Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes – Monday 26/05/2014

A. Critical Issues

- 1. 36 hour allocations, (12hr when very wet)
- 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

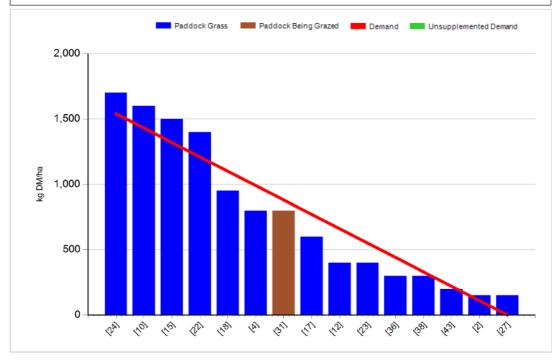
- Soil temperature today is 12°C.
- Total rainfall for past 7 days is 29mm.
- Heifers weighed on the 12th of May Fr 348kg and crossbreds 332kg, there are 4 heifers out of 25 under target.
- All heifers served once with AI, stock bulls introduced.
- Milk yield 24kg, 4.25% fat, 3.4% protein (1.84kg Ms / cow), SCC 163,000 and TBC 20,000.

D. Early group

21	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	
15.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
60		
1.0		
	60	15.0 Residual Height (cm):

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	15.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	67
Total Livestock (LU):	60.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	73
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	717	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1540
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	147		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	4.89		



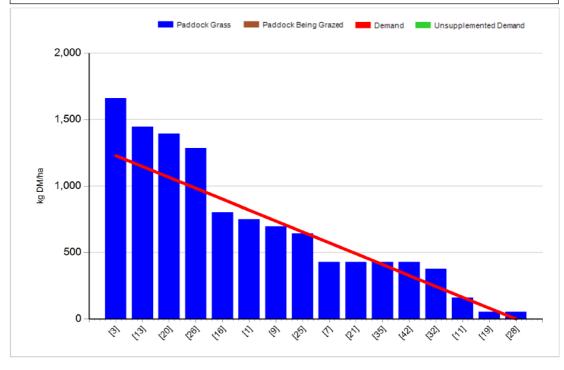
- 1. Farm cover is 717 kg DM / ha (147kg DM / cow) which is slightly below last week.
- 2. Growth rate is 67 DM / ha this week. There is 35% of the area closed for silage.
- 3. Just over half of this silage area will be cut this week and the rest will be left to bulk up for another ten days.
- 4. Pre-grazing yield is 1600kg DM / ha which is above target.
- 5. Grazing down to 4.2cm 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.
- 6. Started AI on the 28th of April, 98% submitted in four weeks.

C. Late Group

Rotation Length (days):	21	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow):	0.0
Grass Allocation/Cow (kg DM/cow):	13.0	Residual Height (cm):	3.5
No. of Cows:	59		
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow):	1.0		

Cover Parameters

Grass Allocation/LU (kg DM/LU):	13.0	Growth Rate (kg/ha/day):	78
Total Livestock (LU):	59.0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day):	59
Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):	681	Target Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha):	1229
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU):	151		
Stocking Rate (LU/ha):	4.50		



- 1. Farm cover is 681 kg DM / ha (151kg DM / cow) which has decreased from last week.
- 2. Growth rate was 78kg DM / ha and demand is 59kg DM / ha.
- 3. 31% of the farm has been closed for silage, half of this will be cut this week.

- 4. Pre grazing yield is 1600kg DM / ha which is above target but cover per cow is low.
- 5. Grazing out to 4.3cm on average.
- 6. Ai started on the 13th of May, 70% submitted in two weeks.

D. Critical short term actions:

- Get silage cut
- Focus on good heat detection.
- Stock bulls out with heifers.

www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/



Date: 19/05/2014	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)	26.5	23.4	26.7	24.2
% Fat	4.67	4.89	4.35	4.50
% Protein	3.43	3.54	3.48	3.54
% Lactose	4.93	4.99	4.94	4.94
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	2.14	1.97	2.09	1.94
Supplement (kg/cow/day)				
Concentrate	1	1	1	1
Silage	0	0	0	0
Cumulative				
Milk yield (kg/cow)	2,104	1,947	1,806	1,724
% Fat	4.20	4.41	4.45	4.51
% Protein	3.25	3.40	3.42	3.47
% Lactose	4.99	5.04	4.93	4.93
Milk solids (kg/cow)	157	152	142	138
Weight	468	443	500	439
Body Condition Score	2.84	2.89	2.87	2.87
Supplement (kg/cow)		•		
Concentrate	244		186	
Silage to milking cows				
(kg DM/cow)	125		80	
Conserved silage (kg				
DM/cow)	55		55	