



Cairngaver farm

GrassCheck farm walk 5th August 2025

Farm overview



- Farm size: 137ha
- Milking platform: 86ha
- 230 cows, 2 bulls
- 52 Maiden Heifers and 79 heifer calves
- Spring calving NZ Friesian Kiwi cross, breeding for:
 - 530kg cow
 - High solids (5% fat & 4% protein)
 - Udders
 - Fertility
 - Longevity

Performance



- Currently yielding: 22 litres/cow/da
- July average 23.5 litres/cow/day @ 4.55% fat & 3.69% protein
- So far this year: 3,478 litres/cow @ 4.71% fat & 3.8% protein
- 624kg concentrate fed so far this year
- 2024:
 - 5772litres or 504kg of solids/cow
 - Fat 4.72%
 - Protein 3.69%
 - 1299kgs of concentrate



- 48 farmers across NI measuring grass growth and quality weekly
- Grow and utilise more grass on NI farms.
 - **Demonstrate** good grassland management on farm.
 - **Record** data on a weekly basis for on farm predictions and research .
 - **Exchange** information with other NI farmers.

2024 What is 1 tonne of grass DM/ha?

- 2bales/ac (750kg & 27%DM)
- What does it cost?



Grazed Grass/White Clover
£75/t DM



Grass silage £160/t DM



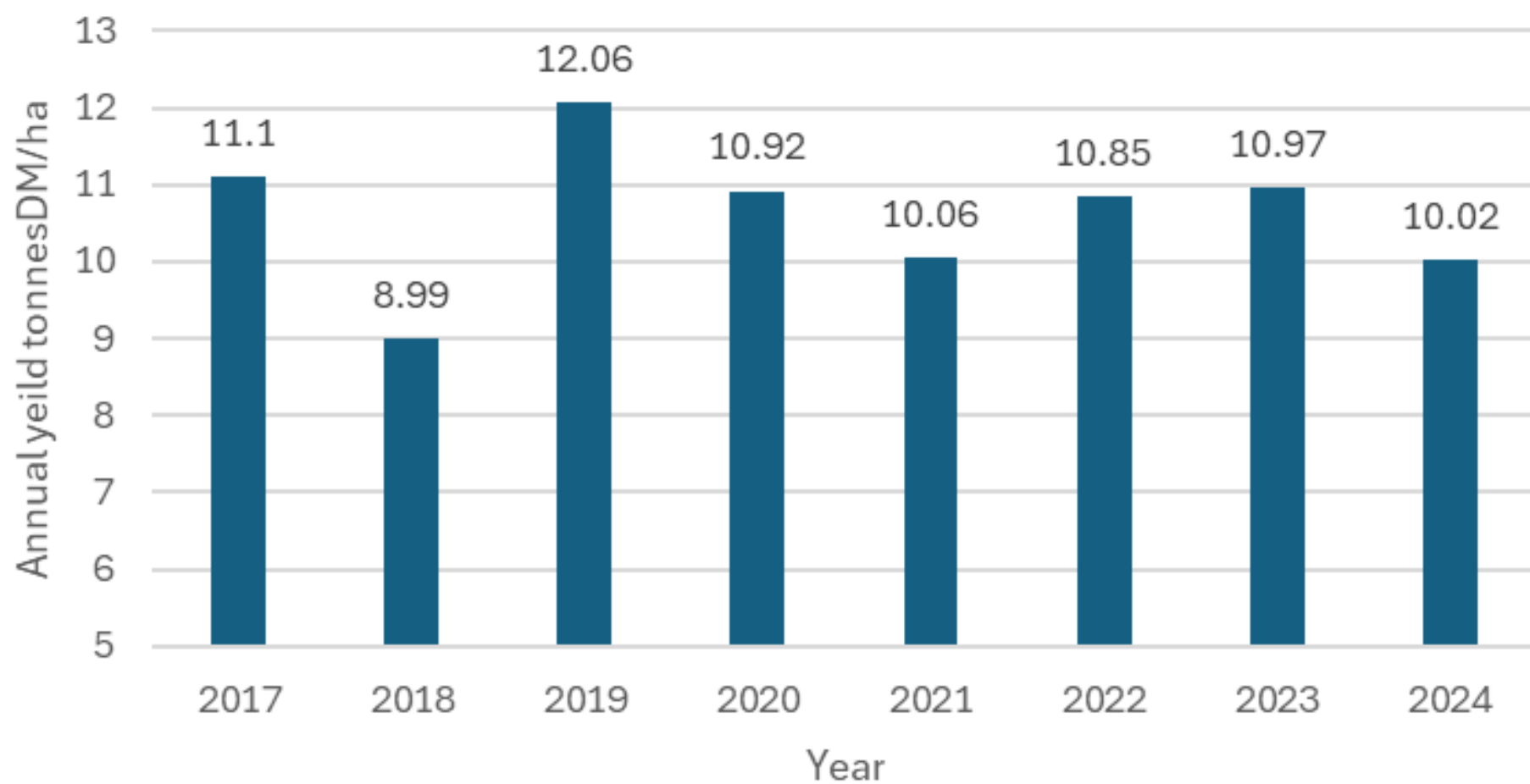
Concentrate £320/t DM



- **Recording grass growth weekly since 2017**
- 86ha measured weekly
- Turnout mid February
- Housed October-Mid November
- Grazing targets
 - Target Pre-grazing cover: 3000 kg DM/ha (10–11 cm)
 - Target Post-grazing cover: 1600–1700 kg DM/ha (5–6 cm)

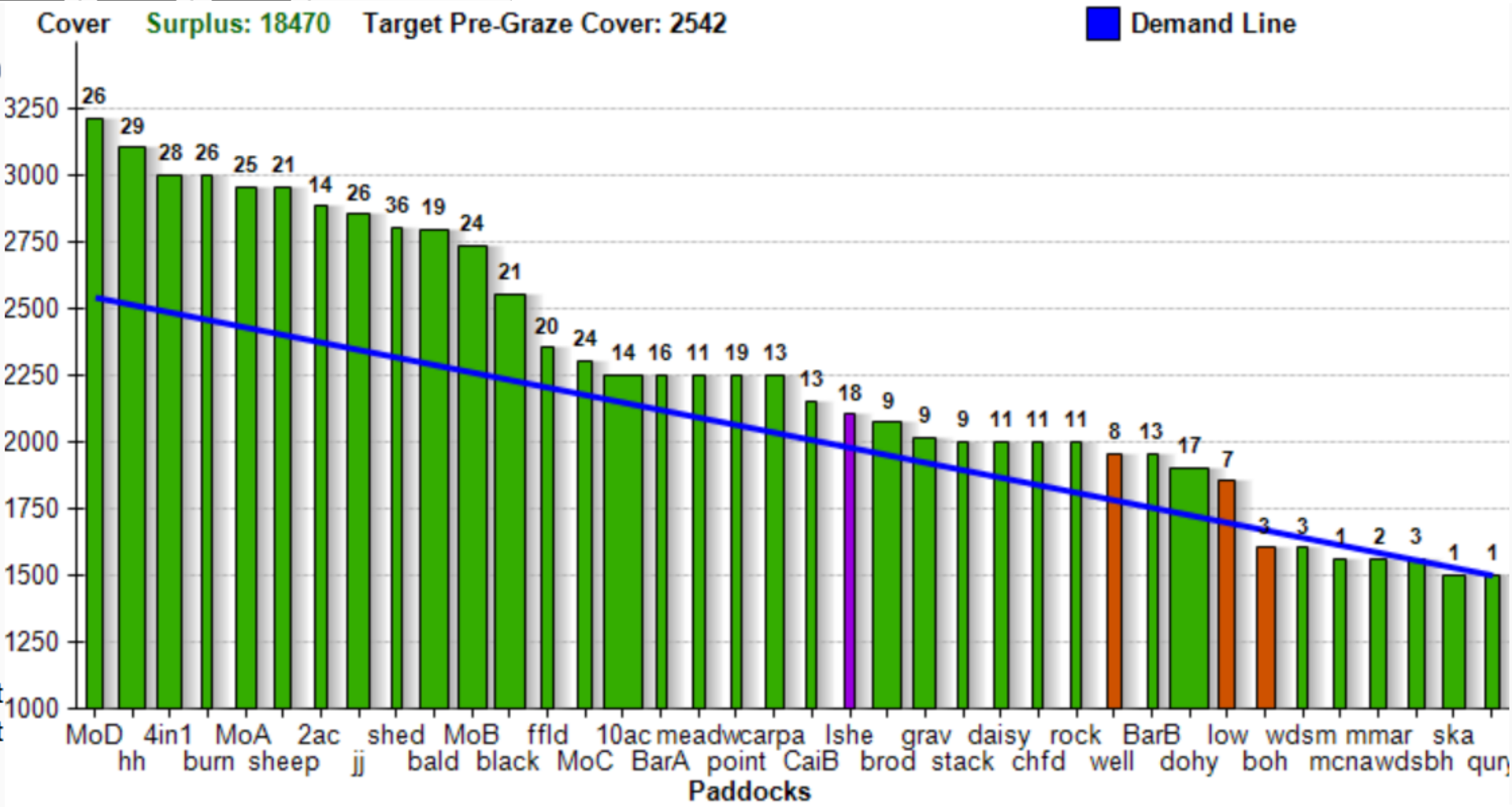
Date	Average Farm Cover AFC	Cover/Lu	Rotation Length
	(kg DM/ha)	(kg DM)	(Days)
Febuary	>2500	330	60
March	2250	250	40
April	2100+	200	25
May,June,July	2010	170	18-24
Mid August	2250	250	25
September	2490	330	30
October	1610	370	35
November	60% closed		
December	>700		

Grass yeild by year

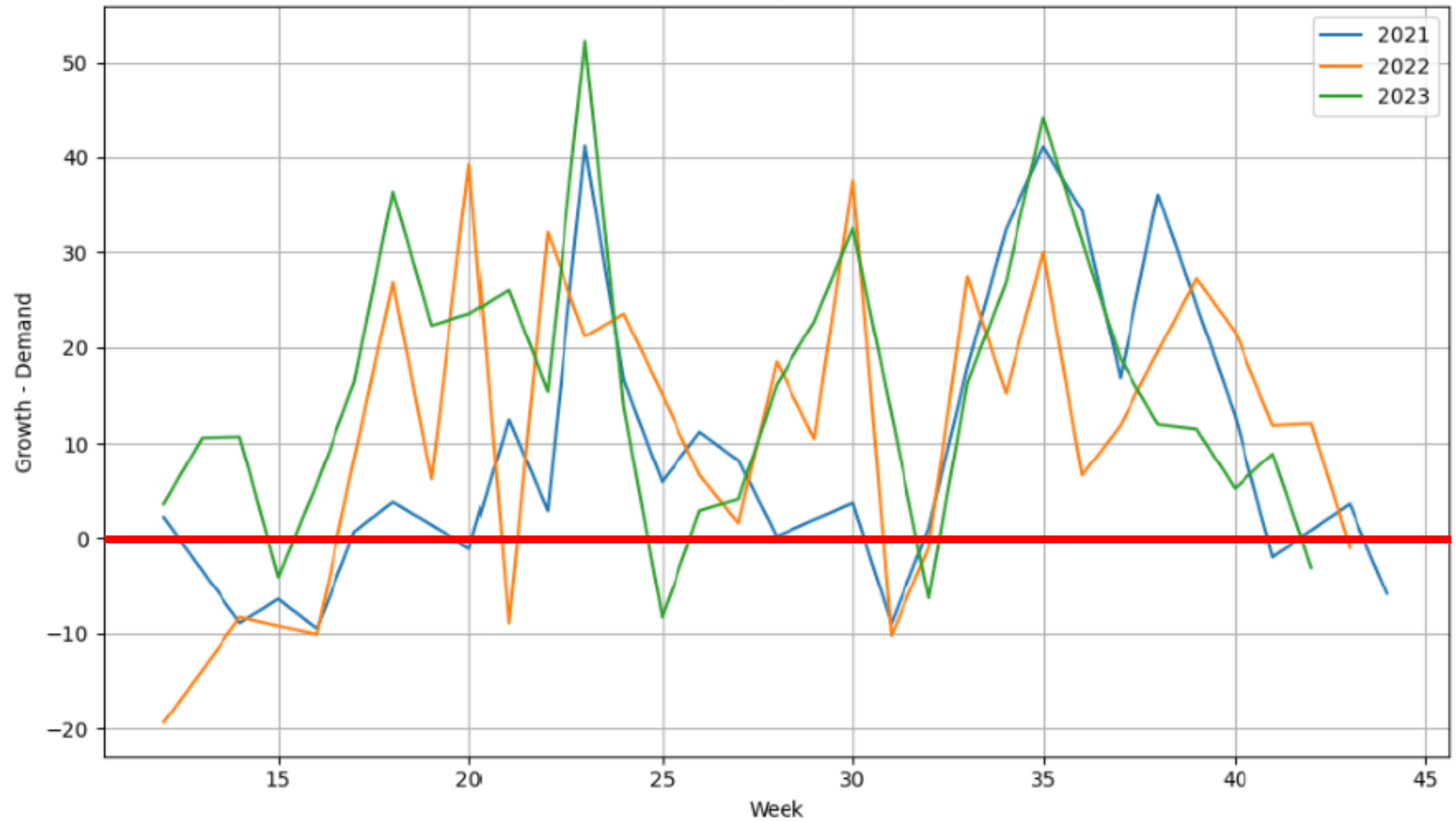


	No.	Actual Grass	Meal	Silage	Target Grass	Mob
Spring Milkers	230	16	2	0	16	■ Mob 1 ▾

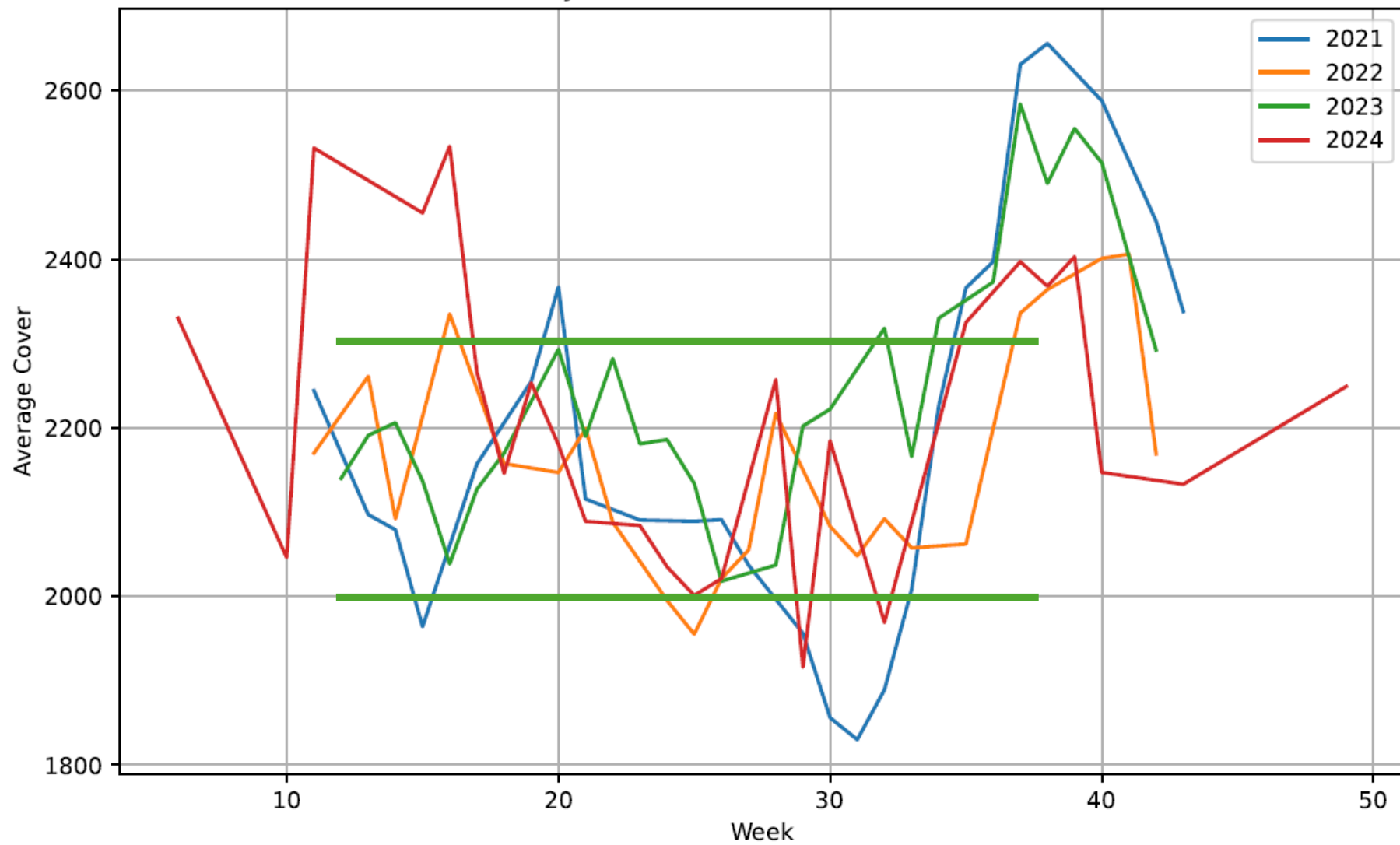
Date Measured	04/08/2025 ▾
Selected Mob	All Mobs ▾ ⓘ
Daily Growth	55.3 (over 7 days) (53.9) ⓘ
Farm Cover	2296
Total Area	74.12
Total LU	230
LU / Ha	3.1
Demand / Day	3680
Demand / Ha	49.6
N Kg / Ha	43.8 ⓘ
N % Area	54.3
Weather	0mm, 0°
Cover / LU	256.77
Litre / Cow / Day	23.04 (31/07)
kgMS / Cow	1.95
Milk Quality	F4.55% / P3.69%
KgMs/Ha YTD	788 (87.53 Ha)
Short Term Silage	0 (0Ha) Reset
Long Term Silage	0 (0Ha) Reset
Area Unmeasured	18.06 Ha(11.7Ha Reseed)



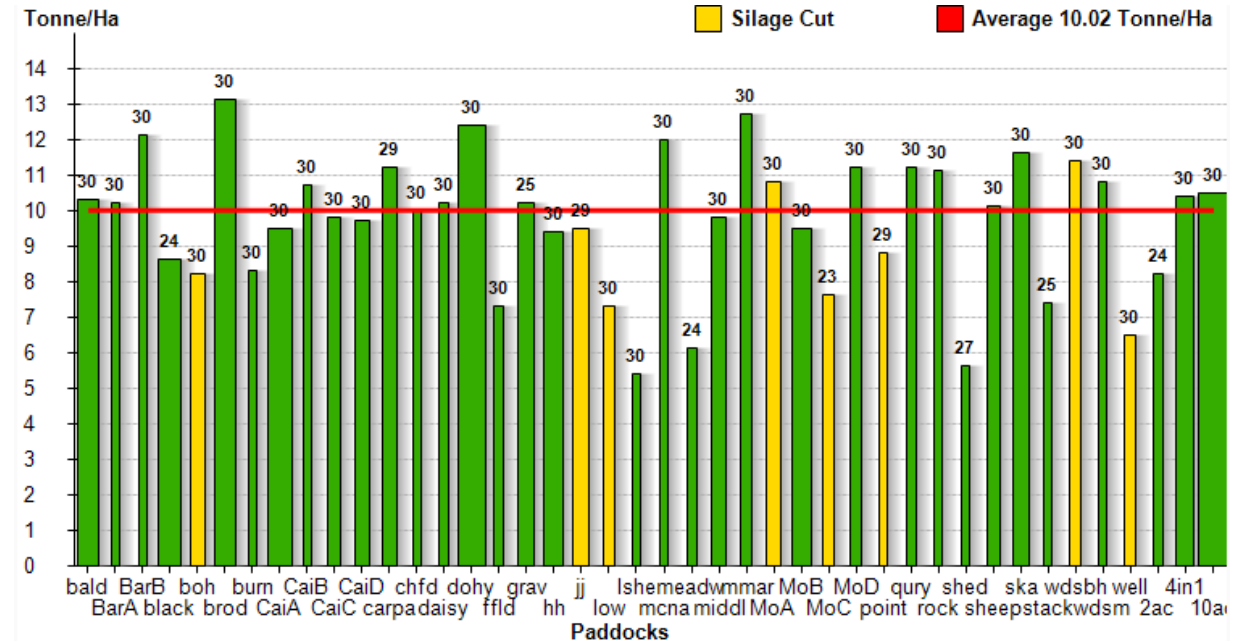
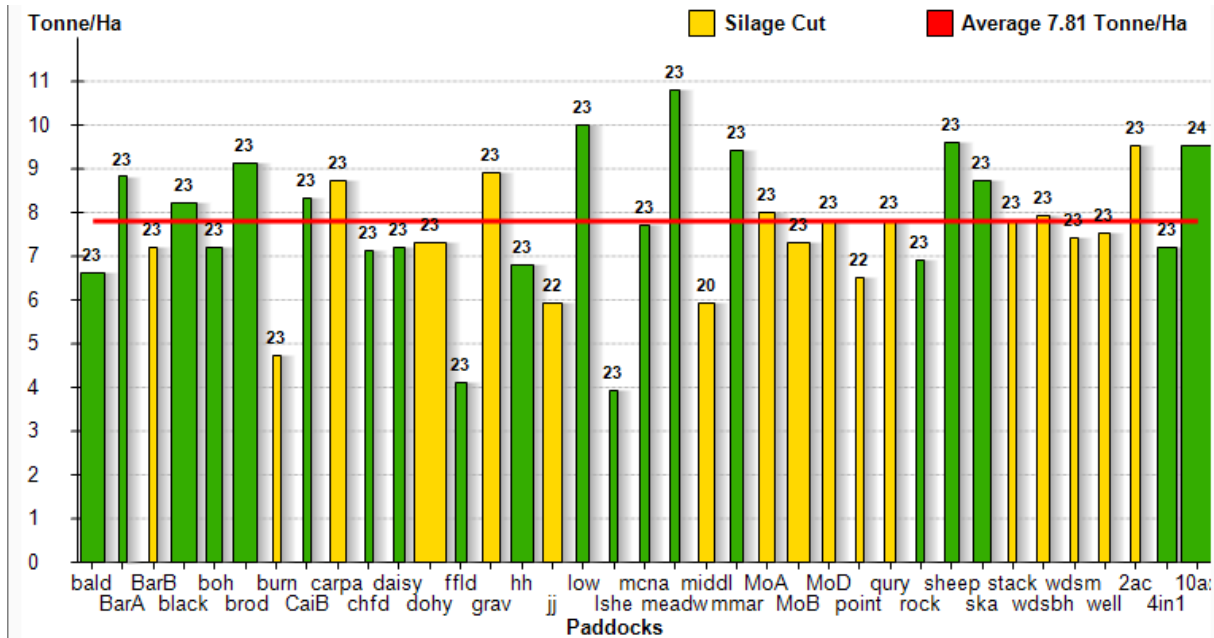
Brian McCracken - Weekly Growth Minus Demand



Weekly Grass Cover for Brian McCracken



Best Paddocks



Reseeding

- Soil fertility targets: pH >6.5, and index 2+/3 for both P and K
- Shallow soil
- Grass seed mixture:
 - 7kg Aston Energy
 - 7kg Aberchoice
- Clover stitched in with an Einbock after a tight grazing
- Clover mix varieties:
 - Galway
 - Coolfin
 - Violin
 - Buddy

Recommended Intermediate & Late Perennial Ryegrass Varieties 2025

Variety			Pasture Profit Index Values € / Ha / Year							¹ Teagasc Grazing Utilisation	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Total Yield	Mean DMD	1st Cut Silage	2nd Cut Silage	Ground Cover
			Total	Sub-Indices						Trait	(t DM/ha)	(t DM/ha)	(t DM/ha)	(t DM/ha)	(g/kg)	(t DM/ha)	(t DM/ha)	Score
Name	Ploidy	Heading Date	PPI	Spring Growth	Summer Growth	Autumn Growth	Quality	Silage	Persist.	Rating 1 - 5	1.13	7.55	2.34	11.03	845.6	4.55	4.51	5.7
Galgorm	D	26-May	263	61	70	59	25	47	0	**	1.37	7.85	2.45	11.67	845.2	5.32	3.96	5.7
Aberspey	T	27-May	238	27	59	52	65	34	0	****	1.17	7.58	2.38	11.13	858.5	4.79	4.26	5.6
Barwave	T	22-May	236	109	52	46	-19	48	0	*****	1.66	7.38	2.33	11.38	836.2	5.15	4.22	4.9
Tollymore	T	25-May	229	56	53	36	21	69	-6	****	1.34	7.41	2.24	10.99	844.5	5.60	4.31	5.5
Aberclyde	T	25-May	226	39	64	34	44	45	0	****	1.24	7.70	2.22	11.15	852.0	5.19	4.06	5.5
Abersevern	D	4-Jun	225	1	80	66	46	31	0	*	1.01	8.10	2.51	11.62	851.9	4.45	4.61	6.0
Abergain	T	4-Jun	214	25	56	38	48	46	0	****	1.15	7.50	2.26	10.91	852.2	4.90	4.49	5.5
Gracehill	T	4-Jun	204	38	53	50	11	52	0	**	1.23	7.43	2.37	11.03	841.0	5.02	4.50	5.5
Abermaglc	D	28-May	195	23	61	65	18	27	0	***	1.14	7.63	2.50	11.27	845.1	4.74	4.08	6.0
Nashota	T	3-Jun	190	46	52	26	28	38	0	*****	1.28	7.39	2.14	10.81	845.9	4.72	4.48	5.9
Ballintoy	T	4-Jun	187	39	54	37	24	33	0	****	1.24	7.44	2.24	10.92	846.8	4.61	4.45	5.5
Aberwolf	D	30-May	184	44	53	38	11	38	0	**	1.27	7.42	2.26	10.94	841.0	4.79	4.36	6.6
Aberplentiful	T	8-Jun	183	51	59	39	11	29	-6	***	1.31	7.57	2.26	11.15	842.2	4.39	4.61	5.4
Astonconqueror	D	27-May	182	65	50	34	-10	42	0	****	1.39	7.34	2.22	10.96	835.8	5.20	3.94	6.1
Molra	D	26-May	178	95	35	44	-32	35	0	***	1.58	6.97	2.31	10.86	826.9	4.94	4.07	6.0
Aberchole	D	11-Jun	175	6	64	48	22	34	0	**	1.04	7.70	2.35	11.09	844.8	4.33	4.88	5.9
Flintona	T	24-May	172	42	49	37	-4	47	0	*****	1.25	7.32	2.25	10.83	839.3	5.29	4.00	5.4
Anurad	T	5-Jun	171	46	48	29	31	21	-6	***	1.28	7.31	2.18	10.76	846.8	4.53	4.16	5.3
Aberbann	D	10-Jun	169	-4	77	64	-25	56	0	****	0.98	8.03	2.49	11.50	832.2	4.53	5.33	5.9
Abergreen	D	31-May	169	29	65	58	5	12	0	*	1.18	7.72	2.44	11.33	842.3	4.36	4.08	6.4
Melduno	T	3-Jun	168	43	51	35	17	22	0	****	1.26	7.37	2.23	10.86	845.0	4.44	4.33	5.2
Glenfield	T	3-Jun	165	36	57	30	4	38	0	*****	1.22	7.52	2.18	10.92	841.3	4.68	4.52	5.5
Dunluce	T	29-May	165	17	54	40	24	35	-6	****	1.10	7.44	2.28	10.82	845.8	4.53	4.63	5.3
Ballyvoy	D	3-Jun	157	55	38	34	19	11	0	*	1.34	7.04	2.22	10.60	843.3	4.29	4.14	6.2
Bowle	D	16-Jun	150	4	47	41	29	29	0	*	1.03	7.28	2.28	10.58	839.0	3.96	5.21	6.3
Astonenergy	T	1-Jun	140	2	43	32	50	13	0	*****	1.01	7.18	2.20	10.40	854.3	4.48	3.96	5.4
Aberbite	T	1-Jun	136	-9	53	42	33	39	-22	*****	0.95	7.42	2.29	10.66	849.6	4.64	4.61	5.6
Briant	T	3-Jun	135	3	54	34	13	31	0	***	1.02	7.44	2.22	10.68	841.4	4.58	4.42	5.4
Oakpark	D	2-Jun	132	25	49	40	-11	28	0	*	1.15	7.31	2.28	10.74	833.5	4.43	4.54	6.4
Drumbo	D	5-Jun	125	15	39	30	25	16	0	*	1.09	7.08	2.18	10.36	842.8	4.28	4.32	6.1
Astonking	D	5-Jun	124	54	47	26	-25	22	0	***	1.33	7.28	2.14	10.74	828.4	4.45	4.29	5.7
Xenon	T	7-Jun	121	5	42	22	30	22	0	*****	1.03	7.15	2.11	10.29	846.3	4.08	4.79	6.0
Trilwarwic	T	2-Jun	120	12	49	18	7	34	0	.	1.07	7.32	2.08	10.47	842.6	4.70	4.35	5.6
Aspect	T	3-Jun	115	4	46	18	28	24	-6	*****	1.02	7.26	2.08	10.36	848.7	4.29	4.59	5.9

Recommended Chemical N (kgN/ha) usage based on April clover Content

April Clover content (%)	Mid - Feb	Mid- Mar	Mid- Apr	Mid- May (2 rot)	Mid- June (2rot)	Mid- July (2rot)	Mid- Aug	Mid- Sept	Total
Grass Sward	24	36	20	32	28	28	21	23	212*
5% Clover	20	35	20	20	20	20	20	20	175
10% clover	20	35	20	15	10	10	15	20	150
15% clover	20	35	20	15	10	SW	10	20	130
20% clover	20	35	20	15	SW	SW	SW	15	105

Take home message



- System is specific to this farm but it can be adapted to other farms
- Best spring in recent memory for early turn out and good residuals
- 1st round is key, out early and good graze outs, sets you up for the year
- Reseeding is good return on investment.