

Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 7-03-16

Farm Details

Area available 41 ha

Farm Cover 780kg/DM/Ha

Growth for last 7 days has averaged 9 kg/DM/ha per day.

Demand is 27kg DM / ha

26% of the farm grazed

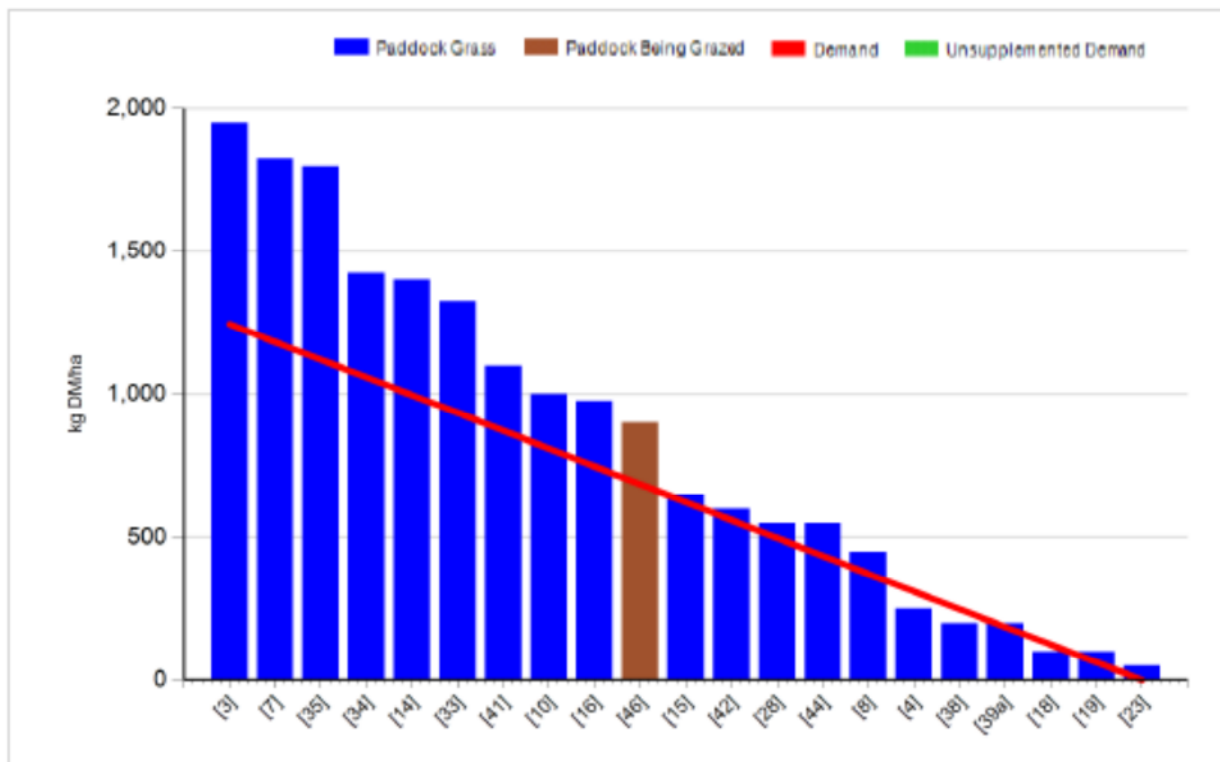
3.0 kgs of a 13% protein ration being fed per day.

Planned calving start date – 10th Feb

85 cows calved (71% of the herd)

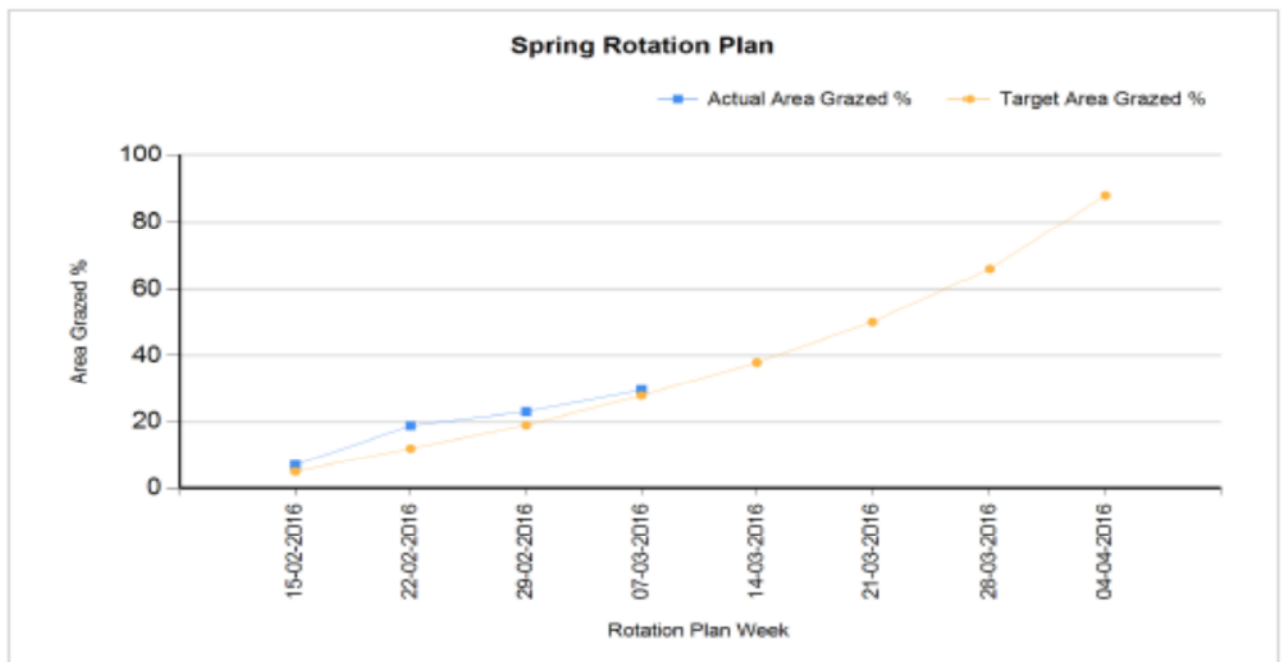
Grass Supply

Farm cover has dropped since last week due to a growing demand and low growth rates. According to our grass budget we will be able to allocate 12kg of grass per cow per day over the next 4 weeks and have an AFC of 450kg DM / ha on the 10th of April.



Spring rotation plan

Of the 41ha total area only 36ha of this is available to graze in the first rotation (5ha of flood plain). Our target was to get 10 ha (30%) grazed by March 7th. Actual area grazed on the 7th of March was 9.4 ha (26%). Cows were housed for 5 nights last week due to very wet conditions which slowed down grazing. We have to get through another 3.6 ha this week to stay on target.



Grazing conditions

Conditions deteriorated rapidly last week and cows were housed for 5 nights (Wed to Sun). During this period cows were being fed 6kg of grass, 6kg of silage and 3kg of meal. They were held in the yard until 11am and let out for 2 – 3 hours and then rehoused. Even with only two hours access to grass some poaching damage was done (mostly superficial). Conditions have improved over the weekend and cows are back grazing for two 3 hour bouts per day.

Supplements

Cows are being fed 3kg of a high energy (0.95 UFL), low protein (13%) ration. Also feeding some bale silage on days where cows don't get out for the 3 hours.

Fertiliser

23 units of Urea spread on 80% of Farm. The other 20% still too wet to travel. No slurry out yet. If weather improves this week we will apply a full bag of Urea to any parts of the farm that have received no nitrogen yet.

Calving Pattern and Calves

Due calving start date was 10th of Feb, to date there are 85 cows calved (71%). We need 30 heifer calves and rest will be sold at 2 weeks old. Heifers on milk powder twice a day after 4 days. They will be fed once a day from 3 weeks old.

Milk Production

Average production 20.2 litres per cow, 5.34% fat, 3.51% protein, (1.85kg MS), SCC 337. Have identified 6 high SCC cows which are being treated.

Priorities

- Graze as much area as possible this week (3.6 ha).
- Minimise poaching damage (on-off grazing).
- Get smallest bulling heifers out to grass.

- Paddock 18 grazed 28th of Feb (1600kg Pre grazing, post grazing height 4.3cm). Small bit of damage done.



- Paddock 23 grazed 29th Feb (PGY 900). Out for 2 hours.

