

## Omagh grass clover Monitor Farm meeting

Date of meeting 26/05/11

Location – Malcolm & Russell Scott’s Farm, Levercaw Road, Newtownstewart.

Attendance - 22

The first meeting of 2011 was used to review the performance of cattle and sheep enterprises for the 2010 calendar year. The objectives of the meeting was to assess what changes had been put in place to improve upon 2010 levels of performance and set targets for the remainder of the 2011 grass growing season.

### 2010 Financial / physical performance

## Benchmarking

	<u>2008/09</u>	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>Top 25%</u>
• Av. no of Ewes incl. Ewe lambs	288	263	220
• Lambs sold/weaned / ewe	1.80	1.75	1.68
• Total Output	114	136	118
• Grassland cost	5	8	10
• Concentrate cost	13	17	13
<i>Conc. Fed per ewe kg</i>	68	89	66
• Vet & Med	3	3	6
• Sundry	2	4	4
• Total variable costs	22	33	33
• Gross margin per ewe	90	104	85

## Benchmarking

	<u>2008/09</u>	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>Top 25%</u>
• Av. no of suckler cows	12	13	59
• Calving index	390	385	402
• Total Output	520	739	696
• Grassland cost	32	59	91
• Concentrate cost	32	24	117
<i>Conc. Fed per cow kg</i>	167	154	713
• Vet & Med	4	10	35
• Sundry	41	29	28
• Total variable costs	108	121	271
• Gross margin per cow	411	618	425

# Cattle Liveweight gain

Weight recording										
Animal ID number	Date of birth		Name of sire	Sire breed	Birth weight	Date weighed	Liveweight (kgs)	LWG		
59	22/05/2010	h	CF60	Ch	45	02/02/2011	350	1.19	600	
60	30/05/2010	h	Stock Bull	ch	40	02/02/2011	330	1.17	590	
62	15/06/2010	h	CF60	Ch	45	02/04/2011	400	1.22	575	
							<b>360</b>	<b>1.19</b>	<b>588.33</b>	<b>1.63426</b>
54	15/01/2010	m	FL22	Lim	45	12/08/2010	340	1.41	540	
55	08/04/2010	m	CF60	Ch	50	29/10/2010	400	1.72	700	
56	16/04/2010	m	CF60	ch	50	29/10/2010	410	1.84	640	
57	17/05/2010	m	CF60	Ch	50	02/02/2011	418	1.41	640	
58	18/05/2010	m	CF60	ch	50	29/10/2010	340	1.77	700	
61	15/06/2010	m	CF60	Ch	50	02/02/2011	470	1.81	770	
63	23/06/2010	m	Stock Bull	Ch	50	02/02/2011	340	1.29	595	
64	31/07/2010	m	CF60	ch	50	02/02/2011	365	1.69	665	
65	01/09/2010	m	Stock - lim	lim	50	18/05/2011	345	1.14	575	
66	31/10/2010	m	Pirate	Cha	50	18/05/2011	290	1.21	580	
							<b>371.80</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>640.50</b>	<b>1.7227</b>

At the benchmarking review stage levels of concentrate feeding was identified as a key area for improvement.

Target for 2011 year –

1. Make better use of grazed grass offering high quality forage in particular swards reseeded in autumn 2010 to reduce levels of creep feed.
2. Improve the quality of grass silage harvested to reduce levels of late pregnancy feed requirements.

2011 – Performance from grazed grass to date and measures put in place to achieve this.

The table below summarises a random sample of lambs weighed. These are all twin lambs. Ewes and lambs are not receiving and supplementation. Fields have been divided using electric fence. This has allowed a ewes and lambs to have access to paddocks with a cover of approximately 2000-2500kgDM/ha (6cms). The target is to have ewes moved to fresh grass every 5 days with paddocks eaten off to a cover of 1500kgDM/ha (approximately 4cms). Grass quality offered to lambs to date has been of a very high quality (see below forage analysis taken on 18<sup>th</sup> May – at a pre grazing height of 6cms) and is allowing very high levels of performance with out meal supplementation.

# Lamb Liveweight gain

Lamb LWT gain							
207	09/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	35	0.38
207	09/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	33	0.36
200	10/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	34	0.38
200	10/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	33	0.36
265	16/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	32	0.38
265	16/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	30	0.35
225	19/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	32	0.40
225	19/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	30	0.37
308	27/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	30	0.42
308	27/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	29	0.40
275	17/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	31	0.37
267	20/03/2011			5	26/05/2011	32	0.40
							<b>0.38</b>

$38 / 0.4 = 95$  (~3months)

$38 / 0.35 = 128$  (~3.5months)

$38 / 0.3 = 126$  (~4months)

$38 / 0.25 = 152$  (~5 months)

## Forage Analysis

<b>Grass analysis</b>		May 2009 Average
Dry matter (%)	14.7	20.8
Crude protein (%DM)	20.7	17.6
Acid detergent fibre (% DM)	27.3	26.8
Water soluble sugars (%DM)	12.1	17.4
Metabolisable energy (MJ/kg DM)	11.6	11.7

## 2010/11 Silage Quality

Silage conserved in recent years has required high levels of meal supplementation pre lambing. This year swards are being grazed off tightly before closing off for grazing. However as with most sheep farms closing off grass for silage at the end of may will more often than not lead to the production of average quality silage at best.



## Hillsborough Feeding Information System

A Member of the Forage Analysis Assurance Group  
in association with

United Feeds



2746

20110526120230659.tif  
Type: TIF File  
Size: 84.9 KB  
Dimension: 1656 x 2339 pixels

### Silage Analysis Report for Dairy Cattle

Adviser's name & address

Chris Weatherup  
United Feeds  
8 Northern Road  
Belfast Co. Antrim  
Tel:- 028 9075 9017  
e-mail:- [sales@ufeeds.com](mailto:sales@ufeeds.com)  
FAX:- 028 9075 1170

Farmer's name & address

Malcolm Scott  
5 Leveracaw Road  
Newtownstewart Co. Tyrone  
BT78 4DY  
FAX:-  
Mob:-  
Tel:-



Sample & analysis details

Sample no.	11-02-0115
Date received	2/2/11
Date reported	3/2/11
HFIS no.	45,785
Farmer acc.	
Farmer silo id.	1

Sample type  
Additive  
Cut date  
Cut no.  
Cut system  
Comments

Grass Silage
Unknown
First
Precision
No rep details on form

Feeding reports requested

Dairy cows	Yes
Suckler cows	
Breeding ewes	
Growing lambs	
Growing cattle	

Practical Feeding Information

Dry matter (%) *	18.9
pH *	4.5
Ammonia (% total N)	12.0
Protein (% DM) *	11.9
ME (MJ/kg DM) *	10.3
D-value (% DM) *	64
FIM intake (g/kgW0.75)*	86

Comments

Satisfactory
Poor
Satisfactory
Satisfactory
Average
Average
Average

First cut av.

Range

27.7	15	to	55
4.1	3.5	to	5.0
8.1	7	to	15
12.7	7	to	16
10.8	9	to	12
67	55	to	77
93	70	to	115

The comments above are for general guidance on silage quality only and are not covered by any accreditation system

Producing silage of the quality required to make a significant difference to levels of meal required pre lambing i.e. (D Value 70+, CP ~14%, ME ~11.5 DM ~%) may prove difficult on this farm due to the demand for grass in March, April and May.

Some members of the group suggested that making feeding a 100% straw/concentrate diet would differ significantly in cost from that of average quality silage and concentrate. This would allow the farm to maintain more ewes. This will be considered after silage is harvested in 2011 and analysed.

## Reseeded fields

### Field 1 –

- pH = 5.7, P = 1, K = 0 (soil analysis January 2010)
- This field was sprayed with glyphosphate in early august, ploughed, power harrowed and seed applied by broadcasting.
- Grass mix was
  - 5kg Foxtrot Late Diploid
  - 4.5kg Pastour – Late Diploid
  - 3kg Dunluce – Late Tetraploid
  - 1.5 Crusader – Medium leafed White clover.
- Grass establishment has been very successful. A dense productive sward with fast regrowth has been achieved. Currently grazed with ewes and lambs on a rotational grazing basis.
- Lime was applied at an equivalent rate of 2.5t per acre at establishment stage with. Fertiliser 17.17.17. This spring 24.6.12 has been applied.
- Ewes and lambs will continue to graze this field in a rotation with grass quality being achieved reducing the requirement for any creep supplementation.