



GrassCheck Beef and Sheep Farm Walk
Oliver McKenna
11/9/2025



Farm Overview

- Farm size: 60 acres, 46 acres around the yard
- Cows: 17 Autumn & 20 Spring calving
- 8 heifers for breeding next year
- Finishes all males as bulls
- Purchasing some Blade calves and finishing them as bulls
- Lower stocking rate this year due to land vested in A5 (8ac)
- Blade calf house: 3.5 calves crops/year of 120 to 140

Suckler herd

- Closed herd: Predominantly Limousin, Simmental, Hereford and Aberdeen Angus bred cows
- Two tight calving periods
- Calving Index: <380 days
- Using performance recorded AI Bulls
- Software and collars to aid in heat detection

2024 What is 1 tonne of grass DM/ha?

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

Feed (optimum)	DM %	ME (MJ/kg DM)	Crude Protein %
Grazed grass (3,000 kg DM/ha)	16–20	11.5 – 12.5	16 – 20
6-week grass silage	28–32	10.8 – 11.8	14 – 16
16% dairy nut	87–90	12.0 – 13.0	15 – 17



Grazed Grass/White Clover
£75/t DM



Grass silage £160/t DM



Concentrate £320/t DM

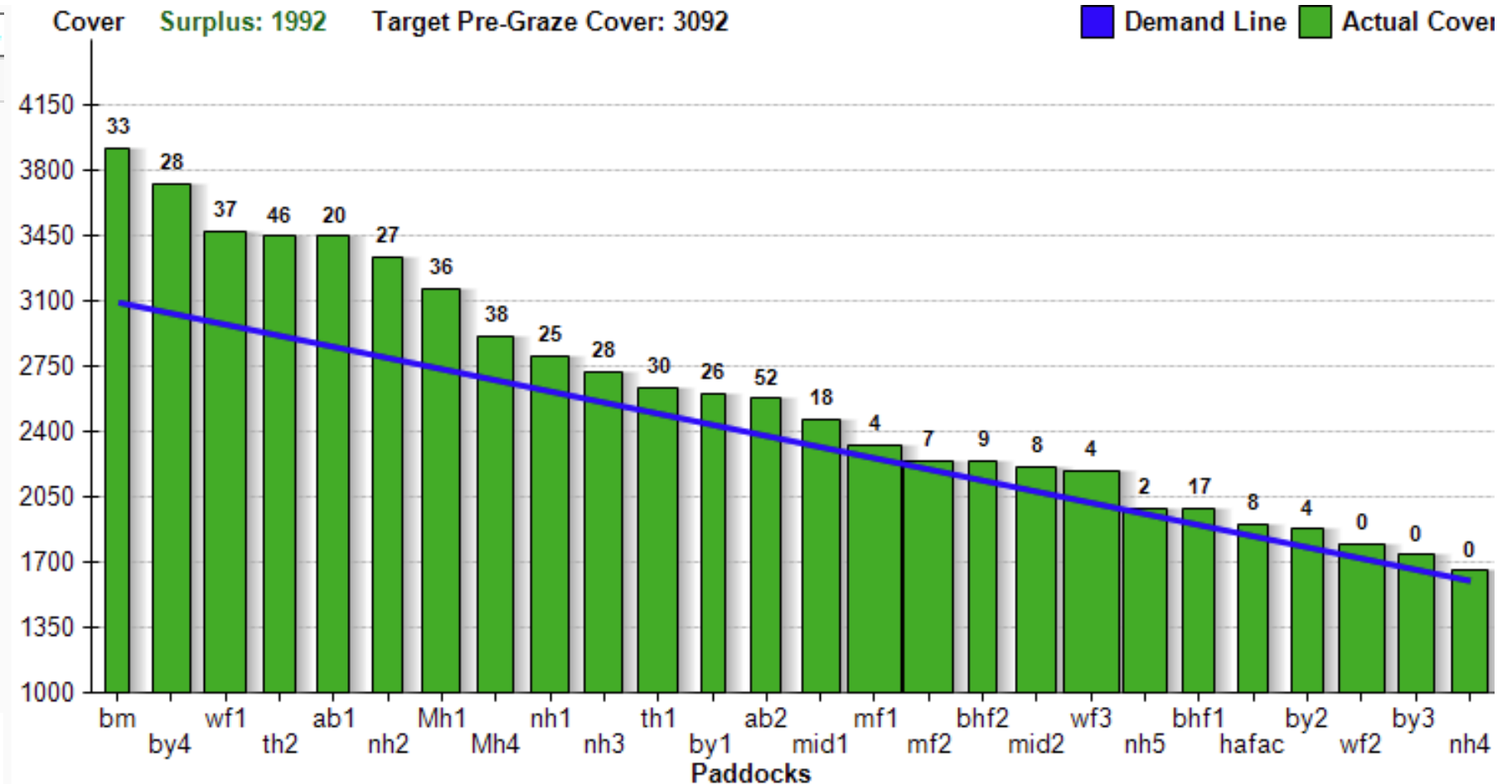


- **Recording grass growth weekly since 2017**
- 9ha (22acres) measured weekly
- Turnout mid March
- Housed October-Mid November
- Grazing targets
 - Cows: Target Pre-grazing cover: 3000-3500kg DM/ha (12–14cm)
 - Youngstock: Pre-grazing cover: 3000 DM/ha (12cm)
 - Target Post-grazing cover: 1500–1700 kg DM/ha (6–7cm)
- Leader follow system from turnout to mid July

	No.	Weight Kg	Grass	Meal	Silage
Lactating Cows	28	650	15	0	0
Dry Cows	0	650	0	0	0
Cattle 0-1	16	250	5	0	0
Cattle 1-2	16	425	8.5	0	0

This week

Date Measured 08/09/2025
Selected Mob All Mobs
Daily Growth 71.1 (over 7 (65.3) [i](#))
Farm Cover 2546
Total Area 8.95
kgLW/Ha 3240
Demand / Day 636
Demand / Ha 71.1
N Kg / Ha 0 [i](#)
N % Area 0
Weather
Graze Days Ahead 13.3
Short Term Silage 0 (0Ha)
Long Term Silage 0 (0Ha)
Area Unmeasured 2.86 Ha

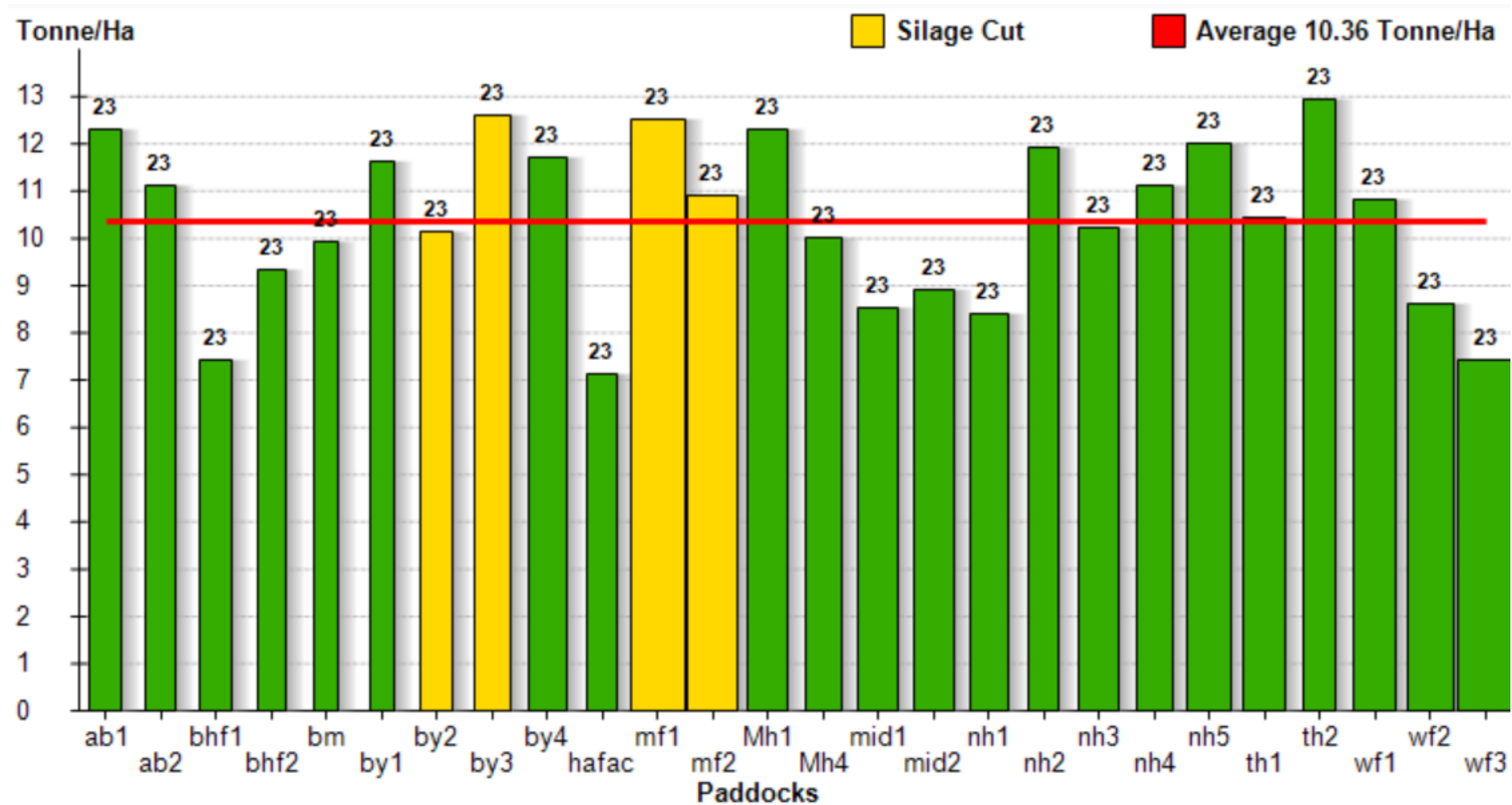


Date	Average Farm Cover AFC	Available Cover/Lu	Rotation Length	% of MP: grazed or closed off
	(kg DM/ha)	(kg DM)	(Days)	
Mid February	>2500	335	60	
1 st March	2300	265	40-50	30
1 st April	2200	230	40	60
Mid April	2100	200	25-40	100
May, June, July	2100-2200	200-230	18-25	
Mid August	2250	250	25-30	
1 st September	2550	350	30-35	
1 st October	2600	365	35-40	20
1 st November	2400	300	40	60
1 st December	2250	250		100

Options to increase grass supply and reduce demand on farms

Increasing supply	Reducing demand
<p>Increase the grazing area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bring in silage ground• Bring in reseeded ground	<p>Reduce stocking rate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove young or other stock• Cull cows
<p>Drive growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fertiliser• Address any soil fertility deficiencies	<p>Introduce extra feed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Silage• Zero-graze• Increase meal

Best Paddocks





Red clover

- Heavy coat of calf FYM
- Full reseed: ploughed & power harrowed
- Oats sowed 14th April, 50kg/ac
- Sowed grass seed/clover same day after with a wagtail sower
- 2 bags/ac 15.15.17 and rolled
- Harvested 6th August, heavy crop, put into the pit



- Integrated supply chain
- First Rearer ten years in operation
- Rearing space for about 11000 calves
- Select Genetics for Dairy Farmer
- Angus, Wagyu and Veal
- Guaranteed COP Model for Finisher
- Opportunities for all three stages, Dairy Farmer, Rearing and Finishing

Health Protocol

- Day 1 - Bovilis intranasal, Ringworm vaccine, Pour on/Wormer
- Week 2 to 3 - Dehorning
- Week 3 - Ringworm Booster, 1st Bovipast and Cocci Drench
- Week 6 - Castrations
- Week 7 - Second Bovipast and IBR