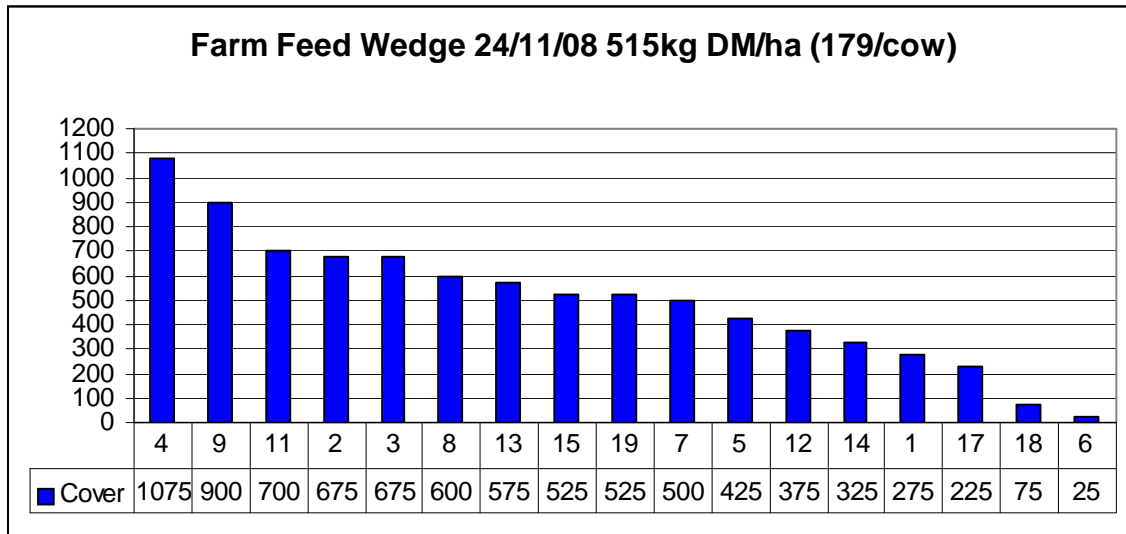


## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 24-11-08

### 1. Farm Feed Wedge



2. Growth over the past 7 days was 25kg DM/ha/day
3. Mean soil temperature for the past week was 9.6°C (max 11°C), total rainfall for the past 7 days was 8.8mm
4. Average milk yield is 11.6kg at 4.72% fat and 4.13% protein (1.03kg MS/cow), Lactose 4.6%, SCC 183k, Thermoduric 880, TBC 22.
5. Total milk solids supply to November 1<sup>st</sup> is up 3.1% on 2007 levels (51,933kg vs. 50812 kg MS; equivalent to 370 kg MS/cow)
6. Fertilizer application for season is 246 kg N per hectare
7. Pasture growth to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November is 4.5% ahead of 2007 levels (15.5 tons vs. 14.8 tons) and approximately 641kg DM of winter feed per cow in excess of requirements.
8. Critical Short-term Actions:
  - As Average Farm Cover is below our closing target (see below) of 534kg DM/ha the farm is now closed.

Week	A Grass Cover (kg dm/ha)	Cover per LU	D Growth (kg dm/day)	G Cow diet kg DM	J Predicted cover close (kg dm/ha)
01-Nov	999	357	33.0	15	935
08-Nov	935	334	32.0	15	865
15-Nov	865	309	30.4	14	803
22-Nov	803	287	14.3	14	646
29-Nov	646	231	6.4	12	534
06-Dec	534	191	4.0		562

- All cows are now indoors being fed high quality bale silage that was produced from surplus grass during the mid-season.
- Concentrate supplementation is 4kg
- 23 cows will be dried off this week. These have been selected based on calving date.
- So far 36% of the herd has been dried off, all cows receive an 8-week dry period with 1<sup>st</sup> lactation cows and cows in poor body condition getting 10 weeks.

*\*A comparison of Holstein-Friesian genotypes under two pasture-based production systems*

<b>Group</b>	<b>Milk SI</b>	<b>Fertility SI</b>	<b>Calving SI</b>	<b>Health SI</b>	<b>Beef SI</b>	<b>EBI</b>
	<b>(€)</b>	<b>(€)</b>	<b>(€)</b>	<b>(€)</b>	<b>(€)</b>	<b>(€)</b>
<b>NA – Low</b>	36	12	7	-2	-7	46
<b>NA – High</b>	41	41	13	0	-4	90
<b>NZ – High</b>	41	50	14	-4	-18	84

*\*Milk Production Data as of Sunday 16-11-08*

<b>Group</b>	<b>NA- Low</b>		<b>NA - High</b>		<b>NZ - High</b>	
<b>Daily Concentrate (kg/cow/day)</b>	4	6	4	6	4	6
<b>Total Concentrate (kg/cow)</b>	214	691	215	960	237	976
<b>Daily Milk Yield (kg/cow/day)</b>	13.5	13.8	12.6	14.2	12.0	13.0
<b>Fat (%)</b>	4.14	4.29	4.06	4.23	4.52	4.67
<b>Protein (%)</b>	4.01	3.89	3.92	3.98	4.17	4.25
<b>Lactose (%)</b>	4.47	4.54	4.39	4.51	4.47	4.49
<b>Milk Solids (kg/cow)</b>	1.11	1.11	1.01	1.16	1.03	1.14
<b>Cum. Milk Solids (kg/cow)</b>	362	402	373	419	390	436
<b>Bodyweight (kg)</b>	554	571	558	576	547	560
<b>BCS</b>	2.53	2.73	2.59	2.82	2.83	2.92

**Provisional Reproductive Performance**

24day Submission rate (%)	70	93	83
42 Day In-calf Rate %	50	57	67
14 Week Empty Rate %	20	22	8

*\*NB: These are raw data with unbalanced groups that have not been statistically analysed and, therefore, no definite conclusions can be drawn from them. Reproductive performance data is subject to final scanning confirmation in early October.*