

# The Ballyhaise Extended Grazing Study.

The border Midlands and West (BMW) region accounts for 47% of the land yet only accounts for 25% of the milk produced (CSO, 2015). Current National Farm Survey Data for the region is presented in Table 1.

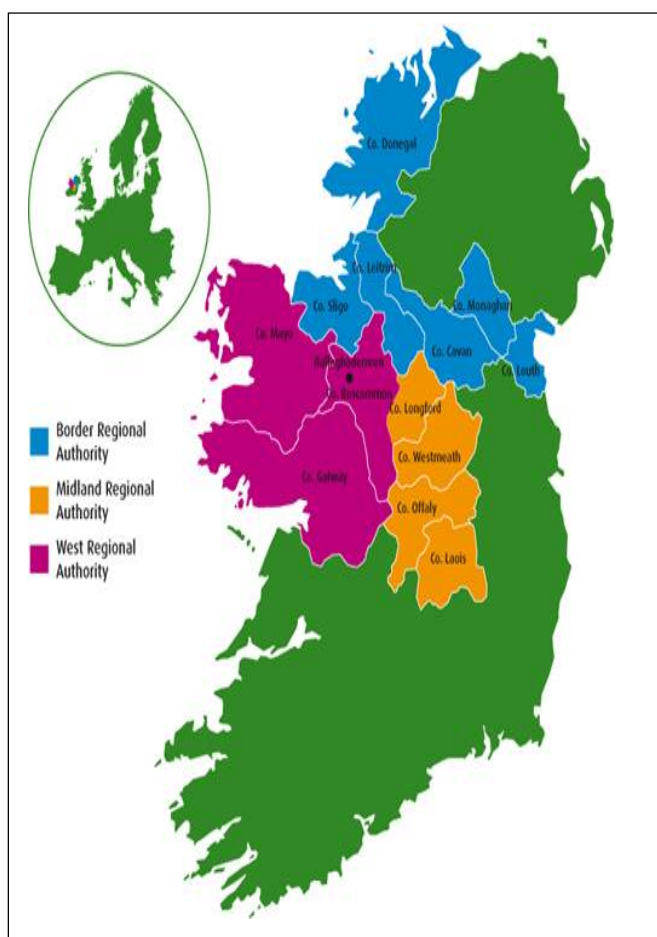
Table 1: National farm survey financial figures for the BMW in comparison to all national farms for 2016.

Financial Measures	BMW 2016	All Farms 2016
Milk Price	27.1	27.9
Total Gross Output	27.6	28.5
Total Costs	23.4	21.8
Net Margin (c/l)	4.19	6.72
Net Margin (€/Ha)	466	792
Milk Solids (kg/cow)	465	414
Concentrate Feed Usage (kg/cow)	1119	935
No. Of Days Grazing	216	235

Table 2: Ballyhaise Research Farm Targets 2006-2025.

	2006	2016	2025
Dairy cows (No.)	84	120	200
Stocking Rate (cows/ha)	2.65	2.9	2.9
Milk solids (kg/ha)	1,130	1,290	1,400
6 week calving rate (%)	40	85	90
Herd EBI (€)	-30	125	200
Profit (€/ha) (excl. DP's)	1,050	1,800	2,500

**Objective of the Study:** To evaluate the cumulative effects of extended grazing and stocking rate on the productivity of pasture-based production systems in the BMW region in terms of pasture growth, seasonal quality and utilisation efficiency, soil structure and plant recovery, animal intake and performance, animal health and welfare (incl. lameness and mastitis), supplementary feed requirements and overall farm system financial performance.



**Ballyhaise Dairy Research Farm Weekly Updates**  
**Report for the week ending Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.**

Turnout	Average		Early	
	Low	High	Low	High
<b>Stocking rate</b>				
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.5	2.9	2.5	2.9
Herd mean calving date (d of year)	Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>
Turnout date (d of year)	Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>
Grazing season length (d)	205	205	270	270
Grazing days (d/ha/yr)	500	600	700	800
Actual grazing days achieved (d/ha)	202	202	241	240
Daily herbage allow. (kg DM/cow)	13	13	13	13
Average Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	582	763	785	970
(kg DM/cow)	233	277	293	328
Average daily growth (kg DM/ha)	24	30	29	28
Post-grazing residual height (cm)	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.1
Cumulative growth (T DM/ha)	13.9	14.2	14.2	14.7
Silage conserved (kg DM/cow)	1238	1432	1212	1107
<u>Current performance</u>				
Milk solids (kg/cow/d)	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2
Milk yield (kg/cow/d)	13.6	13.9	13.8	12.5
% Fat	5.05	5.09	5.75	5.71
% Protein	4.10	4.13	4.30	4.15
% Lactose	4.78	4.84	4.81	4.72
Bodyweight (kg/cow)	517	518	521	530
Body condition score	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Supplement (kg DM/cow/d)				
Concentrate	3	3	3	3
Silage	6.5	7.4	0	3.7
<u>Cumulative performance 2017</u>				
Milk solids (kg/cow)	388	392	419	404
Milk yield (kg/cow/)	4,600	4,592	4,710	4,685
% Fat	4.78	4.86	5.09	4.95
% Protein	3.68	3.67	3.79	3.73
% Lactose	4.98	4.97	4.94	4.92
Supplement (kg DM/cow)				
Concentrate	609	639	382	373
Silage	379	390	103	122

**N.B. These data represent raw mean results and have not been subject to statistical analysis.**

