

## Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 21-03-16

### Farm Details

Area available 41 ha

Farm Cover 540kg/DM/Ha

Growth for last 7 days has averaged 11 kg/DM/ha per day.

Demand is 32kg DM / ha

59% of the farm grazed

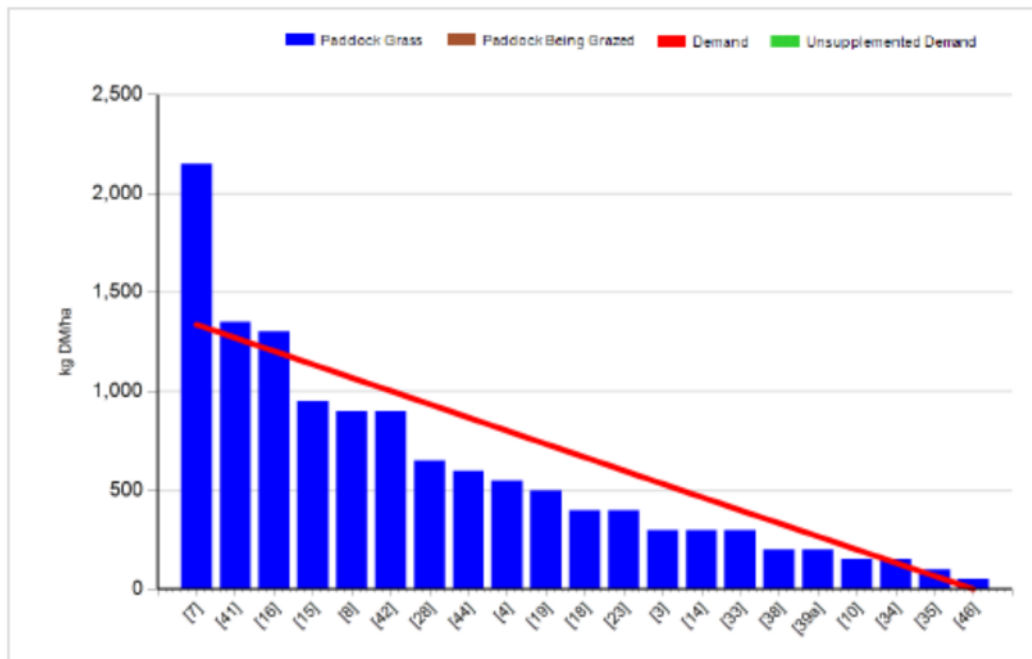
3.0 kgs of a 13% protein ration being fed per day.

Planned calving start date – 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

103 cows calved (86% of the herd)

### Grass Supply

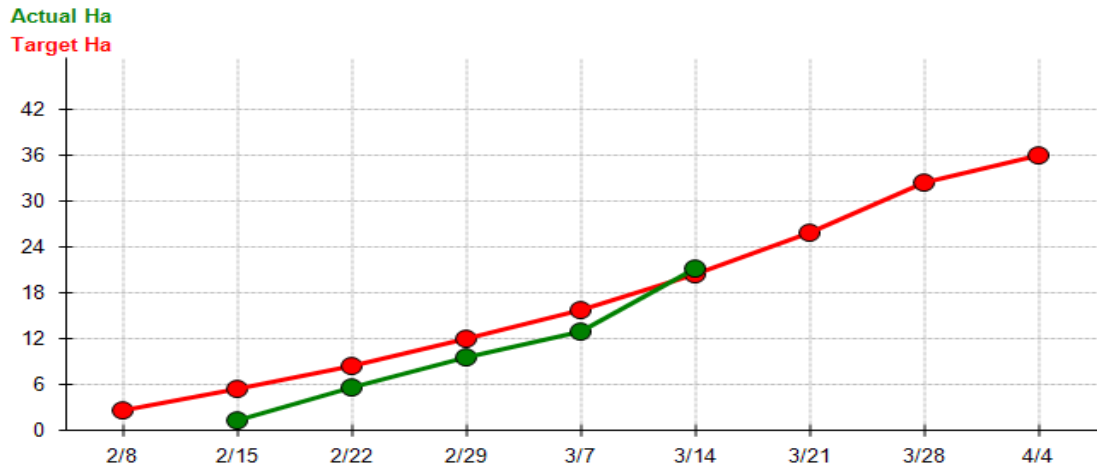
Farm cover has dropped since last week due to a growing demand and low growth rates. Growth rates are slightly below expected levels based on average for mid-March. There is 500kg DM / ha of regrowth on the first paddocks grazed in mid-Feb. Bale silage will probably have to be fed to stretch first rotation but we will wait until late this week to start feeding. We have one more heavy cover and a few light covers on wet ground that we want to get grazed off before rain comes.



### 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 (33%) grazed by March 7<sup>th</sup>. Actual area grazed on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March was 9.4 ha (26%). To date there is 58% of the farm grazed which is ahead of target.

Week	Ha/Day	Target Ha Grazed	Target %	Actual Ha Grazed	Actual %
08/02 - 14/02	0.36	2.52	7.0		
15/02 - 21/02	0.40	5.32	14.8	1.18	3.3
22/02 - 28/02	0.44	8.40	23.3	5.56	15.4
29/02 - 06/03	0.49	11.83	32.9	9.41	26.1
07/03 - 13/03	0.56	15.75	43.8	12.9	35.8
14/03 - 20/03	0.65	20.30	56.4	21.12	58.7
21/03 - 27/03	0.77	25.69	71.4		
28/03 - 03/04	0.96	32.41	90.0		
04/04 - 10/04	1.26	41.23	114.5		



### Grazing conditions

Conditions have excellent this week. Cows are out full time and doing no damage. We have got through most of the heavy covers and a few light covers (600 – 800) on wet paddocks (which also allowed us to get through enough area this week). Still using 12hr wire to allocate grass, not using back fences as only 2 – 3 grazings per paddock.

### Supplements

Cows are being fed 3kg of a high energy (0.95 UFL), low protein (13%) ration. 8 tonne of ration fed to date (66kg per cow across 120 cows).

### Fertiliser

The whole farm got 46 units of Urea last week and 20% (covers 100 – 400) got watery slurry with a trailing shoe. Total Nitrogen applied to date is 73 units / acre.

### Calving Pattern and Calves

Due calving start date was 10<sup>th</sup> of Feb, to date there are 103 cows calved (86%).

We need 30 heifer calves and rest will be sold at 2 weeks old. First 8 surplus heifers sold this week @ €275. Heifers on milk powder twice a day after 4 days. They are fed once a day from 3 weeks old. Bulling heifers have been turned out to covers of 800. Heifers were weighed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March and averaged 297kg.

### Milk Production

Average production 22.2 litres per cow, 4.84% fat, 3.44% protein, (1.89kg MS), SCC 107, TBC 6000

### Breeding

Herd has been condition scored – cows 2.5 or less 7% (will be milked once a day), 2.75 to 3.0 - 80%, 3.25 or higher – 13%.

### **Priorities**

- **Get heavy covers grazed when conditions are good.**
- **Introduce 3kg of bale silage per cow by Friday to slow down rotation.**