

## Weekly update Clonakilty Dairy - 4 April 2017

### Tetraploid swards (2.75 cows/ha)

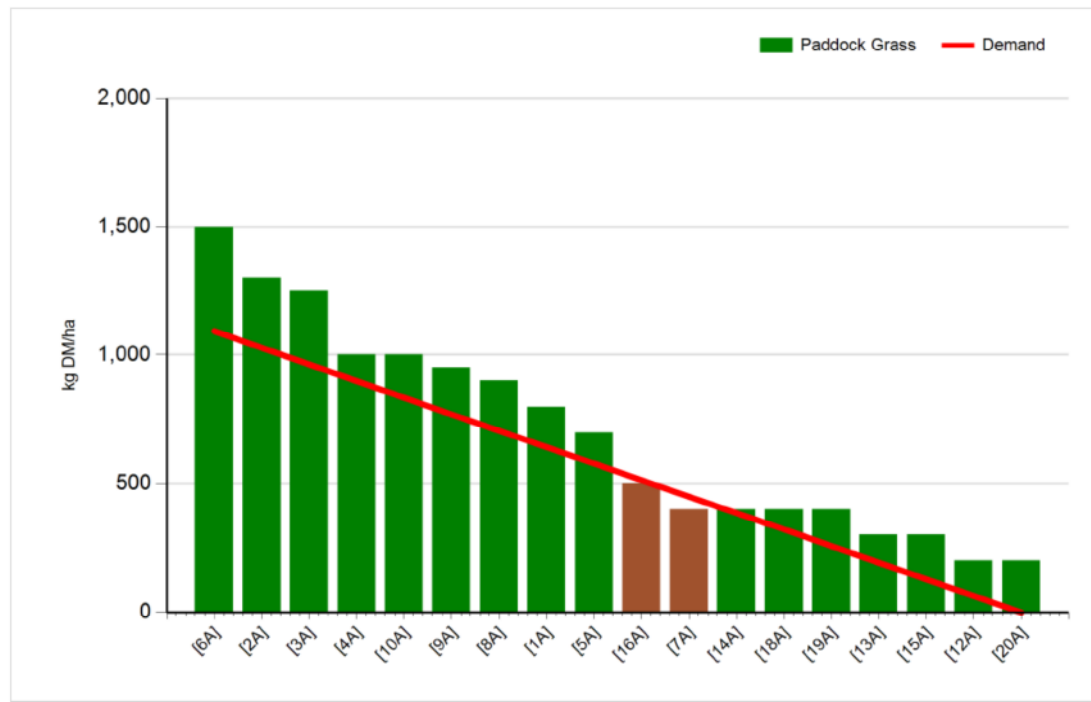
|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms | Cover Date: 03/04/2017 |
| Farm: Clonakilty Farm               | Treatment: T           |

#### Management Decisions

|                             |      |                      |                               |
|-----------------------------|------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rotation Length (days):     | 21   | Residual Height (cm) | 4                             |
| Target pre-gaze (kg DM/ha): | 1092 | Estimation Method:   | Visual Assessment - Available |

#### Cover Parameters

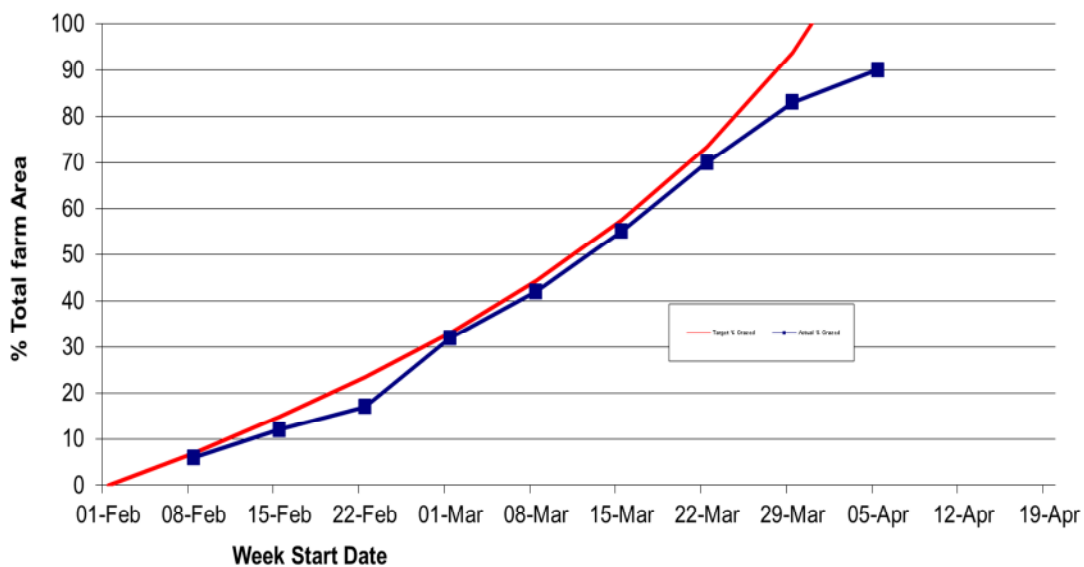
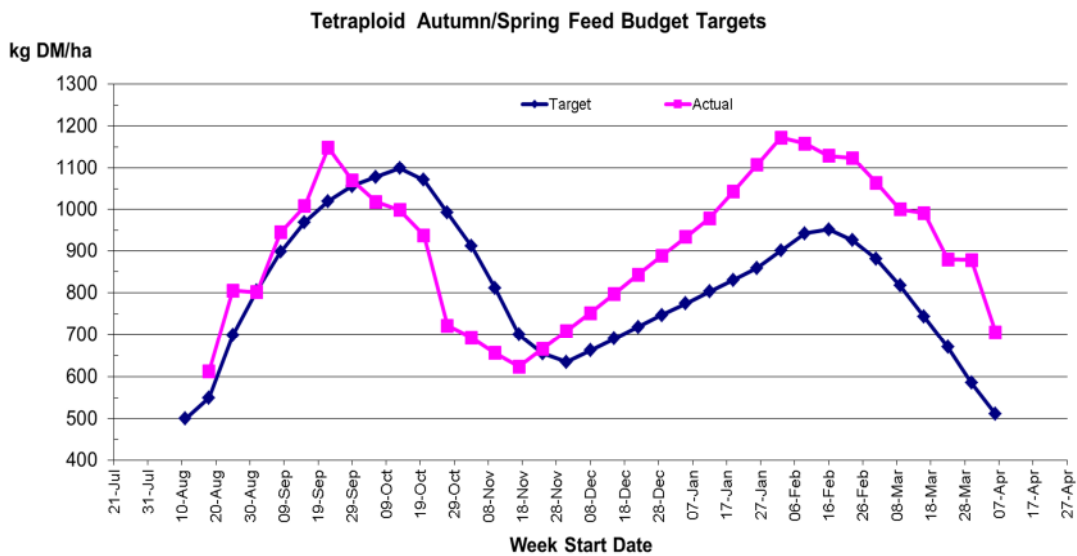
|                             |        |           |               |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------|---------------|
| Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):      | 706.00 | Total LU: | 30.00         |
| Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):      | 231.00 | LU / ha:  | 3.06          |
| Growth / Ha (kg DM/ha/day): | 41.00  | Measured: | 20 (10.88 Ha) |
| Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day): | 52.00  | Reseeded: | 0 (0.00 Ha)   |
| Demand / day (kg DM/day):   | 510.00 | Silage:   | 2 (1.08 Ha)   |
| Days ahead:                 | 14.00  |           |               |
| Kg LWT / Ha:                | 0.00   |           |               |



1. We have 30 cows calved and milking in this group.
2. Average farm cover (AFC) is 706 kg DM/ha (231 kg DM/LU).
3. Growth rate last week was 41 kg DM/ha per day.
4. Stocking rate is 3.06 LU/ha and demand is 52 kg DM/ha per day.
5. Our average farm cover (AFC) throughout the spring was well above target (see budget below). Our target was to finish the 1<sup>st</sup> rotation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of March we had 83% of the farm grazed compared with our target of 94%. We had managed to stick to our Spring Rotation Plan (SRP) reasonably well throughout February and March (i.e. we hit our targets of 30% and 60% by 1<sup>st</sup> of March and 17<sup>th</sup> of March, respectively, see SRP below). However, covers on the first paddocks grazed were 1250 kg DM/ha so we

decided then to skip the last 10% of the 1<sup>st</sup> rotation (i.e. 2 paddocks) and start the 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation. We started the 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March as we were trying to graze heavy covers in wet weather, which wasn't working. We grazed 2 paddocks in the 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation and have to finish the last paddock in the 1<sup>st</sup> rotation on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April as ground has dried out and it is easier to graze the heavy cover. The 2 paddocks skipped in the 1<sup>st</sup> rotation will be cut this week for bales.

6. Pre-grazing yield is 1500 (3<sup>rd</sup> paddock in 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation) and we are allocating 17 kg DM of grass and 0 kg of concentrate. Minerals (Mg, I, Se, Zn, Cu and Co) are being administered through the water.
7. Cows are currently milking 26.6 kg at 4.72% fat and 3.36% protein giving 2.13 kg milk solids/cow.



## Tetraploid + clover swards (2.75 cows/ha)

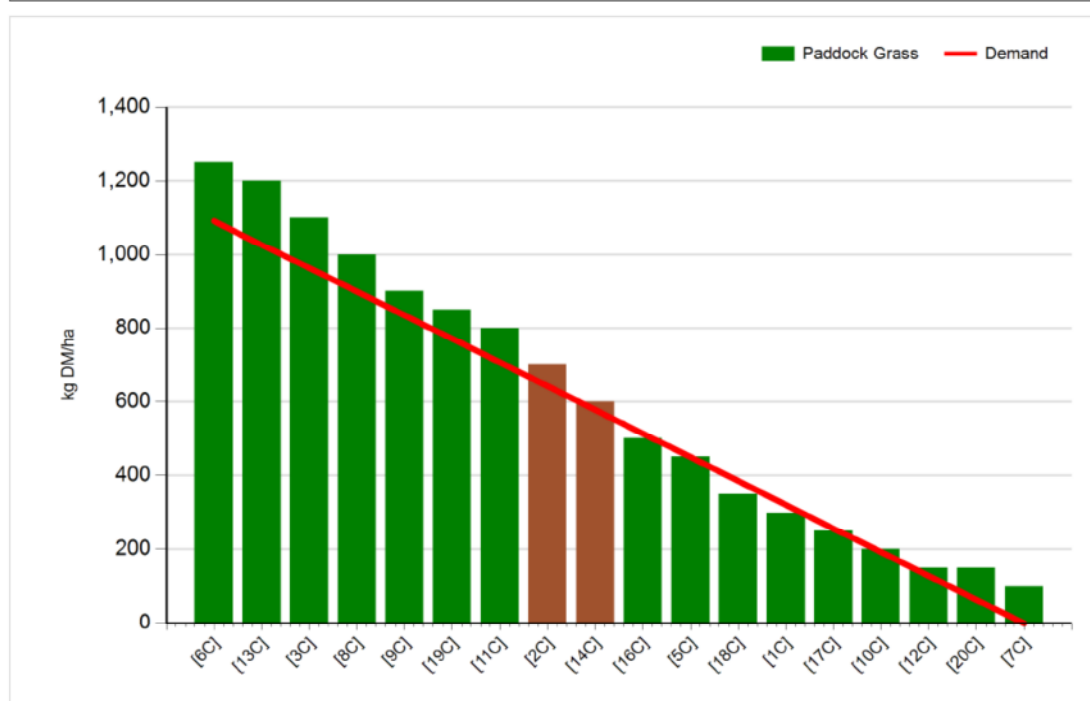
|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Group: Teagasc Dairy Research Farms | Cover Date: 03/04/2017 |
| Farm: Clonakilty Farm               | Treatment: TC          |

### Management Decisions

|                             |      |                      |                               |
|-----------------------------|------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rotation Length (days):     | 21   | Residual Height (cm) | 4                             |
| Target pre-gaze (kg DM/ha): | 1092 | Estimation Method:   | Visual Assessment - Available |

### Cover Parameters

|                             |        |           |               |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------|---------------|
| Farm Cover (kg DM/ha):      | 591.00 | Total LU: | 30.00         |
| Cover / LU (kg DM/LU):      | 193.00 | LU / ha:  | 3.06          |
| Growth / Ha (kg DM/ha/day): | 34.00  | Measured: | 20 (10.88 Ha) |
| Demand / ha (kg DM/ha/day): | 52.00  | Reseeded: | 0 (0.00 Ha)   |
| Demand / day (kg DM/day):   | 510.00 | Silage:   | 2 (1.07 Ha)   |
| Days ahead:                 | 11.00  |           |               |
| Kg LWT / Ha:                | 0.00   |           |               |

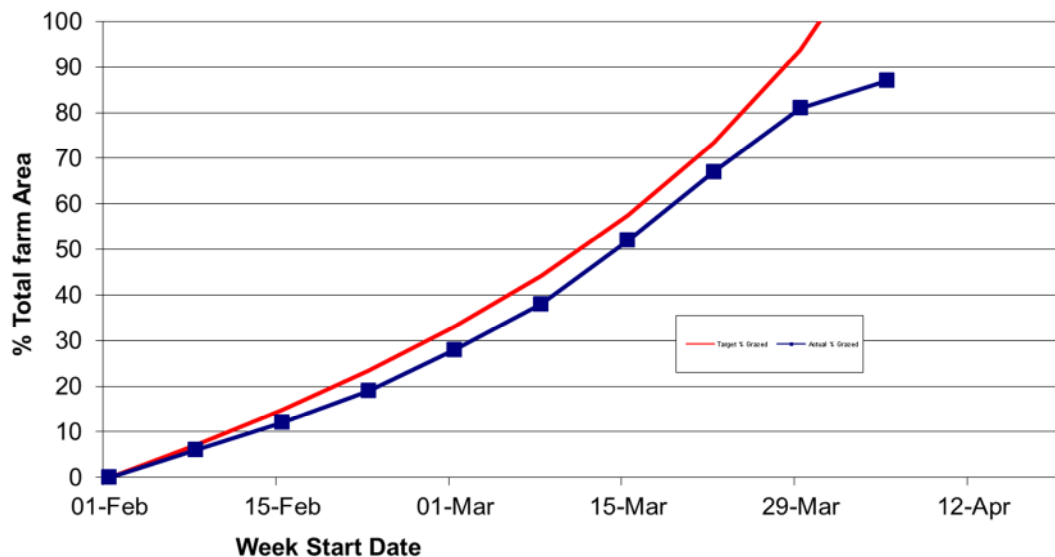
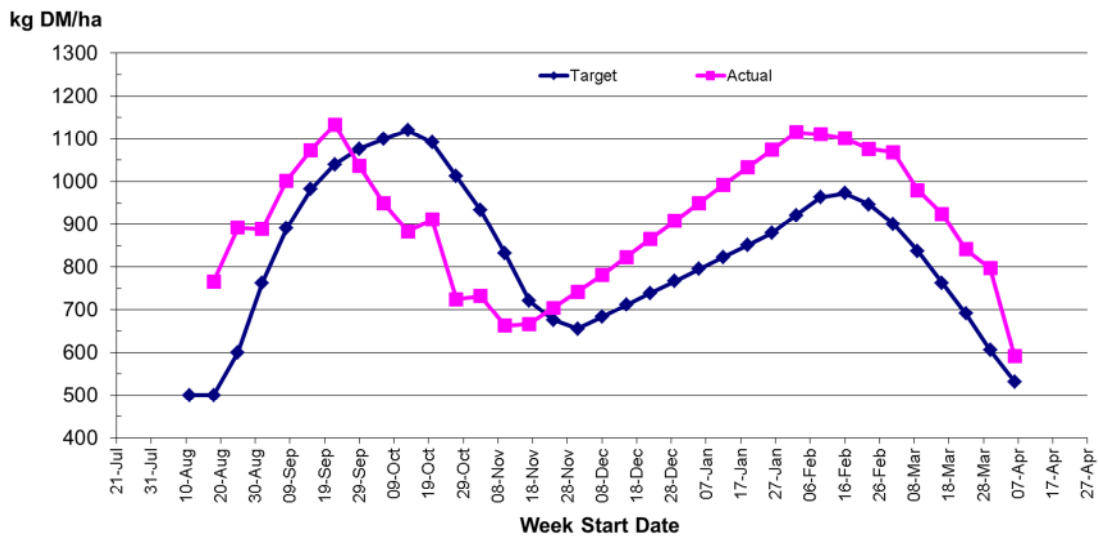


1. We have 30 cows calved and milking in this group.
2. Average farm cover (AFC) is 591 kg DM/ha (193 kg DM/LU).
3. Growth rate last week was 34 kg DM/ha per day.
4. Stocking rate is 3.06 LU/ha and demand is 52 kg DM/ha per day.
5. Our average farm cover (AFC) throughout the spring was well above target (see budget below). Our target was to finish the 1<sup>st</sup> rotation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of March we had 82% of the farm grazed compared with our target of 94%. We had managed to stick to our Spring Rotation Plan (SRP) reasonably well throughout February and March (i.e. we hit our targets of 30% and 60% by 1<sup>st</sup> of March and 17<sup>th</sup> of March, respectively, see SRP below). However, covers on the first paddocks grazed were 1250 kg DM/ha so we decided then to skip the last 10% of the 1<sup>st</sup> rotation (i.e. 2 paddocks) and start the 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation. We started the 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March as we were

trying to graze heavy covers in wet weather, which wasn't working. We grazed 2 paddocks in the 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation and have to finish the last paddock in the 1<sup>st</sup> rotation on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April as ground has dried out and it is easier to graze the heavy cover. The 2 paddocks skipped in the 1<sup>st</sup> rotation will be cut this week for bales.

6. Pre-grazing yield is 1250 (3<sup>rd</sup> paddock in 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation) and we are allocating 17 kg DM of grass and 0 kg of concentrate. Minerals (Mg, I, Se, Zn, Cu and Co) are being administered through the water.
7. Cows are currently milking 28.0 kg at 4.66% fat and 3.29% protein giving 2.23 kg milk solids/cow.

**Tetraploid + clover Autumn/Spring Feed Budget Targets**



### **Whole farm update**

1. We had 192 cows to calve this year and there are now 2 left to calve. There are 185 cows being milked. 5 cows were sold after they calved. We will milk 180 cows for the year so we will sell 7 cows in the next week or two.
2. Cows are currently milking 26.4 kg/day at 4.81% fat, 3.35% protein and 4.94% lactose. Milk solids per cow are 2.14 kg/day. Latest results from the processor 4.77% fat, 3.20% protein, 4.95% lactose and 61 SCC, TBC 9. Average bodyweight of milking cows is 498 kg and average body condition score is 3.03.
3. Average farm cover on the general area is 920 kg DM/ha (270 kg DM/LU). Demand is 46 kg DM/ha per day and growth rate on the general area last week was 25 kg DM/ha per day. Stocking rate is 3.41 LU/ha. We have 65 general cows calved and they are being allocated 16 kg DM of grass and 2 kg of concentrate.