

Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 18-10-16

Farm Details:

Area available 41 ha

Farm Cover 838 kg/Dm/Ha (300kg DM / cow)

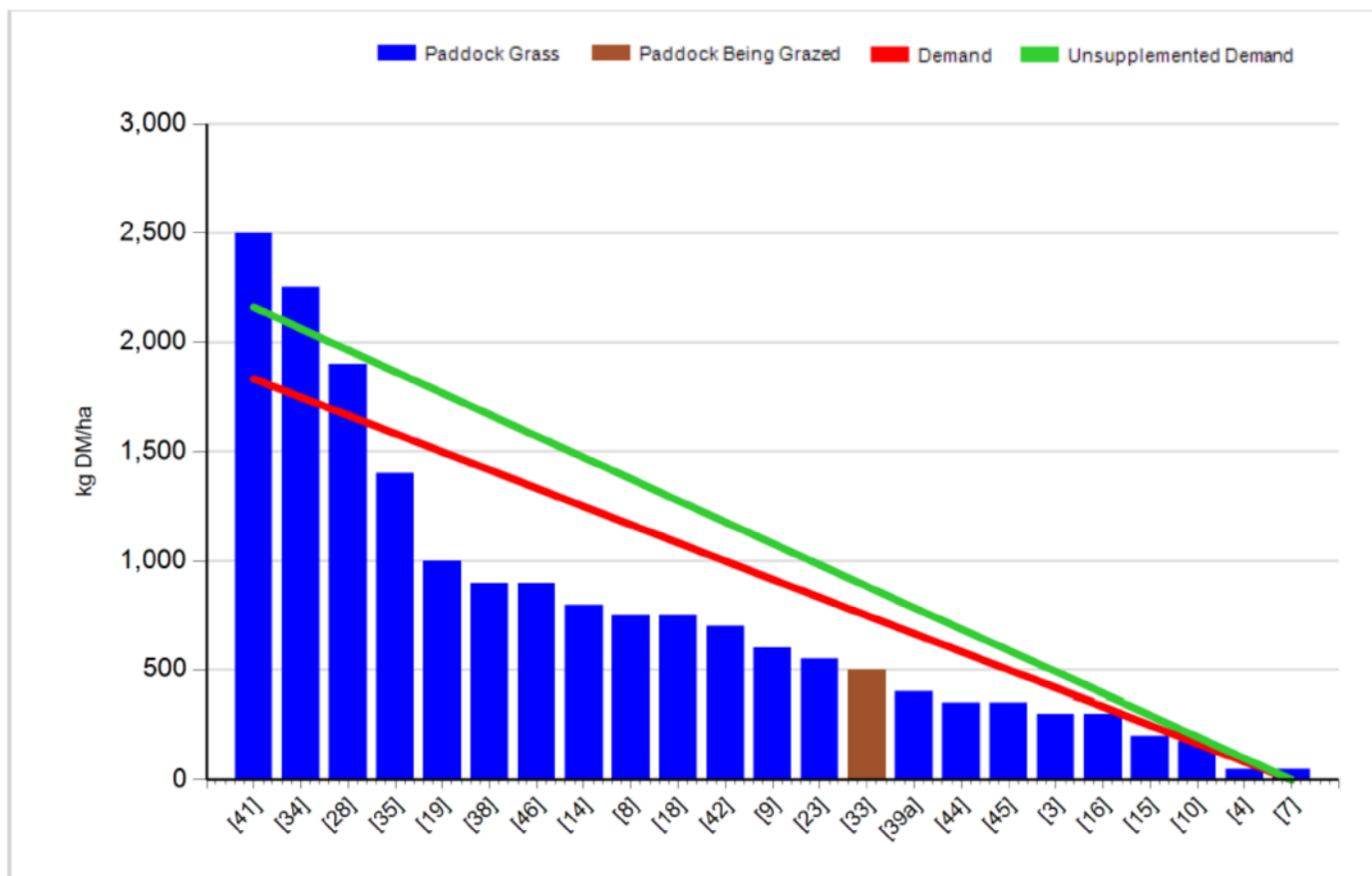
Growth for last 7 days has averaged 32 kg/Dm/ha per day.

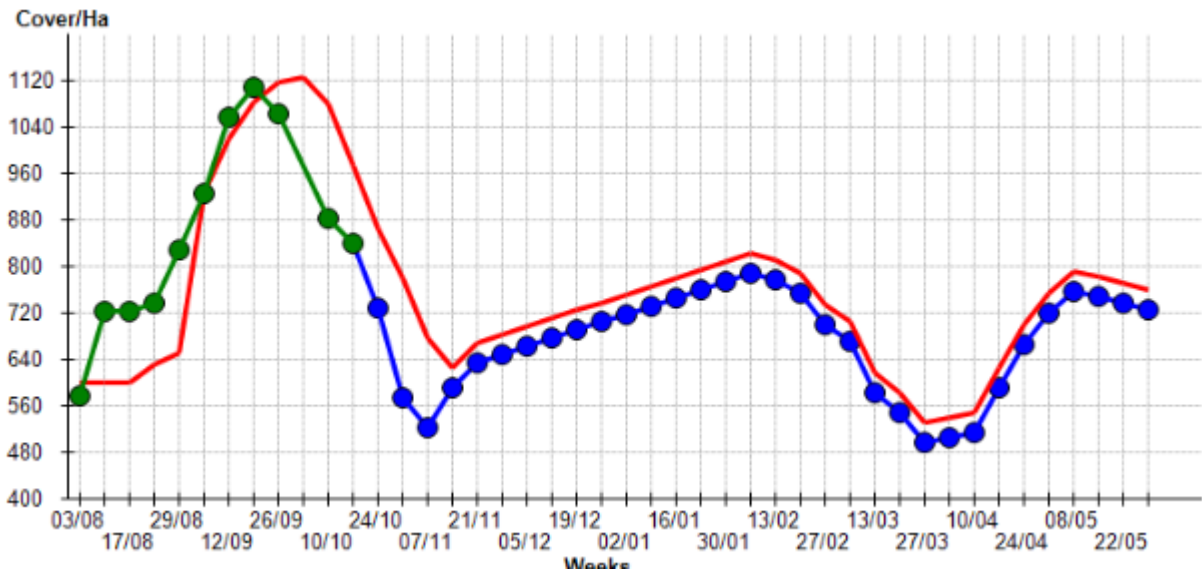
Demand is 33kg DM / ha

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

Grass Supply

Growth is similar to last week at 32kg DM / ha / day. In order to reduce demand we have housed 16 cull cows full time on silage. This will allow the rest of the herd to stay at grass full time until the 1st of November and by day until the 7th of November. The first paddocks closed (26th Sept) have a cover of 700kg DM / ha. The target is to have an average farm cover of 650kg DM / ha on the 20th of November. There is 46% of the farm closed to date; we grazed a number of lighter covers last week on dry paddocks to have some suitable area for grazing early next spring. We will revert back to heaviest covers this week.





Week	Ha/Day	Target Ha Grazed	Target %	Actual Ha Grazed	Actual %
28/09 - 04/10	0.86	6.01	14.4	7.53	18.1
05/10 - 11/10	0.86	12.01	28.8	14.75	35.4
12/10 - 18/10	0.86	18.02	43.2	19.2	46.1
19/10 - 25/10	0.86	24.03	57.6		
26/10 - 01/11	0.86	30.57	73.3		
02/11 - 08/11	1.39	40.29	96.7		
09/11 - 15/11	1.39	41.68	100.0		

Grazing conditions

Heavy rain last weekend has resulted in more difficult ground conditions. We are still using a 12 hr strip wire to get good graze out and protect soil structure. We have not had to stand off cows yet.

Supplements

Cows are being fed 3kg of a high energy (0.92 UFL), low protein (13%) ration. We do not intend to feed bale silage to grazing cows until heavy covers are grazed off. Feeding bale silage to cull cows will reduce demand without complicating grazing. This is the first silage fed to milking cows since the 18th of April.

Fertiliser

We have spread 40 tonne of lime last week and have another 20 tonne to spread in about two weeks' time. Lime was applied at a rate of 1 – 2 tonne / acre depending on requirement.

Milk Production

Average production 13.8 litres per cow, 5.18% fat, 4.12% protein, (1.33kg MS), SCC 123,000. Have sold 345kg of milk solids to the end of September. Received 33.5 c/l for Sept milk.

Breeding

Breeding started on the 5th of May. 21 day submission rate was 83%. We did 6 weeks AI and six weeks with stock bulls. Scanned last week cows – 10% empty and 76% 6 week in-calf rate, maiden heifers 0% empty and 91% six week in-calf rate. Current BCS – 6% below 2.75, 36% 2.75, 58% 3.0 +. According to our dry off plan there will be 8 cows due to dry at the end of October based on expected calving date and BCS. There may be an additional few heifers to dry due to low yields.

Young Stock

Weanlings weighed on the 13th of September – average weight 195kg.

Both weanlings and in-calf heifers will be housed by early next week due to lack of grass supply.

Priorities

- **Accurate allocation of grass to achieve a good graze out.**
- **Final preparations for winter housing**