Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes – Tuesday 13/05/2014

A. Critical Issues

- 1. 36 hour allocations.
- 2. Maintain target residual (4cm).
- 3. Reach target 21 day submission rate of 90%.

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

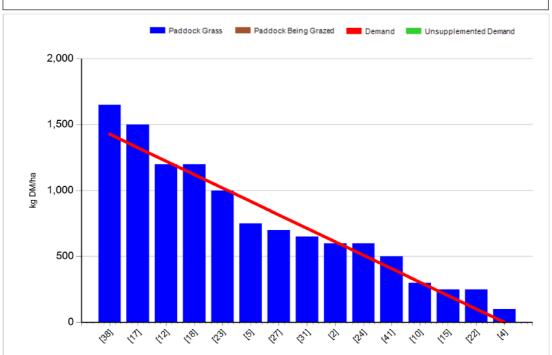
- Soil temperature today is 12.5°C.
- On the third round of Nitrogen (40 units of sul-CAN).
- Pre-breeding scan done, one G3 cow to be washed out, 12 G2 cows to be washed out, no CIDRs or other treatments needed.
- Heifers weighed on the 12th of May Fr 348kg and crossbreds 332kg, there are 4 heifers out of 25 under target.
- Milk yield 25.1kg, 4.20% fat, 3.39% protein (1.9kg Ms / cow), SCC 117,000 and TBC 6.000.

D. Early group

| Rotation Length (days): | 21 | Silage Fed (kg DM/cow): | |
|-----------------------------------|------|-------------------------|-----|
| Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow): | 15.0 | Residual Height (cm): | 3.5 |
| No. of Cows: | 60 | | |
| Concentrate Fed (kg/cow): | 1.0 | | |
| | | | |

Cover Parameters

| Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU): | 15.0 | Growth Rate (kg/ha/day): | 74 |
|---------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Total Livestock (LU): | 60.0 | Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day): | 68 |
| Farm Cover (kg DM/ha): | 771 | Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha): | 1427 |
| Farm Cover (kg DM/LU): | 170 | | |
| Stocking Rate (LU/ha): | 4.53 | | |
| | | | |



- 1. Farm cover is 771 kg DM / ha (170kg DM / cow) which is higher than last week.
- 2. Growth rate is 74kg DM / ha this week. There is 25% of the area closed for silage. Paddocks closed for silage have been topped up with 30 units of CAN and will be cut in late May.
- 3. Pre-grazing yield is 1600kg DM / ha which is slightly above target but we will wait and see if growth rates continue to improve before closing more area for silage.
- 4. Grazing down to 4.4cm on average. Ground conditions were poor at the weekend and residual was above target as a result. Using a 12hr strip wire during wet spells to improve utilisation.
- 5. Started AI on the 28th of April, 72% submitted in the two weeks.

C. Late Group

| Rotation Length (days): | 21 | Silage Fed (kg DM/cow): | |
|-----------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow): | 15.0 | | |
| No. of Cows: | 59 | 3() | |
| Concentrate Fed (kg/cow): | 1.0 | | |
| Cover Parameters | | | |
| Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU): | 15.0 | Growth Rate (kg/ha/day): | 82 |
| Total Livestock (LU): | 59.0 | Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day): | 59 |
| Farm Cover (kg DM/ha): | 629 | Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha): | 1251 |
| Farm Cover (kg DM/LU): | 158 | | |
| Stocking Rate (LU/ha): | 3.97 | | |
| 1,500 | | | |

- 1. Farm cover is 629 kg DM / ha (160kg DM / cow) which has increased from 601kg DM / ha last week.
- 2. Growth rate was 82kg DM / ha and demand is 59kg DM / ha.
- 3. 25% of the farm has been closed for silage; more will be closed when cover per cow rises above 180kg DM / cow.

- 4. Pre grazing yield is 1600kg DM / ha.
- 5. Grazing out to 4.3cm on average.
- 6. Ai due to started today.

D. Critical short term actions:

- Focus on good heat detection.
- Shot of estrumate to heifers.
- Spread 40 units of N on 2/3 of grazing area to drive growth rates.
- Get calves out to grass.

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| Date: 11/05/2014 | Early | | Late | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
| Mean calving date | 25 th Feb | | 10 th March | |
| | FR | JFX | FR | JFX |
| Stocking rate (cows/ha) | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| Milk yield (kg/cow/day) | 26.3 | 23.7 | 29.6 | 25.6 |
| % Fat | 4.05 | 4.26 | 4.21 | 4.28 |
| % Protein | 3.51 | 3.64 | 3.58 | 3.60 |
| % Lactose | 4.93 | 4.99 | 4.90 | 4.90 |
| Milk solids (kg/cow/day) | 1.99 | 1.88 | 2.31 | 2.01 |
| Supplement (kg/cow/day) | | | | |
| Concentrate | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Silage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cumulative | | | | |
| Milk yield (kg/cow) | 1,919 | 1,783 | 1,620 | 1,555 |
| % Fat | 4.09 | 4.30 | 4.46 | 4.40 |
| % Protein | 3.24 | 3.39 | 3.42 | 3.42 |
| % Lactose | 5.00 | 5.05 | 4.92 | 4.86 |
| Milk solids (kg/cow) | 141 | 137 | 128 | 121 |
| Weight | 468 | 443 | 500 | 439 |
| Body Condition Score | 2.84 | 2.79 | 2.88 | 2.87 |
| Supplement (kg/cow) | | | | |
| Concentrate | 237 | | 179 | |
| Silage to milking cows | | | | |
| (kg DM/cow) | 125 | | 80 | |
| Conserved silage (kg | | | | |
| DM/cow) | 0 | | 0 | |