

# 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.

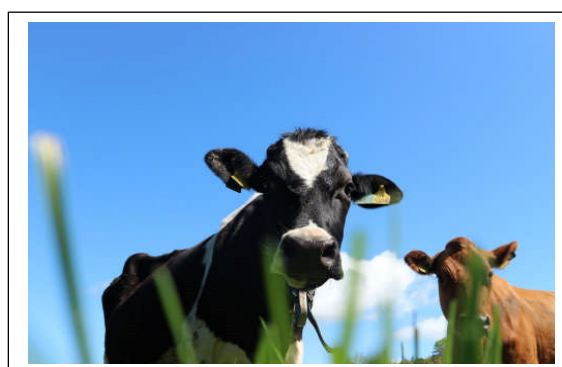
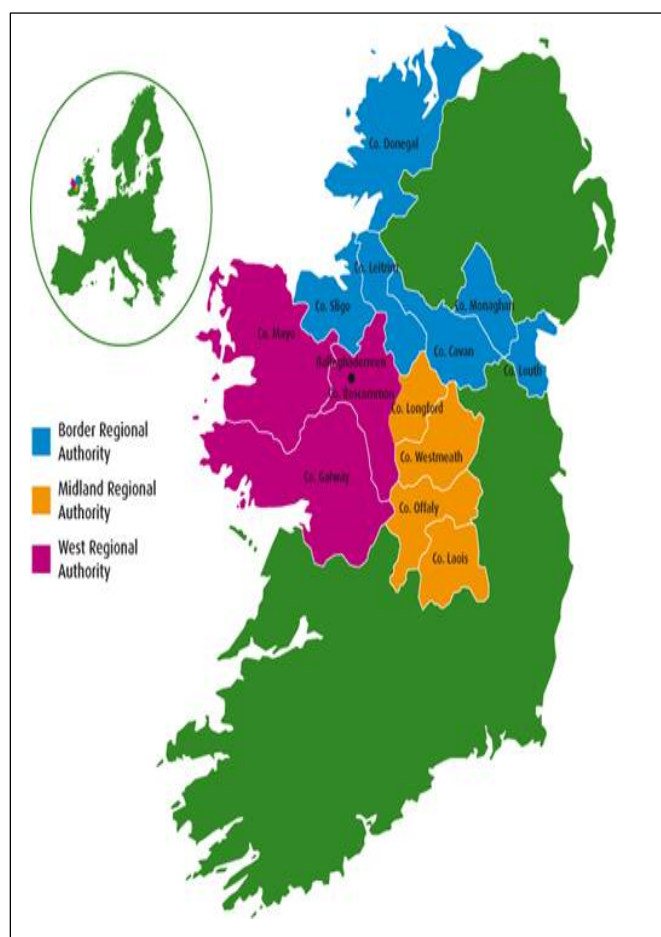
Table 1: National farm survey financial figures for the BMW in comparison to all national farms for 2016.

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 week ending Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018.**

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 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>
Turnout date (d of year)	Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 19 <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)	75	75	95	96
Daily herbage allow. (kg DM/cow)	16	16	16	16
Average Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	473	482	446	510
(kg DM/cow)	172	159	169	145
Average daily growth (kg DM/ha)	110	76	80	81
Post-grazing residual height (cm)	5	5	4.5	4
Cumulative growth (T DM/ha)	5732	5467	4907	5664
Silage conserved (kg DM/cow)	747	525	497	474
<u>Current performance</u>				
Milk solids (kg/cow/d)	1.93	1.88	1.6	1.78
Milk yield (kg/cow/d)	25.1	23.0	19.1	21.7
% Fat	4.29	4.75	4.85	4.96
% Protein	3.48	3.48	3.64	3.54
% Lactose	4.90	4.79	4.70	4.76
Bodyweight (kg/cow)	494	505	493	495
Body condition score	3.0	3.0	3	3
Supplement (kg DM/cow/d)				
Concentrate	1	1	1	1
Silage	0	0	0	0
<u>Cumulative performance 2018</u>				
Milk Solids per Ha (kg/ms/ha)	458	522	450	534
Milk solids (kg/cow)	183	180	180	184
Milk yield (kg/cow/)	2273	2227	2152	2206
% Fat	4.63	4.64	4.81	4.82
% Protein	3.49	3.50	3.53	3.51
% Lactose	4.93	4.97	4.94	4.92
Supplement (kg DM/cow)				
Concentrate	296	300	251	234
Silage	254	243	203	169

N.B. This data represents raw mean results and has not yet been subject to statistical analysis.



