

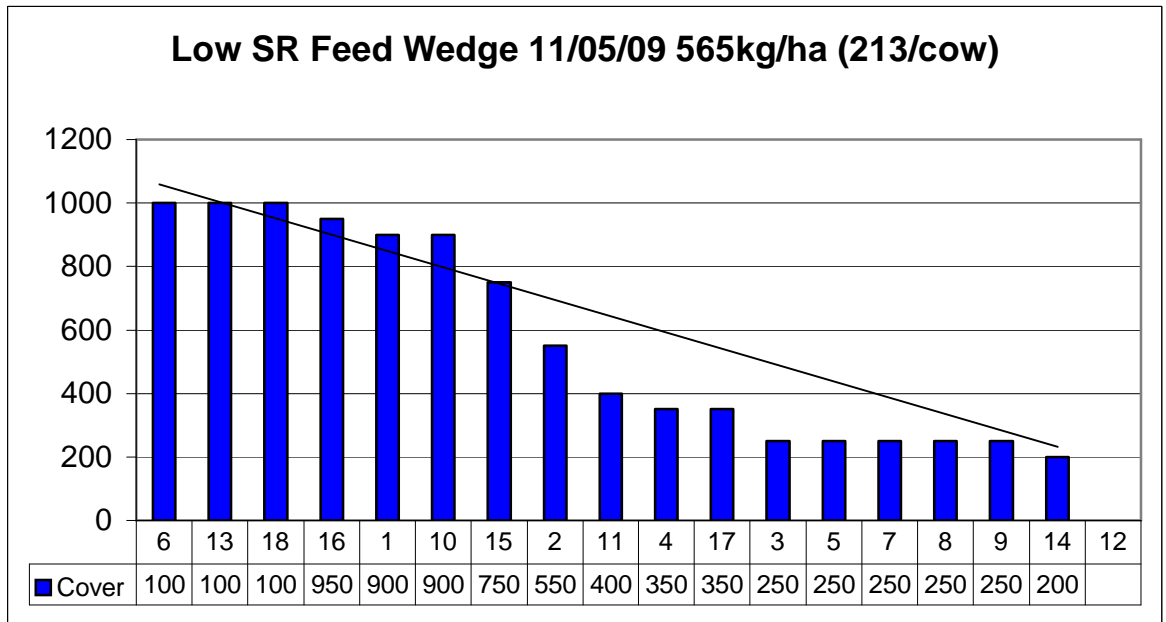
Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

- 1) **Maintain post-grazing height at between 4.5 - 5cm**
- 2) **Identify any surpluses and maintain pre-grazing yield at 1010kg**

Situation

Figure 1. Farm Feed Wedge 11/05/09



- 1) As can be seen from Figure 1. there is a step in the second half of the wedge. As demand for this group is 45kg/day and growth is >65kg/day the expectation is that the cover will rise to meet the line. The ideal pre-grazing yield for this group is 810kg if their allowance is 17kg/day and rotation length is 18 days. Stocking rate is 2.65 cows/ha. However, because we are leaving a post grazing residual of approximately 200kg our ideal pre-grazing yield for this group is 1010kg.

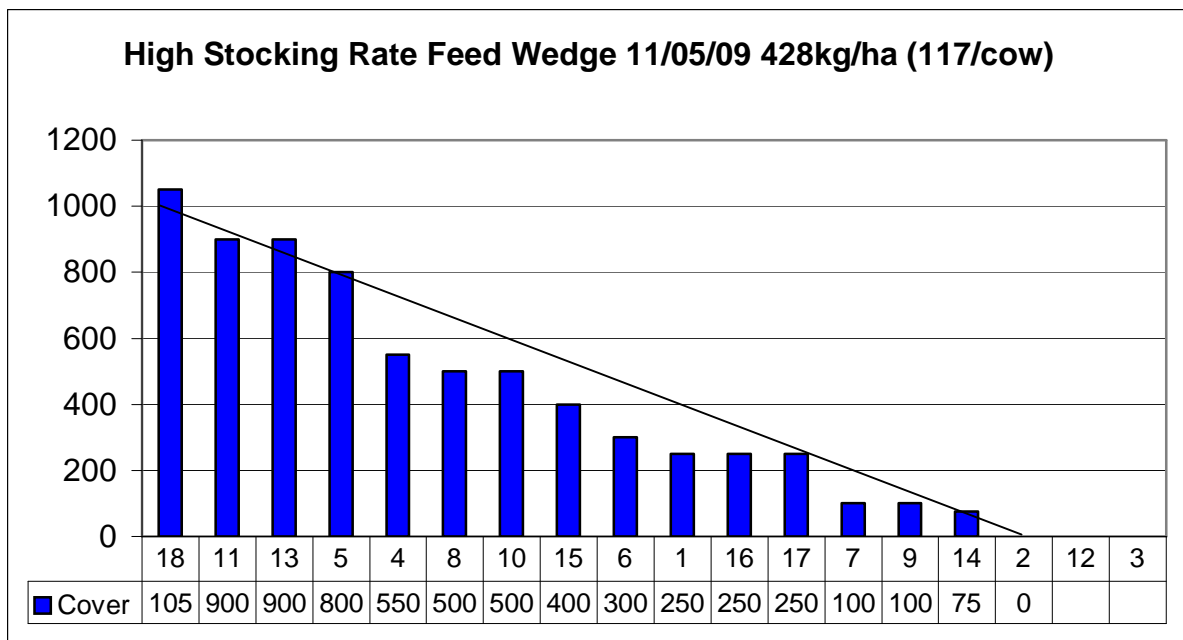
High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

- 3) **Maintain post-grazing height at between 3 and 3.5cm**
- 4) **Maintain pre-grazing yield at 1000kg**

Situation

Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 11/05/09



1. As can be seen from the wedge, we are just about on target so no paddocks have been selected for silage this week.
2. With block 3 closed for silage stocking rate is 3.66 cows/ha. With an 18 day rotation length and 15kg allowance the ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1000kg.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 10.8°C, last week 10.6°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 3.3mm.
3. Average weekly growth this week was 62kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 80kg/day. Mild and humid weather is forecast for this week so the expectation is that growth rate should be close to 80kg/day this week.
4. Dry matter was 18% on Monday.
5. 20 units urea/acre is being spread after grazing. 30 units urea/acre is being spread after silage.
6. Breeding season commenced on Monday 20th April.
7. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 3.98%, Protein 3.36%, Lactose 4.77%, SCC 251k, TBC 10k, Thermoturic N/D, Sediment A.
8. Critical Short-term Actions:
 - a. Cut silage before the base begins to turn white. This reduces the lag period between cutting and growing, thereby increasing growth and allowing aftergrass back into the grazing rotation faster. We can achieve this after 5/6 weeks of growth.
 - b. Achieve a high submission rate now to ensure compact calving next February, regular monitoring of cows and using tail paint will help us to achieve this.

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY, 10/05/09

Objective: To compare the biological efficiency of alternative calving date and stocking rate combinations for Irish spring calving pasture-based production systems

| Herd Details | EBI | MILK SI | FERT SI | CALVING SI | HEALTH |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | (€) | (€) | (€) | (€) | (€) |
| Average | 112 | 59 | 45 | 20 | -3 |

(November 2008 ICBF)

| Calving Date Group Stocking rate Group | Early Calving | | | Late Calving | | |
|---|---------------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|
| | Low | Medium | High | Low | Medium | High |
| Stocking rate (cows/ha) | 2.51 | 2.92 | 3.28 | 2.51 | 2.92 | 3.28 |
| Mean calving date | 9/2 | 12/2 | 11/2 | 19/2 | 24/2 | 21/2 |
| Ear-tag Colour | White | Blue | Orange | White | Blue | Orange |
| Band Colour | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Blue | Blue | Blue |

| Week Details: | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Area allocated (m ² /day) | 2400 | 2000 | 1800 | 2400 | 2000 | 1800 |
| Farmlet cover (kg DM/cow) | 213 | 172 | 117 | 229 | 165 | 120 |
| Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha) | 1000 | 900 | 1050 | 1000 | 900 | 1050 |
| Residual grazing height (cm) | 5.08 | 4.27 | 3.53 | 6.35 | 4.58 | 3.57 |
| Diet (kg DM/cow/day) | | | | | | |
| Grass | 17 | 16 | 15 | 17 | 16 | 15 |
| Silage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Concentrate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Milk solids (kg/cow/day) | 1.62 | 1.48 | 1.38 | 1.65 | 1.58 | 1.73 |
| Milk yield (kg/cow/day) | 23.0 | 20.7 | 19.1 | 22.9 | 22.2 | 22.5 |
| % Fat | 3.70 | 3.86 | 3.97 | 3.82 | 3.79 | 4.26 |
| % Protein | 3.37 | 3.30 | 3.31 | 3.44 | 3.30 | 3.41 |
| Bodyweight (kg) | 504 | 481 | 470 | 500 | 506 | 491 |
| Condition Score | 2.92 | 2.84 | 2.74 | 2.96 | 2.88 | 2.90 |

| Cumulative: | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Milk solids (kg/cow) | 161 | 151 | 143 | 136 | 125 | 136 |
| (kg/ha) | 404 | 441 | 469 | 341 | 365 | 446 |
| Milk yield (kg/cow) | 2089 | 1963 | 1843 | 1794 | 1633 | 1734 |
| % Fat | 4.31 | 4.38 | 4.35 | 4.23 | 4.30 | 4.55 |
| % Protein | 3.41 | 3.34 | 3.42 | 3.49 | 3.41 | 3.48 |
| Days in milk | 89 | 89 | 91 | 77 | 76 | 76 |
| Total supplement fed (kg/cow) | | | | | | |
| Concentrate | 180 | 186 | 182 | 129 | 132 | 134 |
| Silage | 63 | 111 | 119 | 20 | 37 | 43 |
| Conserved silage (kg DM /cow) | 223 | 100 | 100 | 223 | 100 | 100 |
| Farmlet area (hectares) | 9.17 | 7.87 | 7.01 | 9.17 | 7.87 | 7.01 |
| Number of cows calved | 23 | 23 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 23 |
| Number of cows in group | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 |

NB: These are raw data that have not been statistically analysed and, therefore, no definite conclusions can be drawn from them.