

Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 04-04-16

Farm Details:

Area available 41 ha

Farm Cover 431kg/DM/Ha

Growth for last 7 days has averaged 22 kg/DM/ha per day.

Demand is 20kg DM / ha

96% of the farm grazed

4.0 kg of a 13% protein ration fed per day.

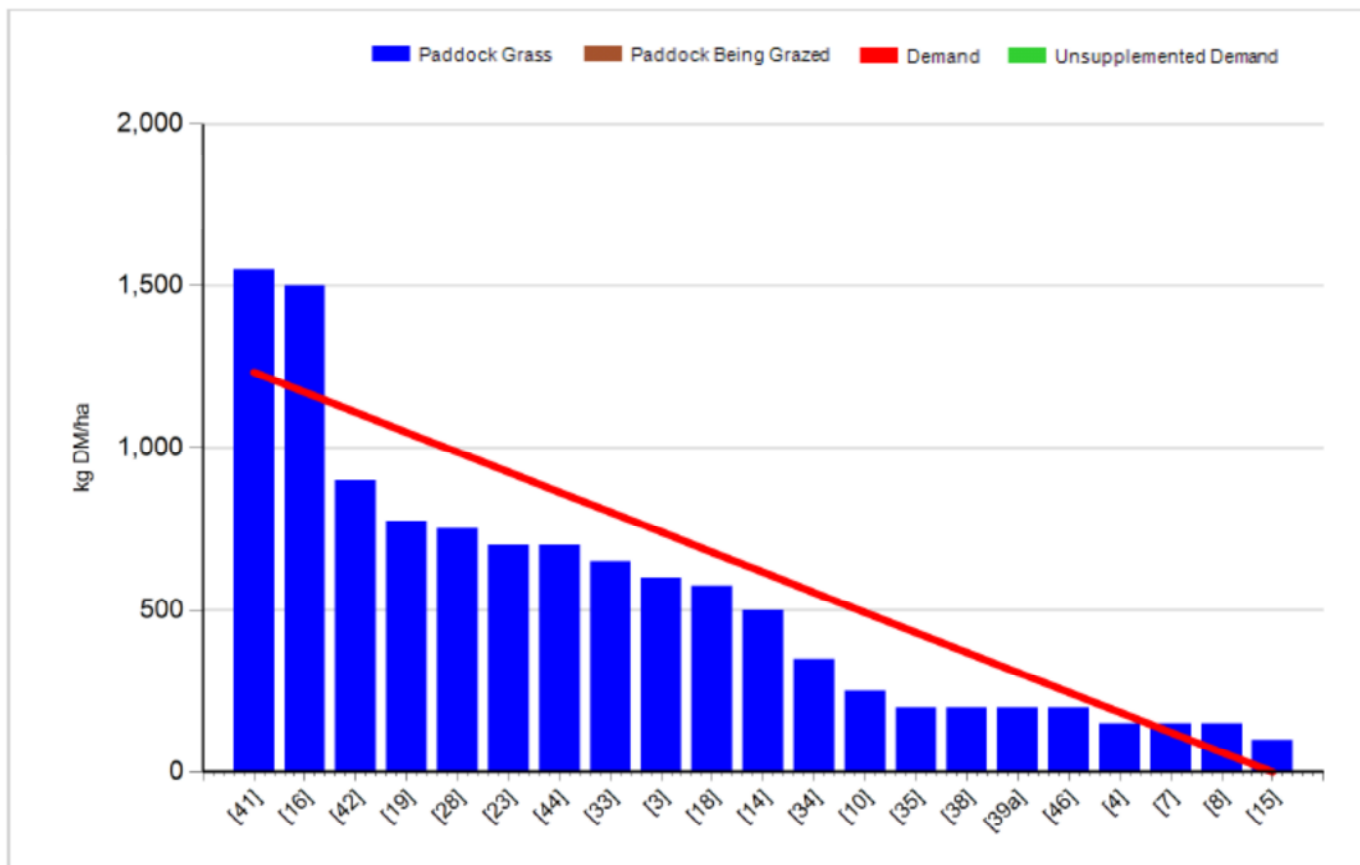
7.0 kg DM of silage fed per day.

Planned calving start date – 10th Feb

108 cows calved (90% of the herd)

Grass Supply

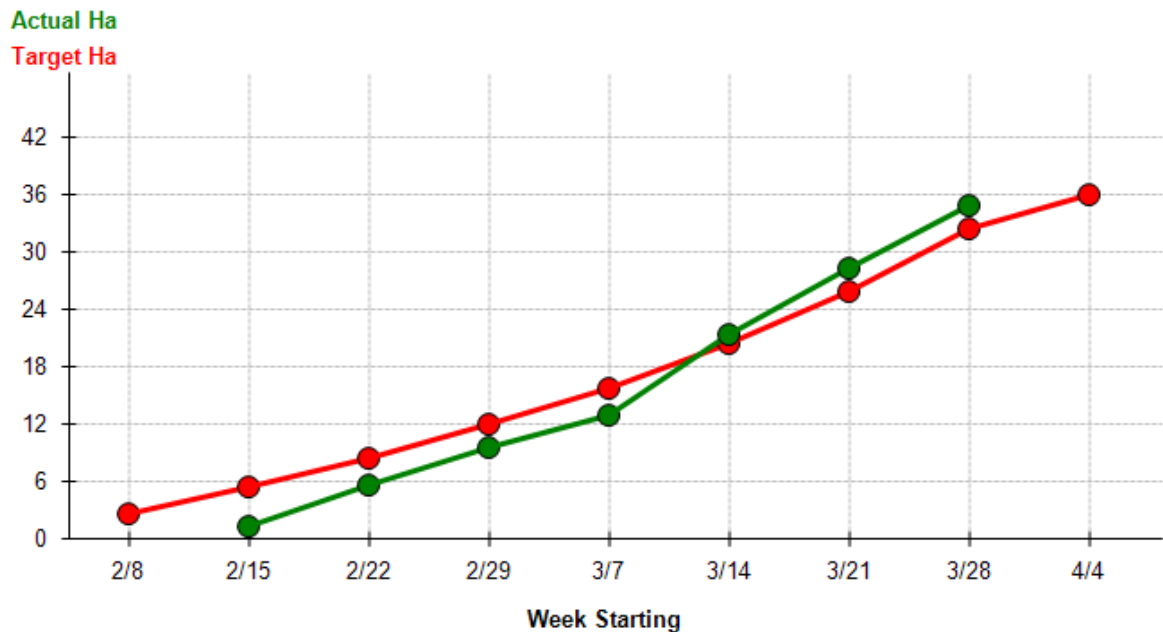
Farm cover has dropped again this week and is below our target of 450kg DM / ha for this week. The farm is green and looks ready to kick off but cold temperatures and heavy rain are holding things back. Growth rate is similar to last week (22kg DM/ha). The paddocks with highest covers are growing noticeably more. The best cover of second rotation grass has a cover of 900kg DM / ha.



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 will finish the first rotation on the 8th of April.

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	34.72	96.4
04/04 - 10/04	1.26	41.23	114.5		



Grazing conditions

More heavy rain last weekend had a negative impact on grazing conditions. All cows were housed on Sunday night due to persistent heavy rain all day Sunday. Since last Thursday we have split the herd and putting half in to the shed and half out. We are doing this because we don't have enough room in the shed for all cows. They are swapped at each milking so that all cows get grass at least once a day. Block grazing and back fencing to reduce poaching.

Supplements

Cows are being fed 4kg of a high energy (0.95 UFL), low protein (13%) ration. Also feeding 7kg of silage per cow per day to reduce demand and stretch the remaining first rotation grass.

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 108 cows calved (90%). 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 23.36 litres per cow, 4.81% fat, 3.46% protein, (1.99kg MS), SCC 62,000.

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

- **Continue feeding silage to reduce demand**
- **Block grazing and back fencing to reduce poaching**
- **Vaccinate cows and heifers**
- **Tail paint cows**