

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Monday 01-06-09

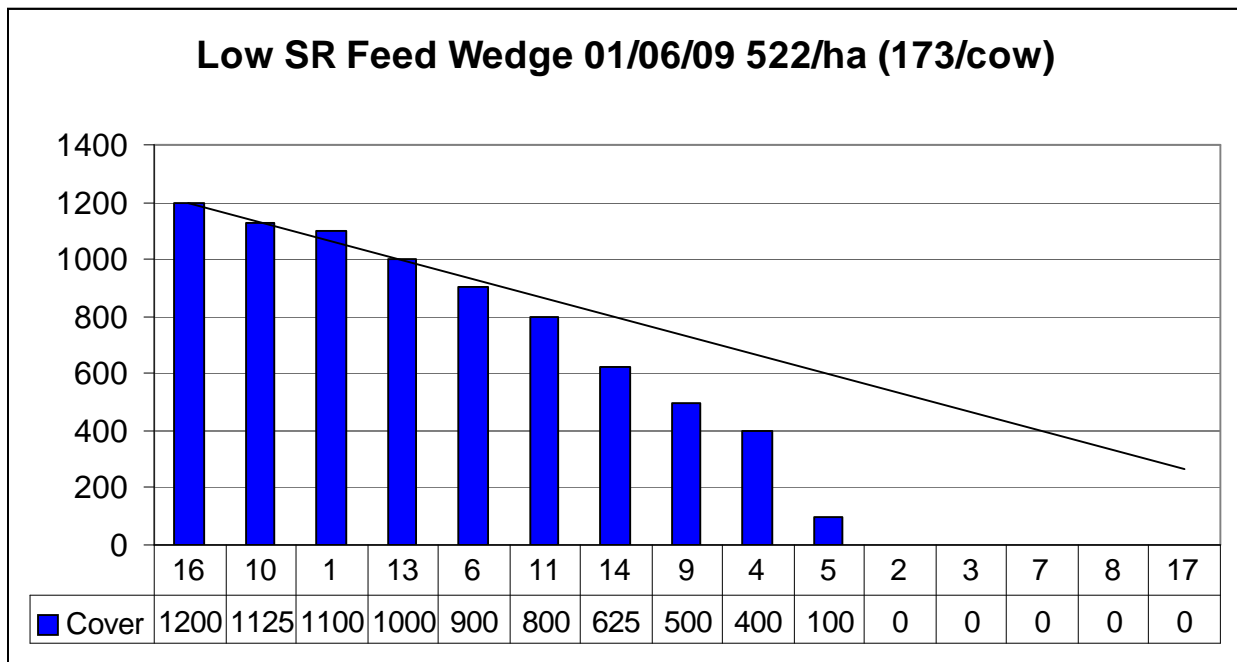
Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 4.5 - 5cm
- 2) Identify any surpluses and maintain pre-grazing yield at 1200kg

Situation

Figure 1. Farm Feed Wedge 01/06/09



- 1) Blocks 2, 3, 7, 8 and 17 were cut for bale silage on Monday. Blocks 18 and 15 have >1200kg in them so were skipped and will be baled next week. This brings stocking rate back to 3.02 cows/ha. Rotation length will be held at 18 days. Ideal pre grazing yield is now 1174kg ($3.02 \times 18 \times 17 + 250$).
- 2) The lower half of the wedge is below the line, this is not a major concern as the last 5 blocks have been cut for silage and are already back growing. With growth rates in excess of 100kg/day the expectation is that they will catch up to the line very quickly

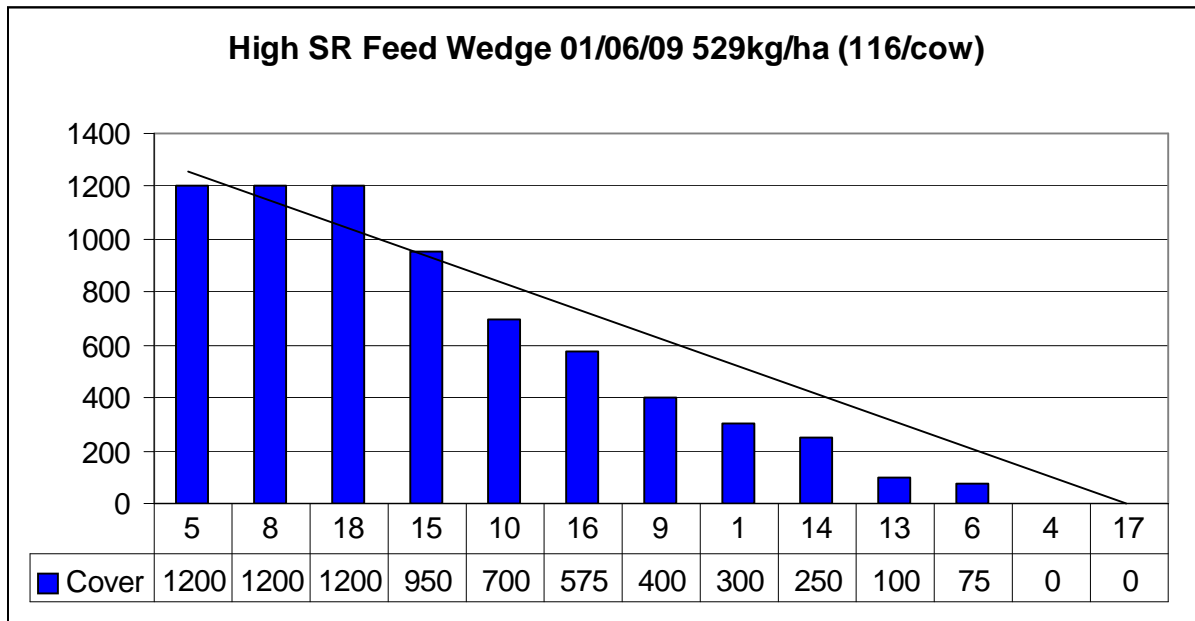
High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

- 3) Maintain post-grazing height at between 3 and 3.5cm
- 4) Maintain pre-grazing yield at 1250kg

Situation

Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 01/06/09



1. Blocks 4 and 17 were cut for bale silage on Monday. Blocks 2, 3, 7 and 11 have been skipped and will be baled next week. These blocks were selected either because the cover was too high (i.e. >1250kg) or because the grass quality was poor. By selecting fields with poor quality pastures we are ensuring that milking cows are only eating the best quality grass available on the farm.
2. This group are given an allowance of 15kg, are on an 18 day rotation and stocking rate is currently 4.58 cows/ha so ideal pre-grazing yield is 1236kg ($15 \times 4.58 \times 18$)

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 14.6°C, last week 12.6°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 7.7mm.
3. Average weekly growth this week was 108kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 63kg/day.
4. Dry matter was 20% on Monday.

5. 30 units of CAN with 5 units Sulphur is being spread per acre after grazing. 112.6kg N/ha have been spread so far this year. We could get away with less nitrogen at the moment but we want to maximise growth as we will be short winter feed for the high and medium stocking rate treatments.
6. Breeding season commenced on Monday 20th April.
7. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.08%, Protein 3.21%, Lactose 4.79%, SCC 305k, TBC 10k, Thermotolerant N/D, Sediment A.
8. Critical Short-term Actions:
 - a. Cows are on 24-hour allocations and move to new pasture as soon as desired post grazing height is achieved. Cows are moved between milkings if necessary.
 - b. 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. At the moment, we are cutting silage after 3-4 weeks of growth with pre-cutting yields of approximately 1800-2200kg.
 - c. Achieve a high submission rate now to ensure compact calving next Spring, regular monitoring of cows and using tail paint will help us to achieve this.