



Conor McGrath - Grass on the Bypass Farm - Update 30/05/2019

Teagasc Drystock Team, Tullamore

Background:

- 9 ha farm
- 18 paddocks in total
- 6 miles from the farmers home farm
- No sheds/ winter housing on the platform
- Handling unit on site

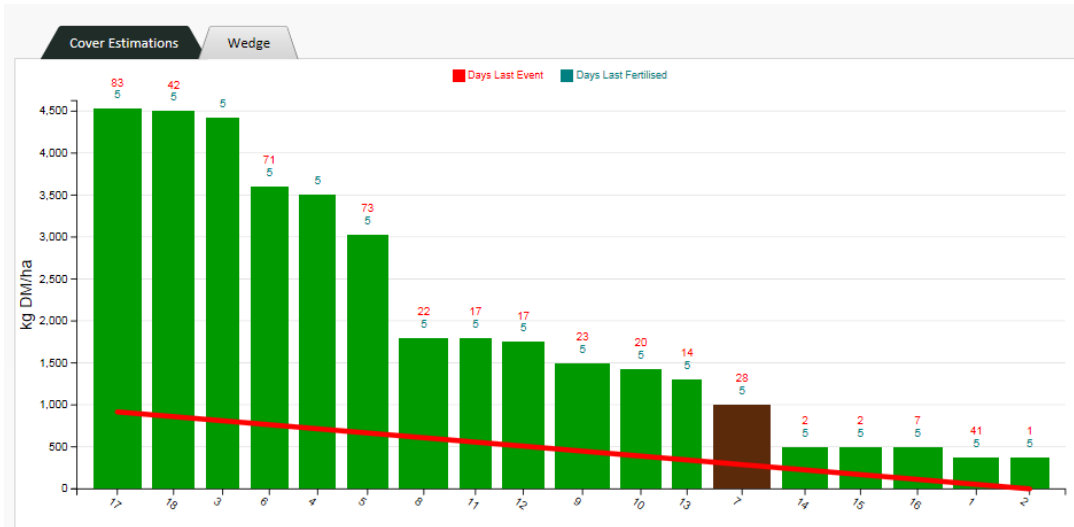
Current Grassland Performance:

- 54 cattle (370 kg average) on a 9 ha platform.
- Growth 80 kgDM/ha, Demand: 44 kgDM/ha.
- The objective for the farmer is to maximise the weight gain on the cattle while maximising quality silage output on the platform too (high quality surplus bales).
- Half of the farm has been cut as surplus bales to maintain a pre-grazing yield of 1,500 kgDM/ha (4.5 ha out of a total of 9 ha). 63 round bales were harvested.
- These surplus bales will maintain grass quality on the platform. Cut on the 30th May 2019.
- Paddocks gone strong were skipped and earmarked for surplus bales to avoid grazing "stemmy" grass covers

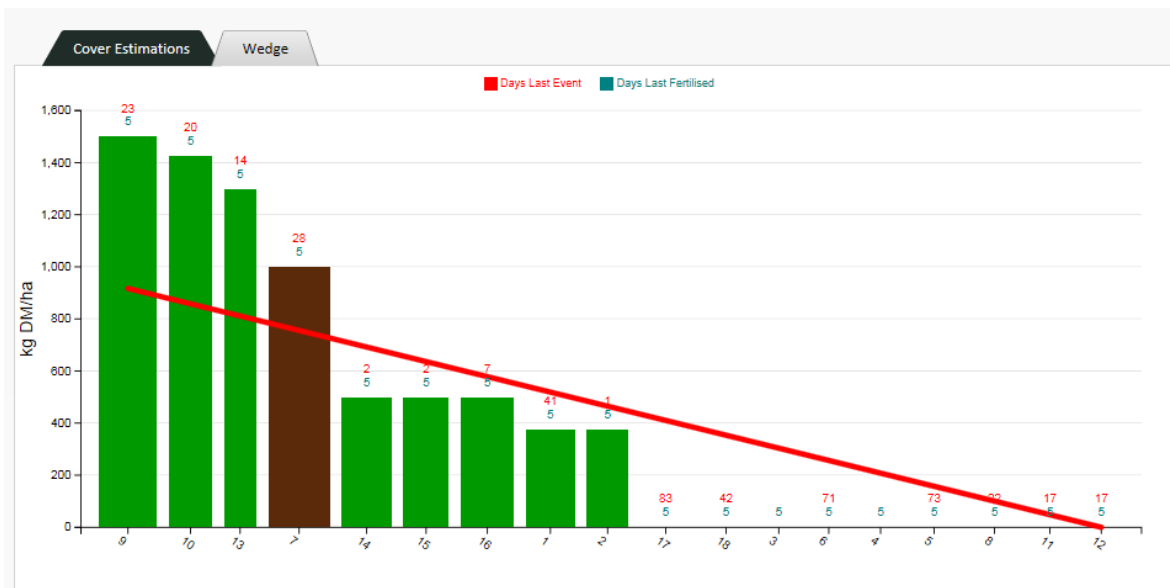




Before Surplus bales were cut:



After surplus bales were cut:



- The farm is now operating at 10 days ahead
- Growth: 80 kgDM/ha, Demand: 44 kgDM/ha
- Surplus bales will be cut of the rest of the paddocks next rotation to maintain quality
- Pregrazing yield: 1,500 kgDM/ha
- Cattle currently on 2-3 day grazing blocks.
- The farm has grown 5 T DM/ha so far in 2019.



Cattle Turnout on the Platform (Some Cattle Grazing Silage Ground in Spring):

20 th Feb	20			
6 th March		7		
22 nd March			13	
19 th April				15
Total	20	27	40	55

- Feb 20th: First turnout date on the platform
- March 3rd: Snow, cattle remained on platform, no supplementary feeding
- April 4th: End of 1st rotation
- April 19th: Cattle numbers increased to 55= 3.6 LU/ha
- Average weight gain since turnout: 1.2kg/day (370 kg on 26th May 2019)

Fertiliser in 2019:

Date	Units/acre	Units/acre	Units/acre	Units/acre
12 th Feb	23 Units N/acre			
18 th March		36-12-24 Units (2 bags 18-6-12/acre)		
18 th April			27 Units N/acre	
25 th May				27-2.5-5/acre

