

Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 29-03-16

Farm Details

Area available 41 ha

Farm Cover 476kg/DM/Ha

Growth for last 7 days has averaged 17 kg/DM/ha per day.

Demand is 25kg DM / ha

78% of the farm grazed

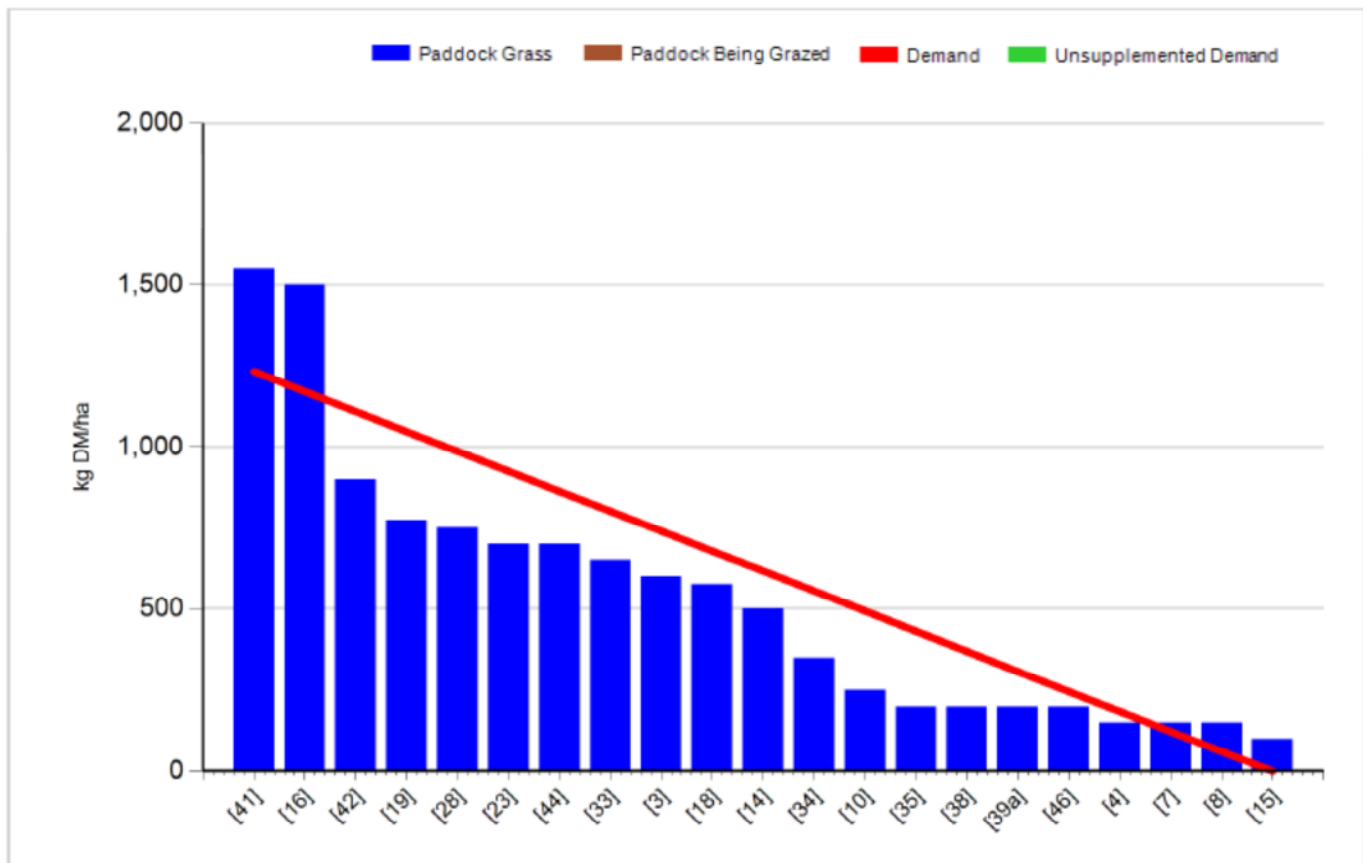
4.0 kgs of a 13% protein ration being fed per day.

Planned calving start date – 10th 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. We want to maintain AFC above 450kg DM / ha. With ground frost forecast at night this week growth rates are unlikely to increase above current levels. Therefore to reduce demand and maintain AFC bale silage will be fed until signs of improved growth rates are evident. Paddock 19 was the first paddock grazed in mid Feb and has a cover of 775kg DM / ha this week.



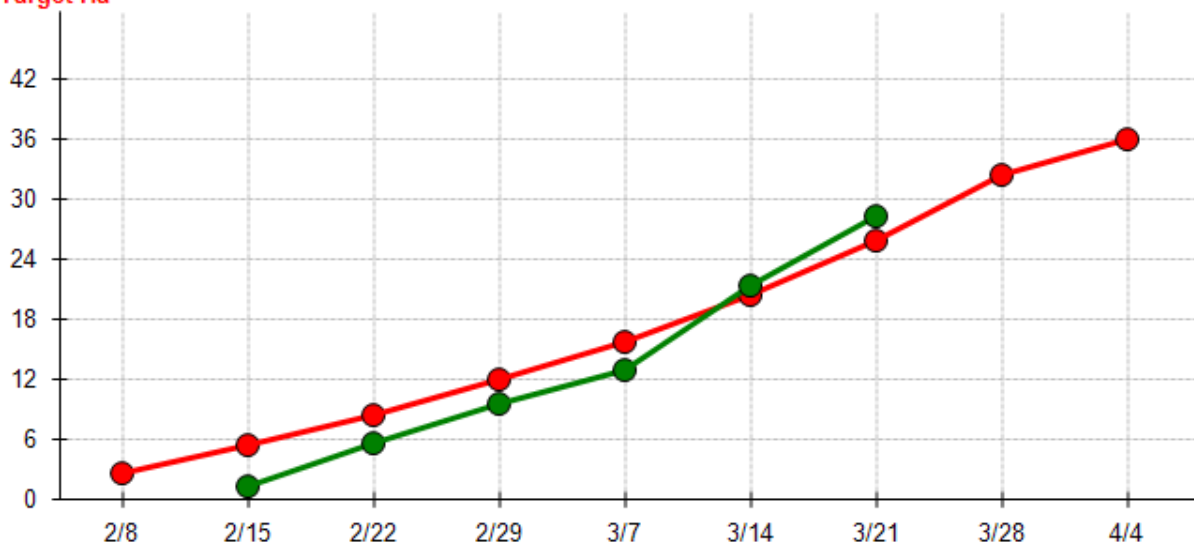
Spring rotation plan

Of the 41ha total area only 36ha of this is available to graze in the first rotation (5ha of flood plain). We are running ahead of target due to low covers being grazed this week on wet ground. We have 3 first rotation paddocks left to graze and this will be stretched to the 10th of April with the inclusion of silage in the diet.

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	21.19	58.9
21/03 - 27/03	0.77	25.69	71.4	28.22	78.4
28/03 - 03/04	0.96	32.41	90.0		
04/04 - 10/04	1.26	41.23	114.5		

Actual Ha

Target Ha



Grazing conditions

Conditions good last week but heavy rain over the weekend had a negative impact. Some poaching damage was done over the weekend. If conditions continue to deteriorate we will have to start on-off grazing.

Supplements

Cows are being fed 3kg of a high energy (0.95 UFL), low protein (13%) ration. We will feed 4kg DM of silage per cow this week to reduce demand. To do this we will house 40 cows and continue grazing with the remainder of the herd.

Fertiliser

The farm has received 73 units of N per acre to date

Calving Pattern and Calves

Due calving start date was 10th of Feb, to date there are 103 cows calved (86%). 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 are fed once a day from 3 weeks old.

Milk Production

Average production 23.77 litres per cow, 4.83% fat, 3.50% protein, (2.04kg MS), SCC 78,000.

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%. Herd to be vaccinated for BVD and Lepto this week and tail paint applied to identify pre-heats.

Priorities

- **Start feeding silage to reduce demand**
- **Vaccinate cows and heifers**
- **Tail paint cows**