

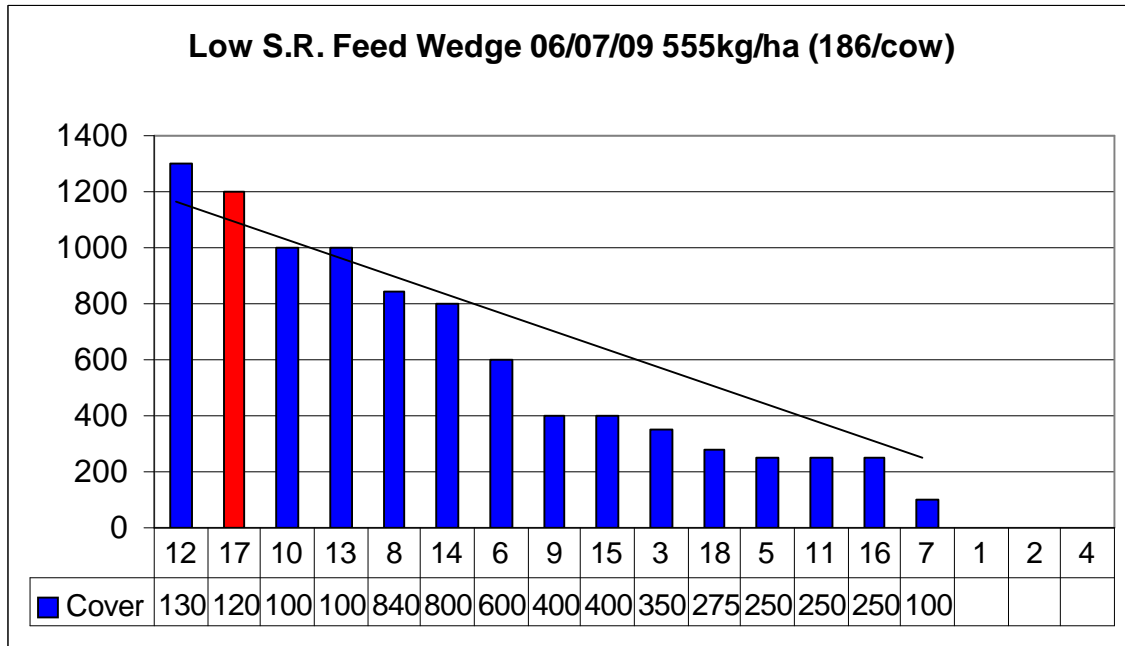
Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

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 06/07/09



(Block 17, in red is currently being grazed)

- 1) There is still a slight step in the wedge this week but we are not overly concerned about this for two reasons; firstly, it will be 8 days before we graze block 9 by which time the cover will be 1100. Secondly, bale silage will be cut in blocks 1, 2 and 4 this week which lower the stocking rate and demand.
- 2) Ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1160 ($2.98 * 18 * 17 + 250$)

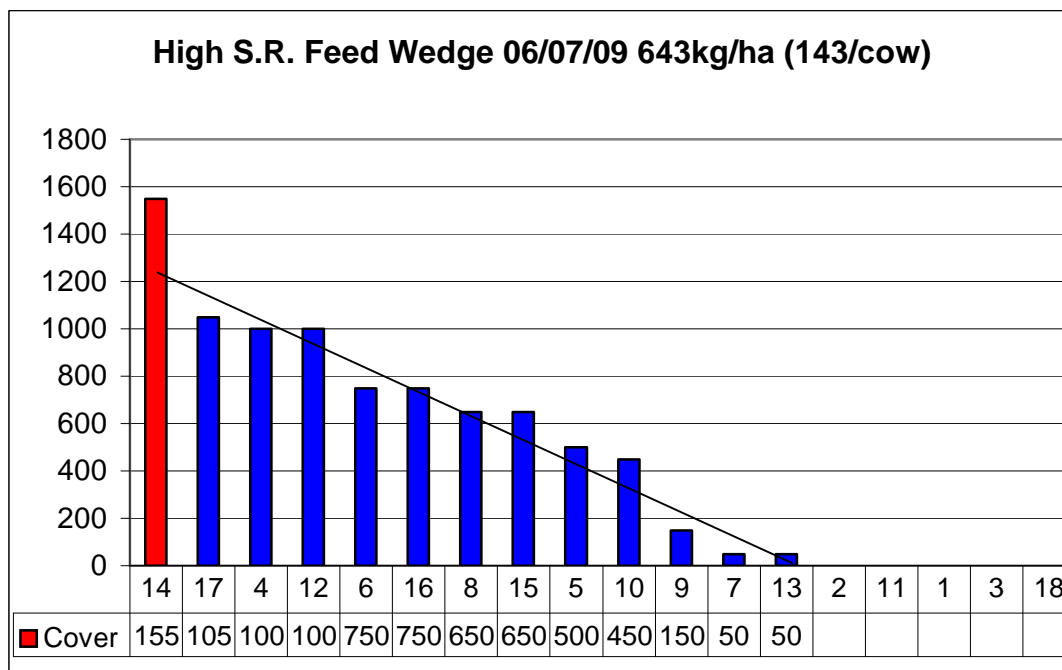
High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

- 3) **Maintain post-grazing height at between 3 and 3.5cm**
- 4) **Maintain pre-grazing yield at 1212kg**

Situation

Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 06/07/09



(Block 12, in red is currently being grazed)

1. Apart from the 1st block, we have a pretty even wedge. Block 14 was not skipped because although it had a very high cover, it was felt to be good enough quality for grazing. Blocks 2 and 11 were skipped instead as these were stemmy.
2. With 5 blocks now out for silage, stocking rate is now 4.49 cows/ha and with an 18-day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1212kg ($15 \times 4.49 \times 18$).
3. Silage will be cut on Tuesday, weather permitting.
4. Post grazing height is back on target at 3.56cm

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 17.8°C, last week 18.3°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 44.9mm.
3. Average weekly growth this week was 85kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 68kg/day.
4. Dry matter was 14% 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 4.12%, Protein 3.46%, Lactose 4.63%, SCC 268k, TBC 16k, Thermoturic 0, 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 between 1300 and 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.

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY, 05/07/09

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	26/2	24/2	22/2
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)	143	179	196	134	174	194
Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1200	1250	1550	1200	1250	1550
Residual grazing height (cm)	4.87	4.66	3.69	5.09	4.08	3.68
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)	1.59	1.44	1.24	1.61	1.37	1.39
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	20.2	19.4	17.5	21.6	20.3	18.8
% Fat	4.31	3.86	3.60	3.88	3.46	4.05
% Protein	3.64	3.56	3.55	3.61	3.34	3.39
Bodyweight (kg)	515	483	480	514	498	494
Condition Score	2.91	2.76	2.78	2.98	2.84	2.70

Cumulative:						
Milk solids (kg/cow)	248	224	215	215	202	222
(kg/ha)	622	654	705	540	590	728
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3266	2935	2858	2910	2771	2943
% Fat	4.17	4.28	4.13	3.97	3.97	4.20
% Protein	3.43	3.36	3.38	3.41	3.32	3.31
Days in milk	146	142	143	128	131	133
Total supplement fed (kg/cow)						
Concentrate	215	224	220	167	170	172
Silage	63	111	119	20	37	43
Conserved silage (kg DM /cow)	526	379	349	526	379	349
Bought in Silage (kg DM /cow)	417	417	417	417	417	417

Farmlet area (hectares)	9.17	7.87	7.01	9.17	7.87	7.01
Number of cows calved	23	23	23	23	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.