

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 14-07-09

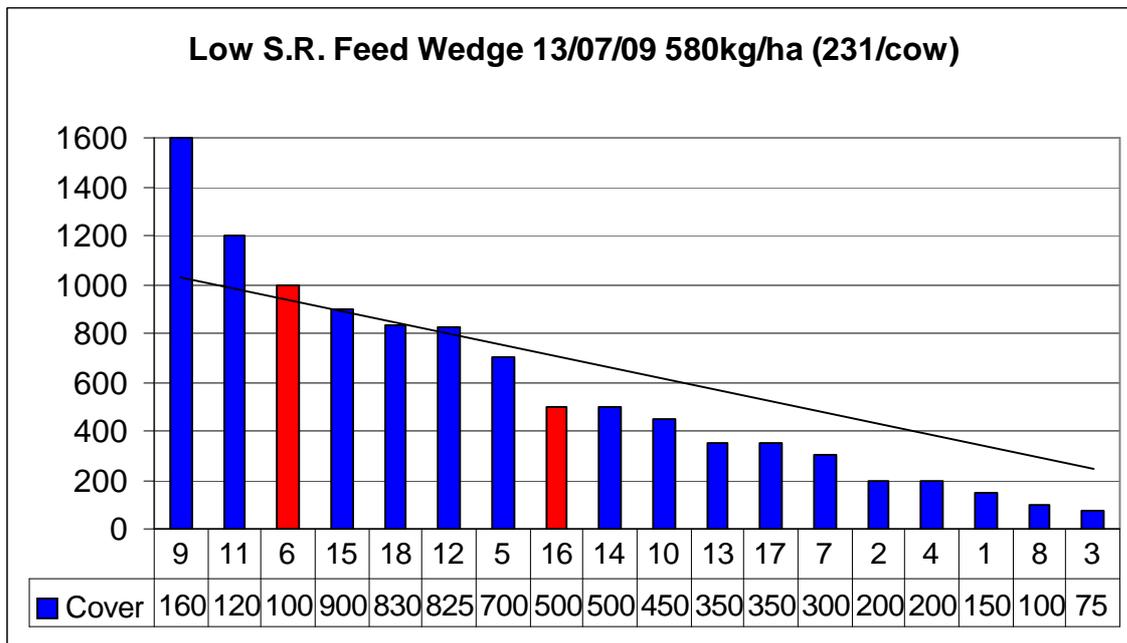
Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 5 – 5.5cm
- 2) Identify any surpluses and maintain pre-grazing yield at 1018kg

Situation

Figure 1. Farm Feed Wedge 13/07/09



- 1) As can be seen in the wedge we have a very high cover in the first block and a slight deficit in the second half of the wedge. Ordinarily, we would have skipped block 9 but because we are conducting a separate grazing experiment on this block we were unable to do so. Instead we have decided to skip blocks 6 and 16 because these are poor quality. They are still included in the wedge but will be skipped over if their pre-grazing yield is greater than 1018
- 2) The deficit in the second half of the wedge is due to the fact that the majority of the blocks have been cut for silage so the residual is now lower than 250kg.
- 3) Ideal pre-grazing yield is 1018kg ($2.51 \times 18 \times 17 + 250$)

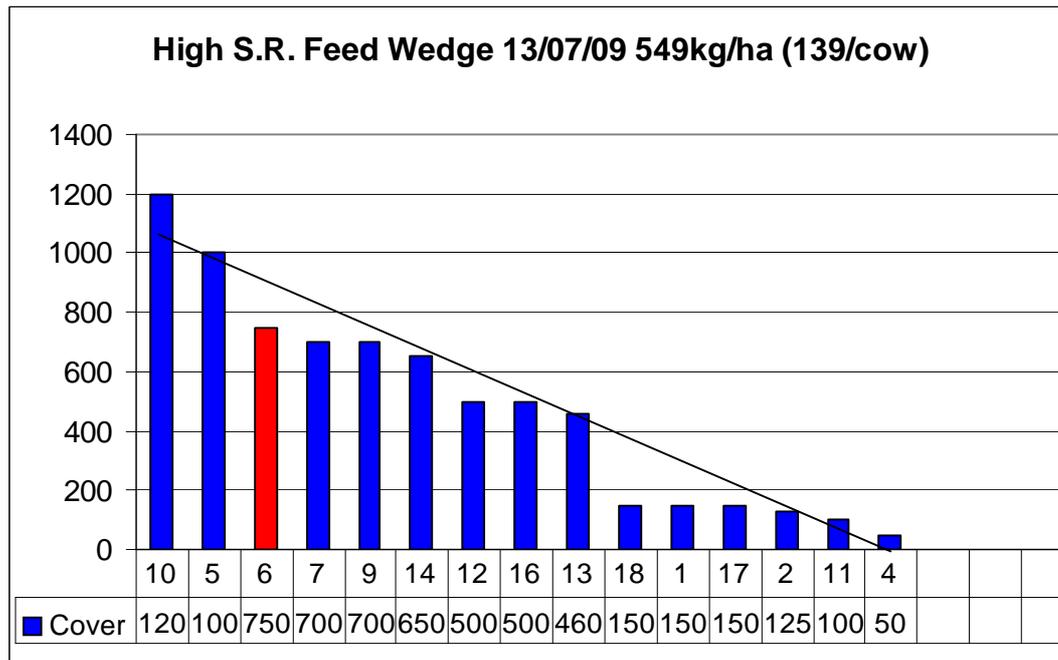
High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

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

Situation

Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 13/07/09



(Block 6, in red is currently being grazed)

1. Blocks 3, 8 and 15 were above the target line so were skipped and will be baled in the next 7 days, weather permitting.
2. With these 3 blocks now out for silage, stocking rate is now 3.94 cows/ha and with an 18-day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1063kg ($15 \times 3.94 \times 18$).
3. There is a slight step towards the end of the wedge because these 5 blocks were all cut for silage at the one time last week so they are growing back at the same rate and cover.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 16.8°C, last week 17.8°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 41.7mm.

3. Average weekly growth this week was 85kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 68kg/day.
4. Dry matter was 13.7% on Monday.
5. 20 units of CAN is being spread per acre after grazing. 170kg N/ha have been spread up to the 1st of July.
6. Breeding season commenced on Monday 20th April.
7. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 3.88%, Protein 3.31%, Lactose 4.56%, SCC 289k, TBC 16k, Thermoduric 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.

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.