## Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes – Monday 31/03/2014

#### A. Critical Issues

- 1. Stick to rotation planner target 100% grazed by next Monday.
- 2. Balance grass with concentrate as necessary.
- 3. Minimise poaching with 12hr allocations.
- 4. Graze paddocks out well, (3.5cm).

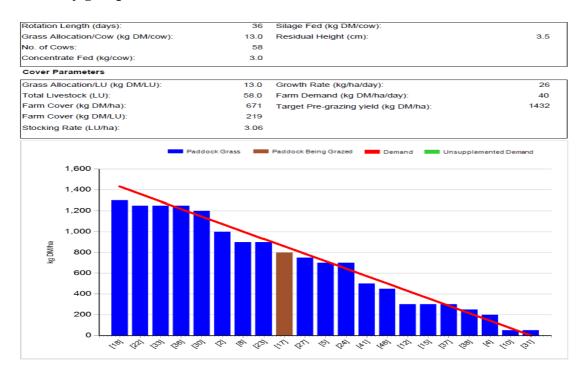
## B. 2014 Calving date trial

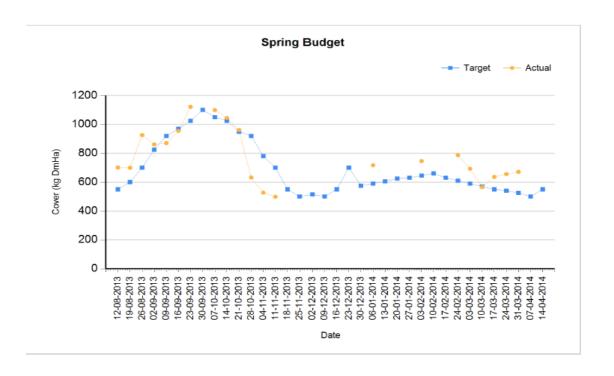
- The herd is split into two separate calving dates
- Early calving group mean calving date is the 25<sup>th</sup> of Feb.
- Late calving group mean calving date is the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.
- Within each group there are equal numbers of Friesian and crossbred cows.

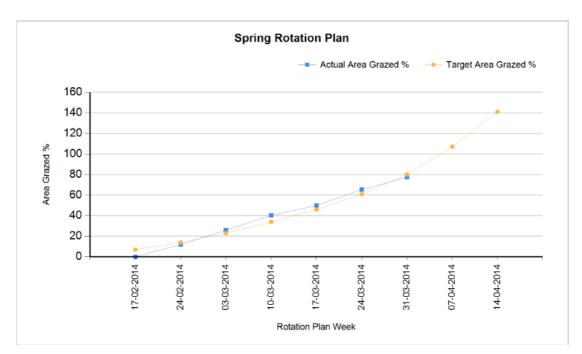
#### C. Whole farm situation

- Soil temperature today is 8.6°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. Have only got 30% of area done as conditions have been wet.
- Whole herd condition scored, average 2.85 with 10% below 2.75.
- Total of 107 cows calved and have 53 replacement heifer calves to date.
- 4 dead calves to date.
- 6 cows assisted to calve.
- 4 Cows slow to clean.
- 1 Case of Mastitis to date.
- Herd condition scored last week
- Milk yield 23.9kg, 4.52% fat, 3.23% protein (1.85kg Ms / cow), SCC 159,000 and TBC 4,000.

## D. Early group







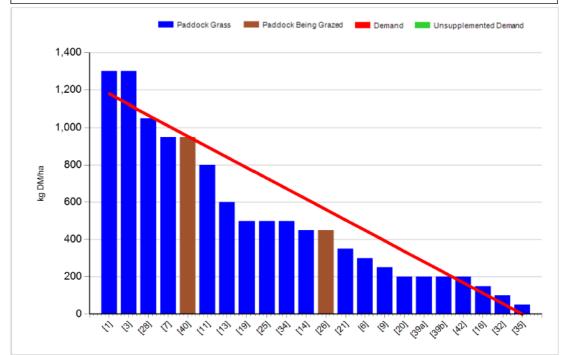
- 1. Farm cover is 671 kg DM / ha which is similar to last week. Cows were housed at night for 3 nights last week to hold rotation length.
- 2. Growth rate has decreased this week to 26kg DM / ha and demand is 36kg DM / ha.
- 3. There is 78% of the farm grazed which is on target.
- 4. Farm cover is ahead of target but we fed silage last week to stick to rotation plan, this should not be an issue as pre-grazing yields are still 1250kg DM / ha and graze out is good. Silage is removed from the diet and concentrates have been reduced to 3kg / day.
- 5. Grazing down to 3.8cm on average. Post grazing on some paddocks was above target as cows had to be removed to prevent poaching.
- 6. 96% calved in 8 weeks.

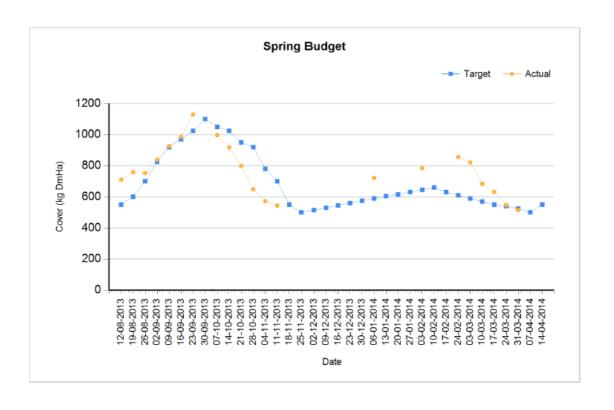
# C. Late Group

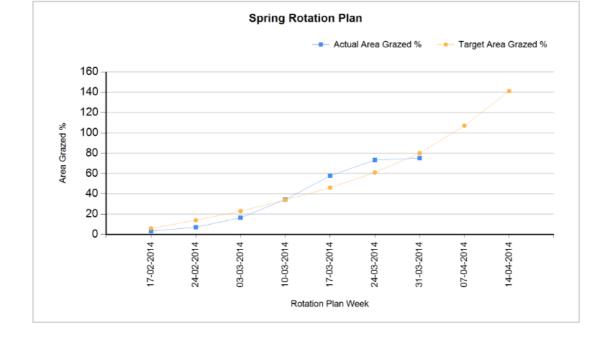
| Rotation Length (days):           | 36   | Silage Fed (kg DM/cow): | 0.0 |
|-----------------------------------|------|-------------------------|-----|
| Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow): | 13.0 | Residual Height (cm):   | 3.5 |
| No. of Cows:                      | 50   |                         |     |
| Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):         | 3.0  |                         |     |
|                                   |      |                         |     |

#### **Cover Parameters**

| Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU): | 13.0 | Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):             | 21   |
|---------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Total Livestock (LU):           | 50.0 | Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):          | 33   |
| Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):          | 516  | Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha): | 1179 |
| Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):          | 205  |                                      |      |
| Stocking Rate (LU/ha):          | 2.52 |                                      |      |
|                                 |      |                                      |      |







- 1. Farm cover is 516 kg DM / ha which has dropped from 548kg DM / ha last week. This is on target
- 2. Growth rate is  $21 kg \, DM$  / ha and demand is  $33 kg \, DM$  / ha.
- 3. Cows were housed for 3 nights to stick to rotation plan.
- 4. Feeding 3kg of concentrate and 13kg of grass, silage has been removed from the diet.
- 5. There is 78% 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:

- Ration out grass to end 1<sup>st</sup> rotation on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April (1250kg DM on first paddocks grazed).
- Bulk spread 46 units of Urea on whole farm.
- Tail paint cows for pre-breeding heat detection.
- BVD and Lepto vaccination due this week.
- Cows with condition score below 2.75 milked once a day.

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