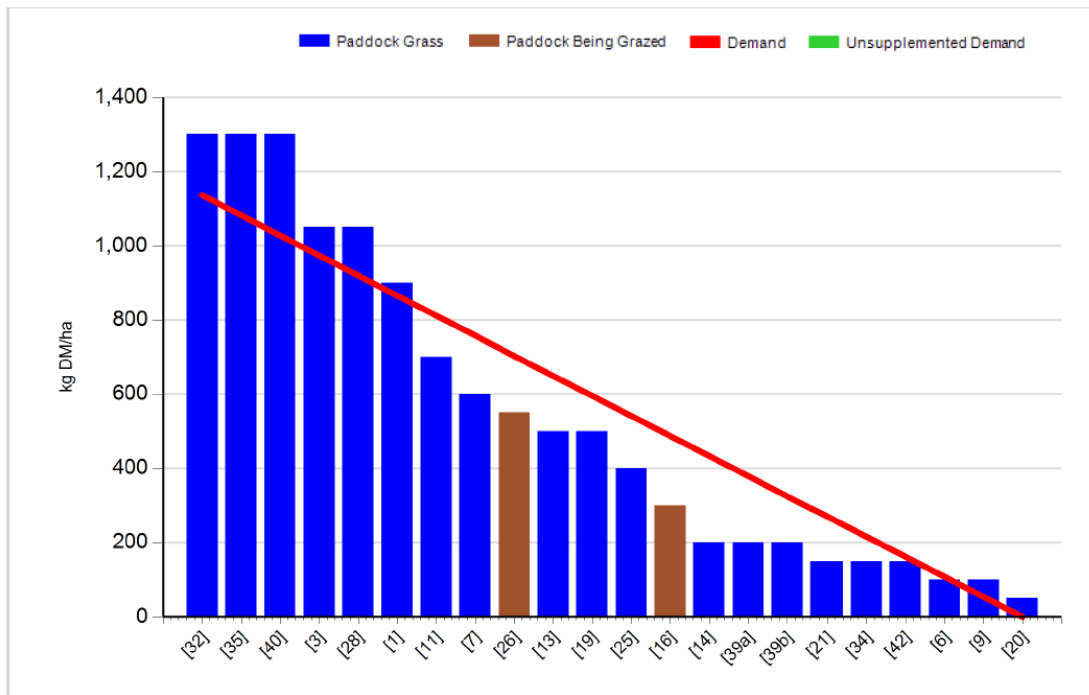
1. Farm cover is 656 kg DM / ha which is similar to last week. Cows were housed at night last week to slow down rotation but growth rate was better than expected.
2. Growth rate has increased this week to 36kg DM / ha and demand is 28kg DM / ha.
3. There is 60% of the farm grazed.
4. Farm cover is ahead of target but in order to stick to rotation plan we have to feed silage for this week.
5. Grazing down to 3.6cm on average, silage is not adversely affecting graze out because silage and grass are allocated for each feed.
6. 96% calved in 8 weeks.

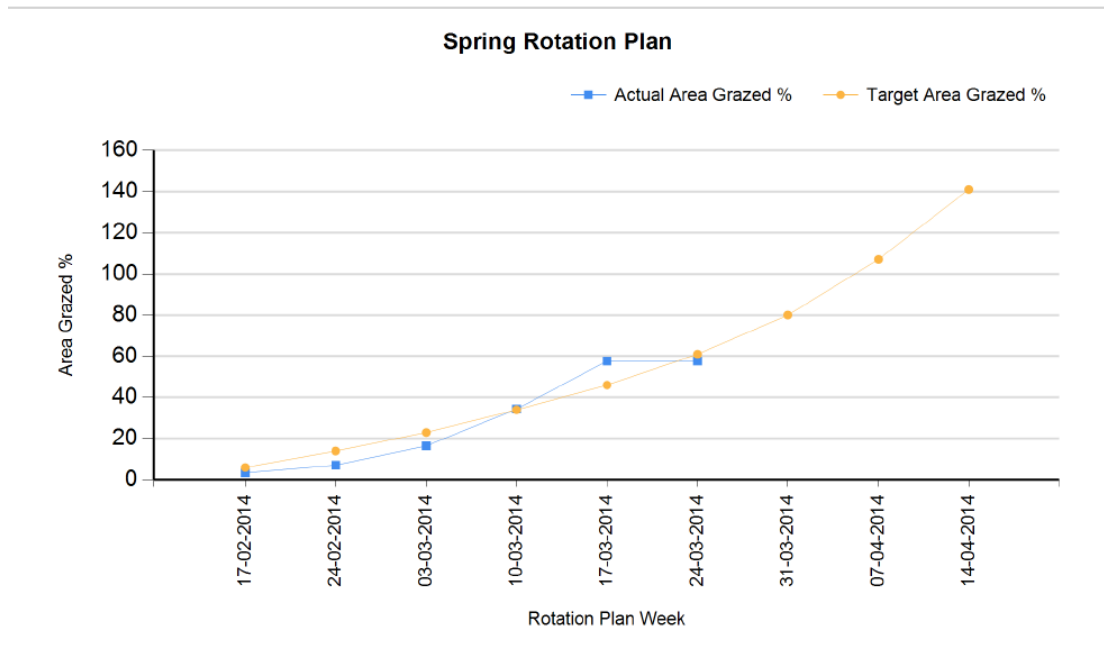
C. Late Group

Rotation Length (days):	47	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	3.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	10.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	48		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	3.0		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	10.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	20
Total Livestock (LU):	48.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	24
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	548	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1137
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	226		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	2.42		





1. Farm cover is 548 kg DM / ha which has dropped 631kg DM / ha last week. This is on target
2. Growth rate is 20kg DM / ha and demand is 24kg DM / ha.
3. Cows were will be housed for 3 nights to stick to rotation plan.
4. Feeding 3kg of concentrate, 3kg of silage and 10kg of grass.
5. There is 60% of the farm grazed which is on target.
6. Grazing out to 3.8cm on average.
7. 80% calved in 6 weeks.

D. Critical short term actions :

- Feed silage to slow down rotation.
- Ration out grass to end 1st rotation on the 10th of April (800kg DM on first paddocks grazed).
- Bulk spread 46 units of Urea on whole farm.

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