

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Monday 16-03-09

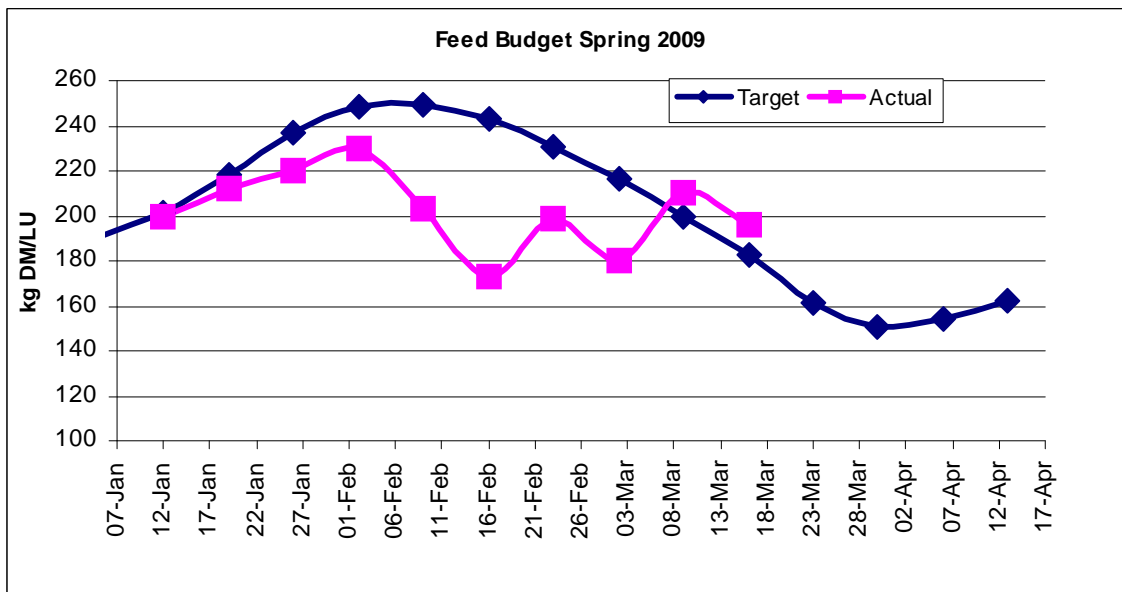
Critical Issues

- 1) **Don't poach**
- 2) **Increase grass allocation to 10kg**
- 3) **Manage feed (pasture and concentrates) so that the cows are getting better feed each week.**

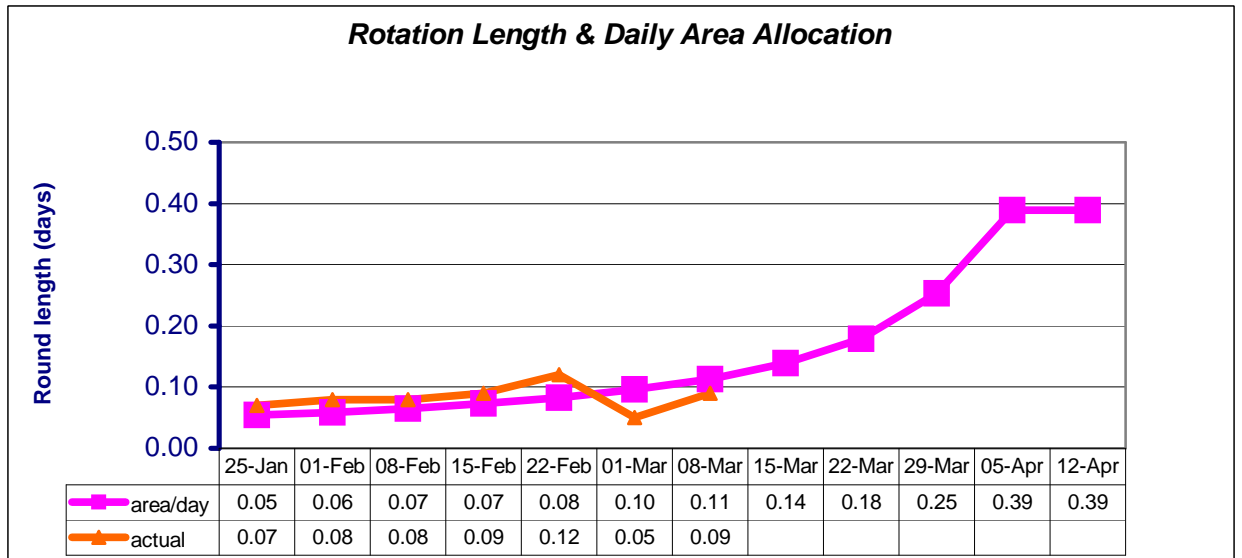
On Farm Situation

1. Soil temperature today is 8°C, last week 5.2°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 2mm.
3. Average weekly growth was 22.3kg/day, which is on budget. Dry matter was 16.4%.
4. Grass supply is slightly above budget (196 kg/cow)

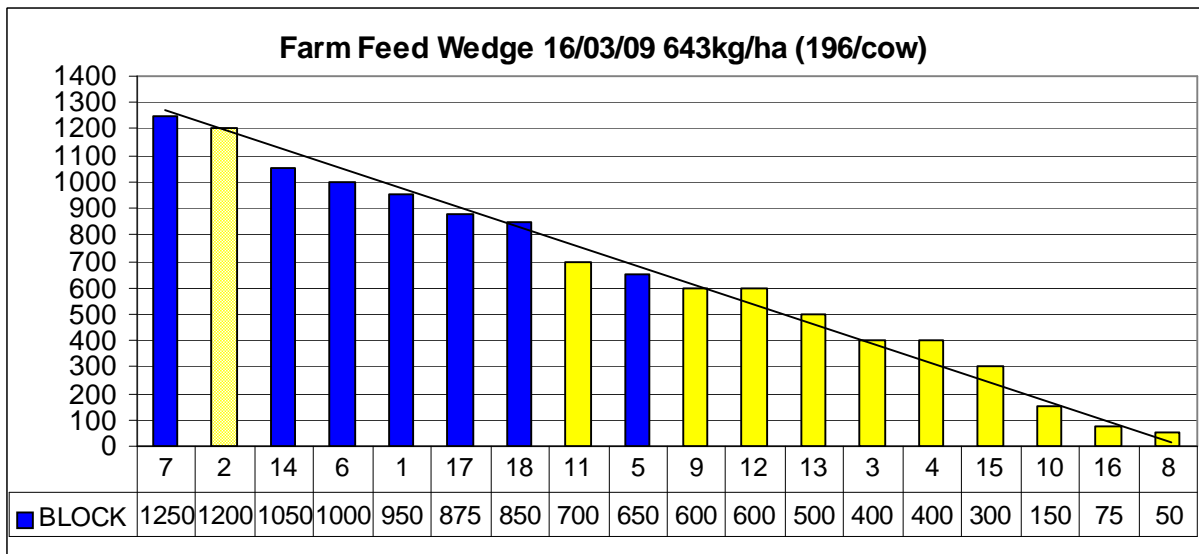
Figure 1. Feed budget for spring 2009.



5. The cover/cow has dropped in line with target last week but is still higher than budget. This was because our demand was less because more silage was included in the diet. Only two thirds of the target area was grazed this week as 4kg silage was fed per cow/day. We currently have 58% of the farm grazed and target was 54%.
6. By Thursday of this week 70% of the farm will have been grazed. This leaves 12 days to graze out the rest of the farm and start the 2nd rotation on the 1st April. The risk now is that we will fail to graze this out and end up with surplus pasture in April.



7. As farm cover is on target, we plan to increase the amount of grass in cows diet while still ensuring the 1st rotation lasts until 1st April. Grass intake will be increased to 10kg and concentrate will be maintained at 4kg.
8. Farm Feed Wedge 16/03/09



Yellow paddocks have been grazed this spring. Paddock 2 is partly grazed.

9. The wedge is a perfect shape and the pre-grazing yield is ideal at 1300kg, this will drop to 1200kg next week as average farm cover is declining.
10. 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.
11. Post-grazing height on last grazed block has lifted slightly to 3cm which is lower than we would like.

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. Total N application per hectare to date is 43kg N/ha (38% of farm has received slurry)
13. 100% of the herd is calved, (mean calving date is 07/02/09)
14. Average milk yield is 22.18kg at 3.49% fat and 3.17% protein (1.48kg MS/cow), Lactose 4.69%, SCC 134k, TBC 17k, Thermoduric 750, 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 0.18 ha/day (2.5%) for the remainder of the week.