

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Monday 29-06-09

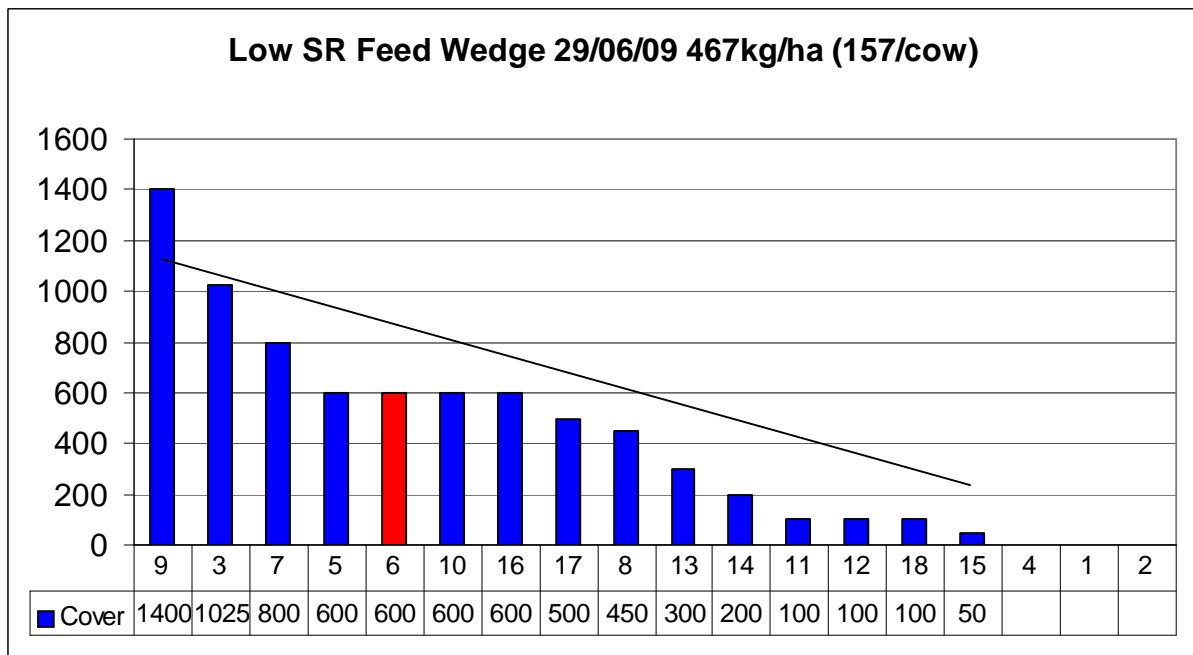
Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 5 – 5.5cm
- 2) Identify any surpluses and maintain pre-grazing yield at 1160kg

Situation

Figure 1. Farm Feed Wedge 29/06/09



(Block 6, in red is currently being grazed)

- 1) We have an uneven shaped wedge this week. The pre-grazing yield in Block 9 is higher than we would like but because we are below the target line for the rest of the wedge we could not afford to skip it. Blocks 1 and 4 were skipped this week so the stocking rate is now 2.98 cows/ha.
- 2) Blocks 1 and 4 will be topped up with 15 units of CAN and will be baled in 2 weeks along with Block 2.
- 3) Ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1160 ($2.98 \times 18 \times 17 + 250$)
- 4) Blocks 11, 12 and 15 were cut for silage last week which is why their residual is less than 250kg, while Block 12 is a reseed.

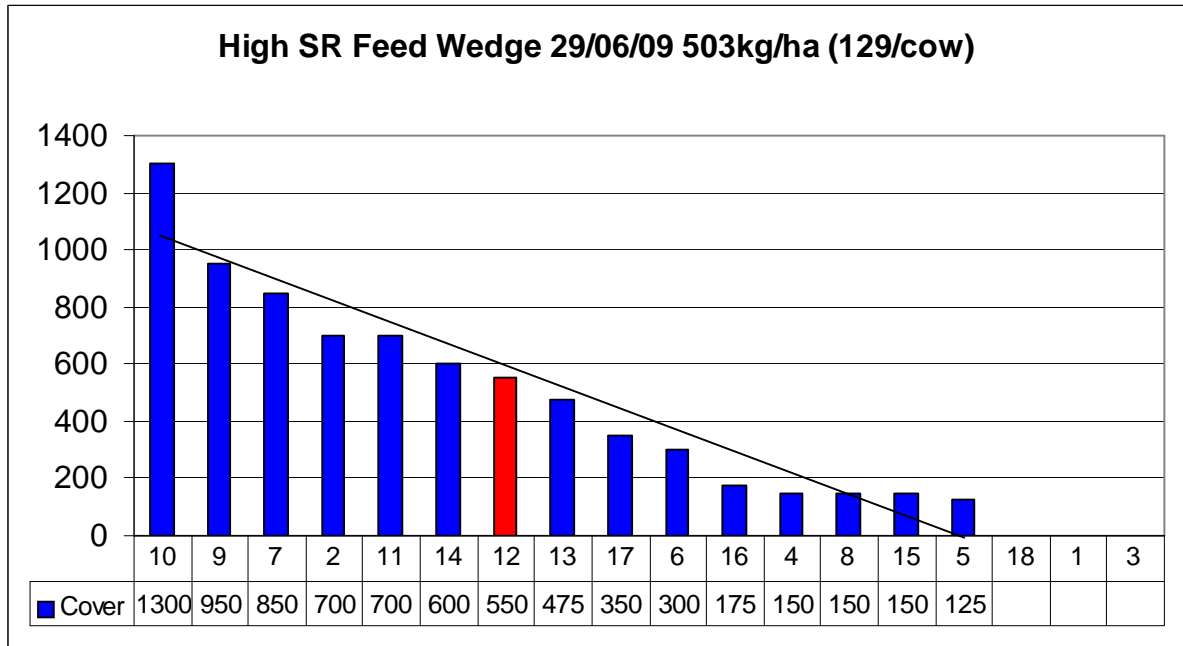
High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

- 3) Maintain post-grazing height at between 3 and 3.5cm
- 4) Maintain pre-grazing yield at 1050kg

Situation

Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 29/06/09



(Block 12, in red is currently being grazed)

1. Apart from the 1st and last blocks, we have a pretty even wedge. Blocks 18, 1 and 3 were skipped and will be cut for bale silage next week. Stocking rate is now 3.89 cows/ha and with an 18-day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1050kg ($15 \times 3.89 \times 18$).
2. Demand for this group is 58kg/day, growth over the past 7 days was 68kg/day. The expectation is that growth will continue at this rate for the next week so it is likely that further surpluses will emerge by next week.
3. As can be seen in the wedge we have failed to reach target residuals in the last two blocks with post grazing heights rising to over 4cm which is a cause for concern.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 18.3°C, last week 15.8°C.

2. Total rainfall for the week was 3.1mm.
3. Average weekly growth this week was 68kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 65kg/day.
4. Dry matter was 16% on Monday.
5. 15 units of CAN with 5 units Sulphur is being spread per acre after grazing. 112.6kg N/ha have been spread up to the 1st of June.
6. Breeding season commenced on Monday 20th April.
7. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.05%, Protein 3.44%, Lactose 4.63%, SCC 214k, TBC 10k, Thermoduric 190, 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.