Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 03-03-09

1. Farm Feed Wedge 03/03/09

2. 91% of the herd is calved, (expected mean calving date is 07/02/09)

3. 45% of the farm is grazed & cows are out fulltime.

4. Average weekly growth was 15.9kg/day, soil temperature today is 7.2°C, total rainfall for the week was 4mm

5. Grass supply is below budget (figure 1; 180kg/cow vs 216 kg/cow) and we have grazed more than target area (44% vs. 37.5%).

6. Post-grazing height on last grazed block was 2.9cm

7. Average milk yield is 19.7kg at 4.80% fat and 3.27% protein (1.6kg MS/cow), Lactose 4.70%, SCC 144k, Thermoduric 15, Sediment A.

8. Total N application per hectare to date is 18.0 kg N/ha (31% of farm has received slurry)

9. Critical Short-term Actions:
   a. Allocation is on 12 hr basis in square blocks to avoid pasture damage
   b. We will restrict daily area allocation to 0.08 ha/day for the remainder of the week to slow rotation and return to SRP and feed budget targets.
   c. Total grass DM allocation per day will be 6.1kg DM for the week.
   d. Cows will be supplemented with 4kg concentrate and 5 kg DM bale silage which brings total intake to 15 kg DM/day.
   e. 40 units of fertiliser will be applied to grazed paddocks on Friday and Saturday after the heavy rain, ungrazed paddocks will receive 23 units.
Figure 1. Feed budget for spring 2009.

Figure 2. Rotation plan and daily area allocation for spring 2009.