

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Monday 09-03-09

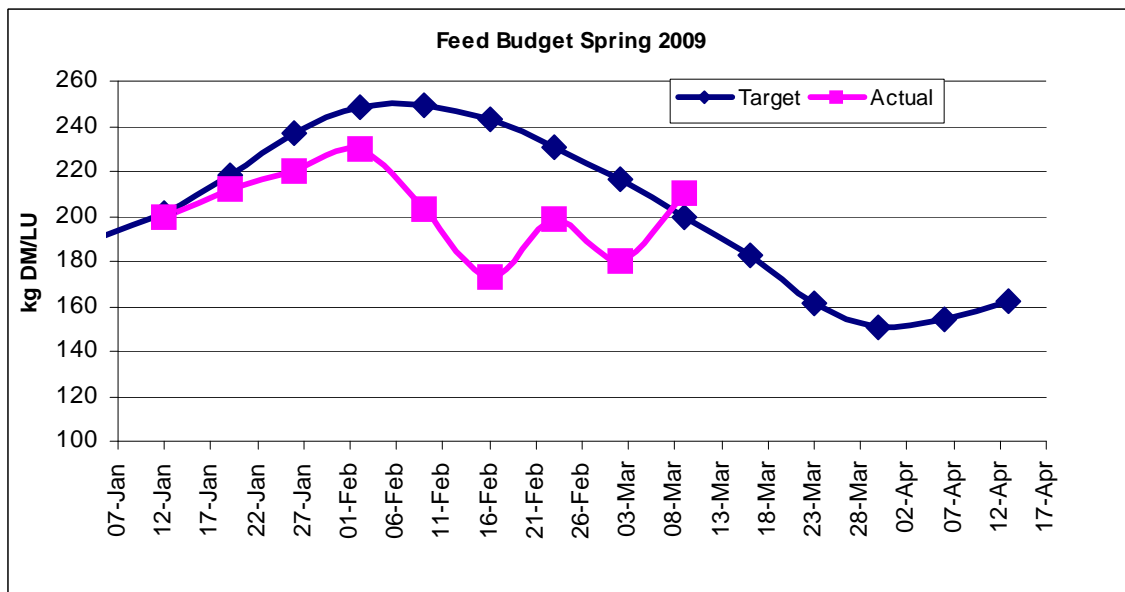
Critical Issues

- 1) **Don't poach**
- 2) **Increase grass allocation to 6kg**
- 3) **Manage feed (pasture, silage and concentrates) so that the cows are getting better feed each week.**

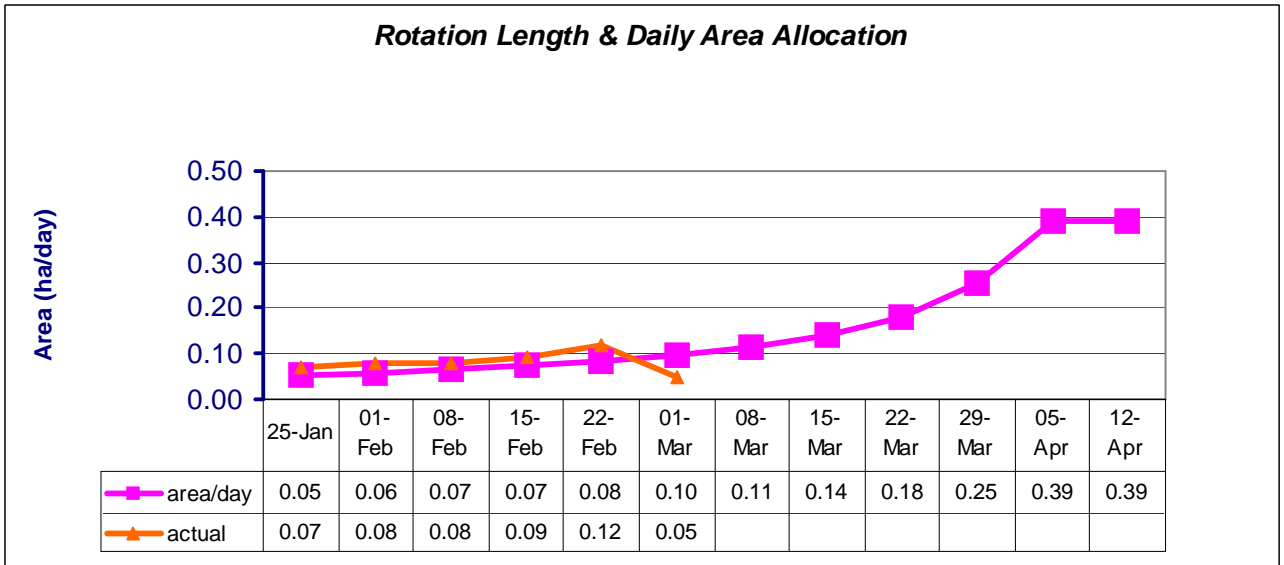
On Farm Situation

1. Soil temperature today is 5.1°C, last week 7.2°C. These soil temperatures are lower than the long term average and are lower than this time last year.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 38.4mm, as a result cows were indoors for Wednesday and Sunday and were on/off grazing for 3 hours morning and night on the other days.
3. Average weekly growth was 24kg/day, which is on budget. Dry matter was 16.2%.
4. Grass supply is on budget (210 kg/cow)

Figure 1. Feed budget for spring 2009.

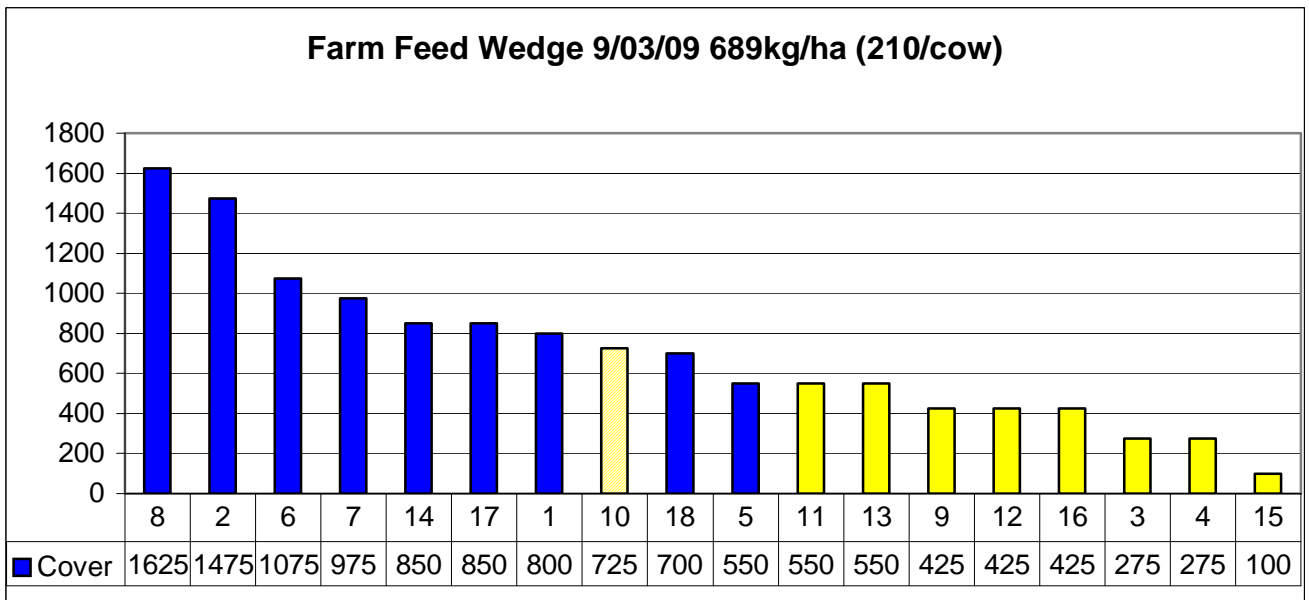


5. The cover/cow has increased this week because 1) Growth rate has increased and 2) our demand was less because more silage was included in the diet and we are grazing a smaller proportion of the farm per day.
6. Only half the target area was grazed this week because the cows were indoors for 2 days and because we reduced the daily allocation in order to return to our target area grazed. We currently have 49% of the farm grazed and target was 43%, this is an improvement on last week and we are now only half a week ahead of the plan.



7. As farm cover is on target, we plan to increase the amount of grass in cows diet while still trying to return to the planned area grazed. This will be achieved by increasing the proportion grazed per day. Last week 5% of the farm was grazed, this week we plan to graze 7.9%. While we will still be ahead of target next week, we will be closer to the target and should be on track in two weeks time.

8. Farm Feed Wedge 09/03/09



Yellow paddocks have been grazed this spring. Paddock 10 is partly grazed.

9. After a week of good growth, pre-grazing yield has remained on target. This allows an increase in grass intake as area being allocated per day has also increased.

10. Grass intakes are currently 6kg with 4kg concentrate and 4kg silage. Total dry matter intake is 14kg.
11. Post-grazing height on last grazed block has lifted slightly to 3cm which is lower than we would like. To leave higher pasture residuals we would have to feed the cows more silage which is of lower quality.
12. 23 units urea/acre were applied to all paddocks that have not yet been grazed (51% of the farm) while 40 units urea has been applied to paddocks that have been grazed. Block 15 received 2,500 gallons slurry/acre post grazing. Total N application per hectare to date is 43kg N/ha (38% of farm has received slurry)
13. 96% of the herd is calved, (expected mean calving date is 07/02/09)
14. Average milk yield is 20.18kg at 4.93% fat and 3.22% protein (1.64kg MS/cow), Lactose 4.69%, SCC 134k, Thermoduric 15, Sediment A.
15. 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.