

Ballyhaise Farm Walk Notes Monday 24-04-17

Farm Details:

Area available 40 ha

Farm Cover 770kg/DM/Ha

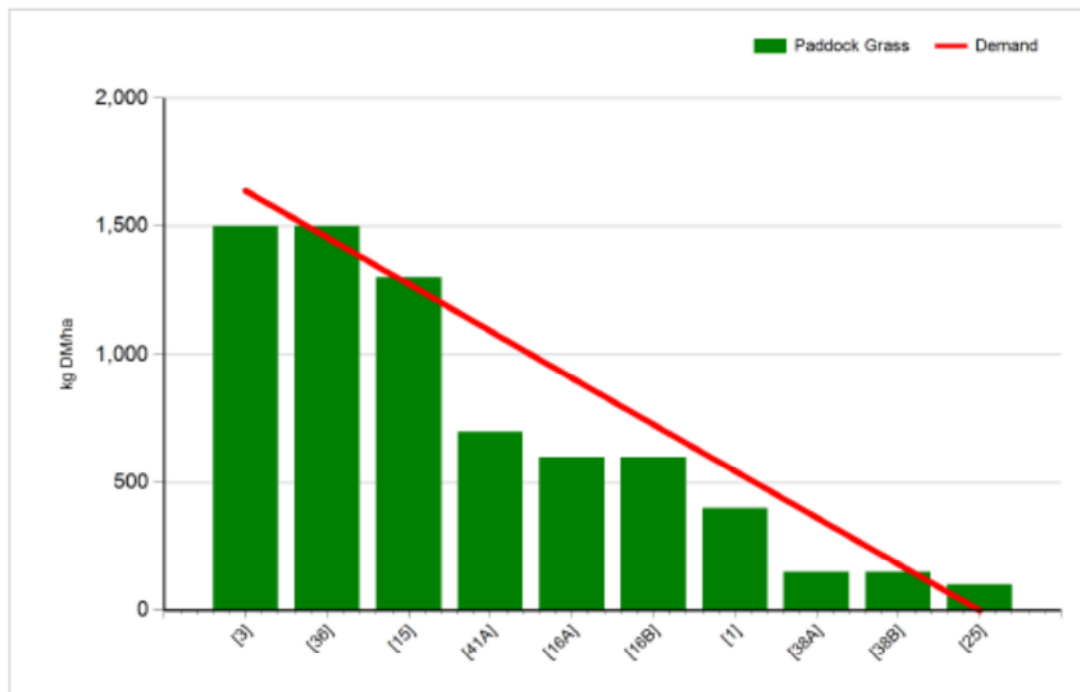
Growth for last 7 days has averaged 65 kg/DM/ha per day.

Demand is 70kg DM / ha

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

Grass Supply

Grass growth has increased from 40kg DM / ha last week to 65kg DM / ha this week. Cows are grazing covers of 1500kg DM / ha. We have closed 35% of the farm for silage but some of this can be grazed if growth rate slows again due to cold weather. We turned out cows on the 13th of Feb day and night and have missed 4 grazing days since then. We finished our first round on the 15th of April. Recovery on grazed paddocks has slowed quite a bit over past 10 days.



Grazing conditions

Conditions are excellent and cows are getting 24 to 36 hour access to paddocks. Pre-grazing yields are 1500kg DM / ha and post grazing height is 4-4.5cm.

Supplements

Cows are being fed 1.5kg of a high energy (0.95 UFL), low protein (13%) ration, 3% cal-mag. To date we have fed 112kg of meal and 55kg DM of silage per cow to milking cows.

Fertiliser

The farm has received 80 units of N per acre to date. Most of this was urea with some 18-6-12 spread on low P and K paddocks in the last round.

Calves and heifers

First calves due to be weaned next week. Calf rearing went well this spring with 3.3% mortality in calves and no scour powders used. Maiden heifers were turned out on the 15th of March and have been fed on grazed grass and no meal since. Heifers were weighed on the 23rd of March, average weight 309kg, ADG since turnout 0.50kg / day. Our target is to have 90% of the heifers above 330kg on mating start day.

Milk Production

Average production 23.7 litres per cow, 4.32% fat, 3.45% protein, (1.9kg MS), SCC 122,000. Production to date is 105kg MS / cow.

Breeding

Breeding is due to start on the 8th of May, cows were tail painted in early April and pre-heats are being recorded. Non-cycling cows will be scanned next week.