

ORGANIC PRODUCERS' CONFERENCE 2014
DIVERSE LEGUMES AND GRASS MIXTURES FOR
FORAGE PRODUCTION AND GRAZING



Angus Gaudie: New Experience
Measuring what cows are grazing and seeing
things differently

STAMFREY FARM GRAZING SYSTEM 2013

GRAZING SYSTEM 2013:

- Rotational
- 4 acre paddocks
- Round the clock

Problems

- Often short of grass
- No measurement – no basis for change

GRAZING SYSTEM 2014:

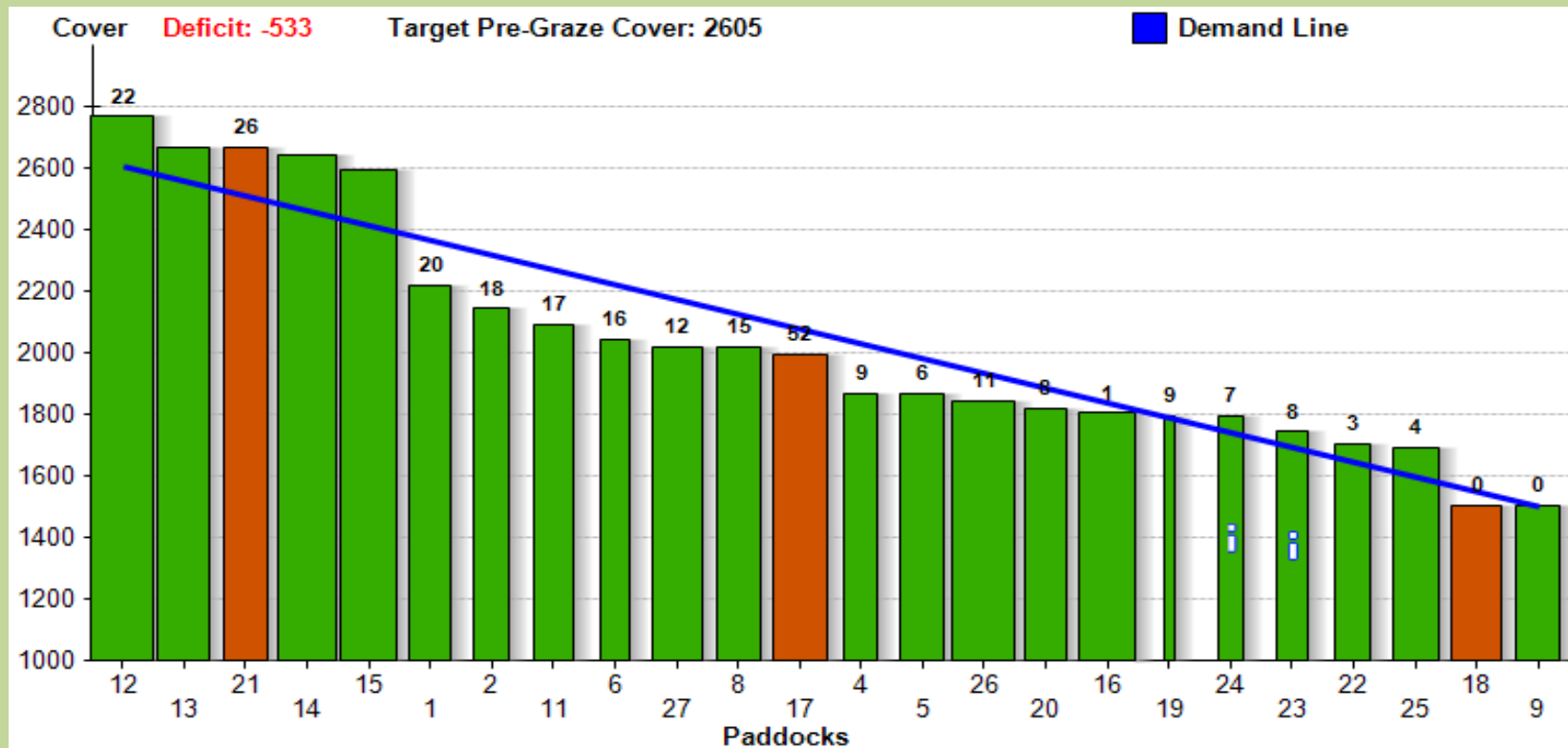
- Measuring and recording using
platemeter
agrinet software
geomeasure app



- Grass wedge
- Knowledge transfer via 'The Yorkshire Plonkers Grazing Group' facilitated by Alicia Newport L.I.C.

'Grass Wedge' – the benefits

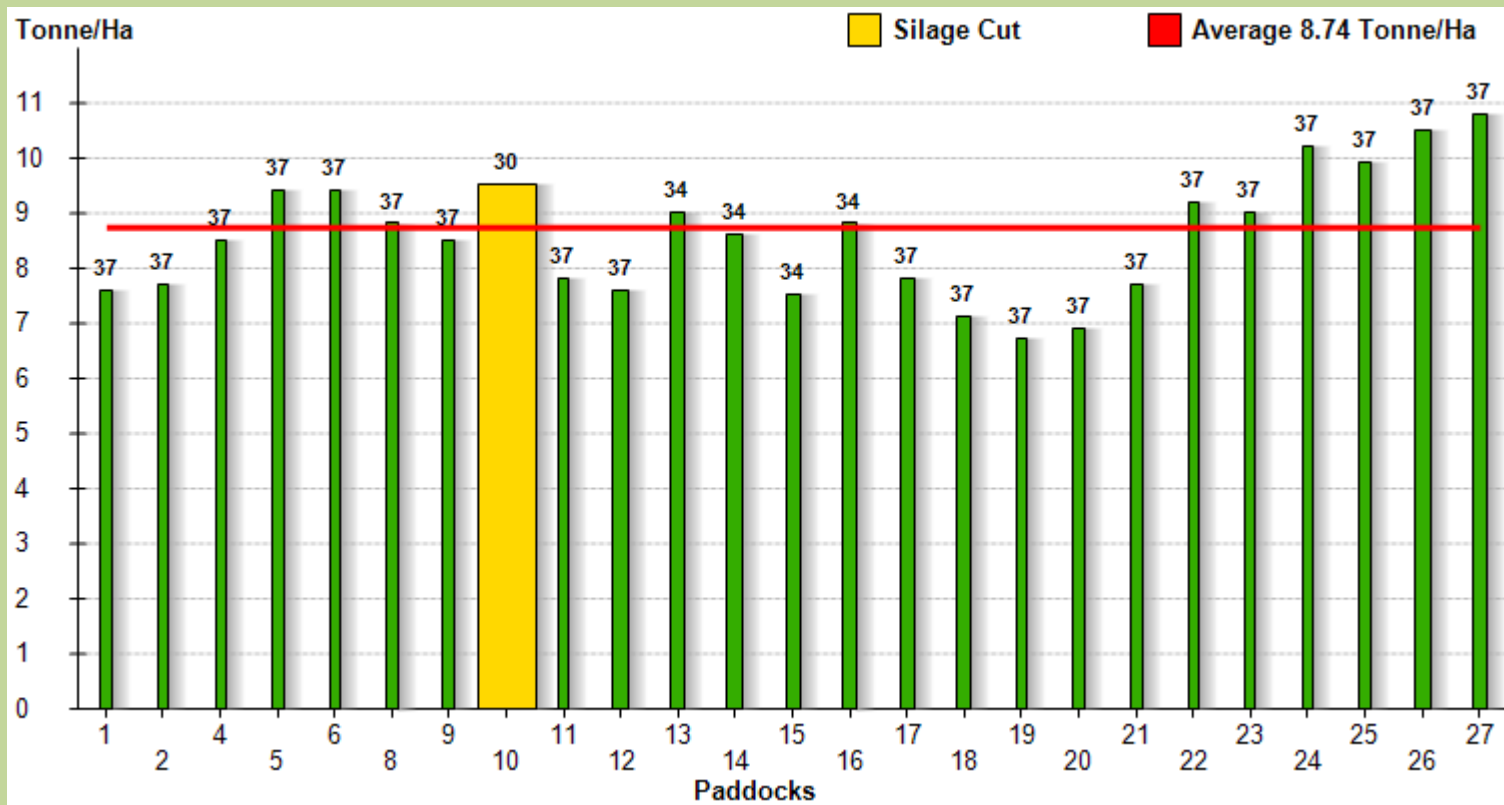
- Predict forage surplus or deficits
- Manage dry matter intakes for cow diets
- Conserve surplus forage



How is this related to diverse legumes and grasses?

- Without measurement you have no control and no basis for change
- Low growth – old pasture - re-seed if necessary
 - compacted – sward lift or spike
 - fertility – soil test and replenish
 - round length – minimum 30 days for clover recovery





- Actual growth – 8.74 tonne/Ha
- Range at Stamford Farm 6.5 – 11 tonne/Ha
- Aim for 2015 – 10 tonnes average
- range 8 to 12 tonnes

Stamfrey Costings 2013/14

	2013	2014
Cows in herd	140	135
Milk produced	819,000 litres	962,000 litres
Yield	5 840	7 130
Milk from forage	2000	2900
Concentrates/Litre	0.34	0.29
MOC/cow	1 390	2 040

Net Change £350 due to milk price
£300 due to greater efficiency



Mooving on....

- February 2015 turning cows out onto grass with good covers
- Having a baseline for comparison enabling better grass / clover management
- Healthy soil improvements
- Further knowledge transfer from Alicia to her Plonkers!

Unless it's measured it can't be mended !!