

Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 15-02-16

Farm Details

Area available 41 ha

Farm Cover 884kg/DM/Ha

Growth for last 27 days has averaged 2.6 kg/DM/ha per day.

2% of the farm grazed

3.0 kgs of a 13% protein ration being fed to milkers per day.

38 cows calved (32% of the herd)

Grass Supply

Some grass was lost due to flooding over winter but in general grass supply is better than normal. There is a good supply of high quality grass on the hills and drier parts of the farm; this is a result of the closing strategy last autumn. The first paddock was closed on the 27th of September and has a cover of 1950kg DM / ha now. Because 15% of the farm floods over winter we have to carry a few of these heavy covers to ensure we have enough spring grass. Because of high rainfall in December and January about 30% of the farm flooded which is twice the normal area affected. About half has been stunted but should be fine once grazed. The rest is not included in our first rotation plan as it is usually very slow to start growing.

Spring rotation plan

The plan is to start grazing day and night this week to get through area. According to the rotation plan we need to get 10 ha (30%) grazed by March 7th. To achieve this we will need to start with low covers of 800 to 1000kg DM / ha. There is 1 ha grazed to date.

Grazing conditions

Cows were grazing by day and housed at night over the past week. Ground conditions were very wet last week but dry weather over the weekend has improved the situation. Allocating fresh grass after every milking and on – off grazing.

Supplements

Cows are being fed 3kg of a high energy (0.95 UFL), low protein (13%) ration. Also bale silage is being fed on wet nights.

Fertiliser

23 units of Urea spread on 80% of Farm today. The other 20% too wet to travel.

Calving Pattern and Calves

Due calving start date was 10th of Feb, to date there are 38 cows calved (30%). No bull calves sold yet. 22 heifer calves to date. We need 30 heifer calves and rest will be sold at 2 weeks old. Heifers on milk powder twice a day after 4 days.

Milk Production

No milk sent yet.