

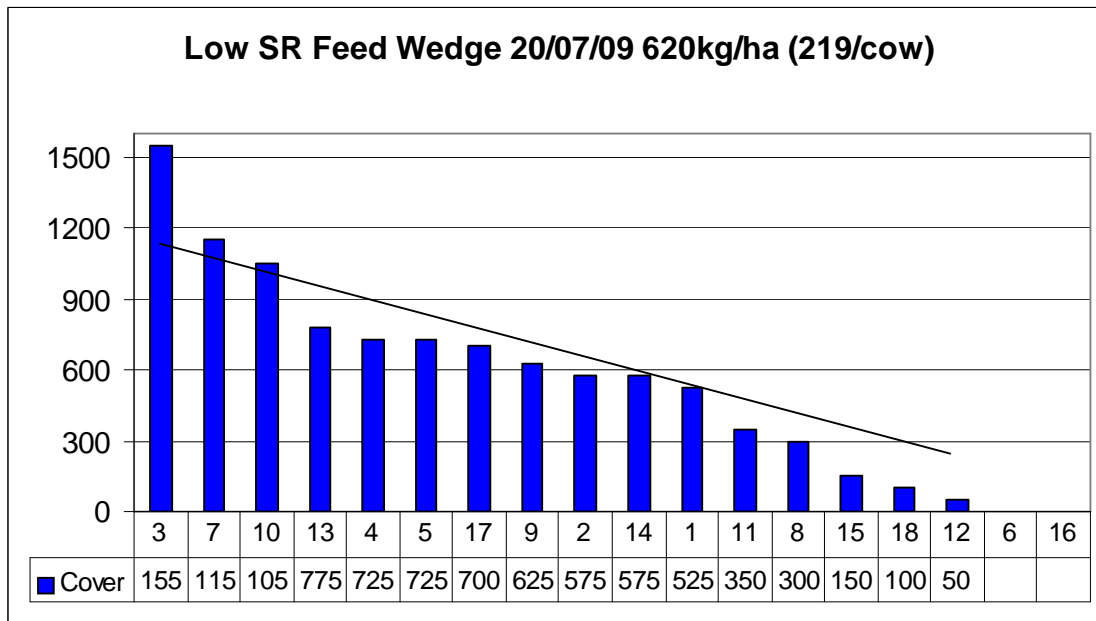
Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

- 1) **Maintain post-grazing height at between 5 – 5.5cm**
- 2) **Identify any surpluses and maintain pre-grazing yield at 1115kg**

Situation

Figure 1. Farm Feed Wedge 20/07/09



- 1) As can be seen in the wedge we have a fairly even wedge albeit with a high cover in the first block. This was not skipped as it is good quality aftergrass. The fact that it is above our target line means that the rotation length will slow down with the result that further surpluses will occur further down the wedge and these will be skipped.
- 2) We will walk the farmlot again on Friday and skip over a block that is poor quality and surplus to requirements
- 3) Blocks 6 and 16 were skipped last week and have been topped up with 15 units of CAN.
- 4) The deficit in the bottom 5 blocks of the wedge is due to the fact that these blocks have been cut for silage so the residual in the aftergrass is now lower than 250kg.
- 5) Ideal pre-grazing yield is 1115kg ($2.83 \times 18 \times 17 + 250$)

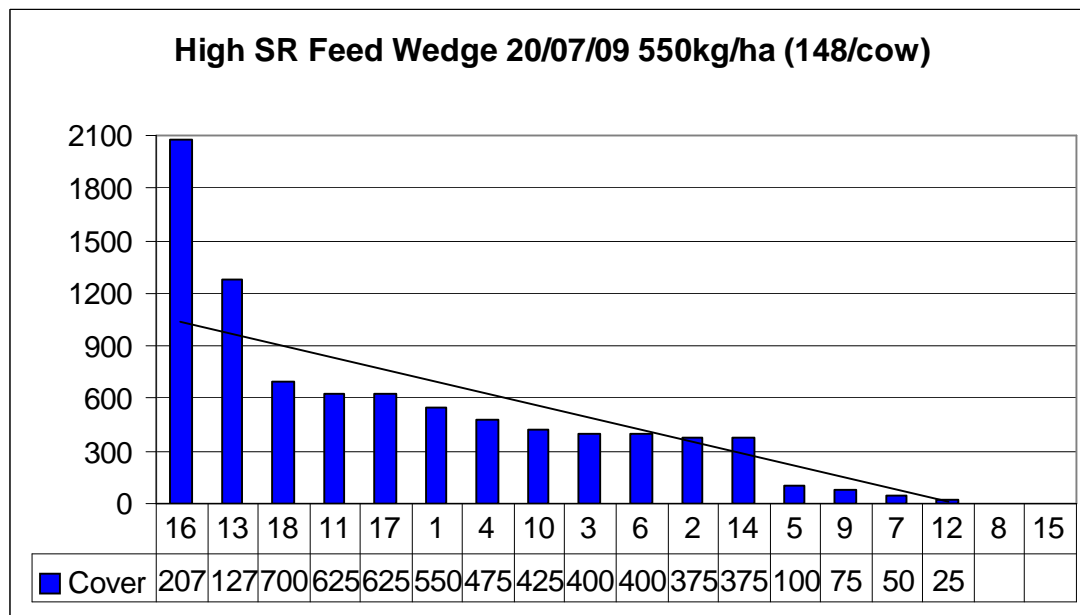
High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

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

Situation

Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 20/07/09



1. We made a mistake last week, block 16 should have been grazed on Thursday but block 7 was grazed instead (human error, they are side by side). The results of this error are illustrated in the wedge. We cannot justify skipping block 16 because if we do grass cover per cow falls to 108kg and we will fail to hit target pre-grazing covers.
2. We will graze block 16 as best we can, take a hit on the residual and bale this paddock next time around. It is highly likely that we will have surpluses in blocks 2 and 14 next week.
3. Blocks 8 and 15 are out for silage and have been topped up with 15 units of CAN. Stocking rate is now 3.71 cows/ha and with an 18-day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1000kg ($15 \times 3.94 \times 18$).

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 16.16°C, last week 16.8°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 16.1mm.
3. Average weekly growth this week was 73kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 60kg/day.
4. Dry matter was 14.1% 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 and will cease on the 22nd of July.
7. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.30%, Protein 3.47%, Lactose 4.65%, SCC 312k, 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.

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY, 19/07/09

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) | 219 | 182 | 148 | 218 | 183 | 143 |
| Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha) | 1550 | 950 | 1275 | 1550 | 950 | 1275 |
| Residual grazing height (cm) | 5.2 | 4.54 | 3.88 | 5.39 | 4.63 | 3.80 |
| 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) | 1.39 | 1.23 | 1.14 | 1.43 | 1.24 | 1.22 |
| Milk yield (kg/cow/day) | 18.9 | 15.6 | 15.2 | 19.8 | 17.1 | 15.9 |
| % Fat | 3.86 | 4.45 | 4.06 | 3.72 | 3.94 | 4.26 |
| % Protein | 3.57 | 3.53 | 3.54 | 3.53 | 3.37 | 3.45 |
| Bodyweight (kg) | 505 | 483 | 470 | 503 | 502 | 478 |
| Condition Score | 2.94 | 2.82 | 2.71 | 2.90 | 2.85 | 2.66 |

| Cumulative: | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Milk solids (kg/cow) | 268 | 242 | 232 | 236 | 220 | 239 |
| (kg/ha) | 673 | 707 | 761 | 592 | 642 | 784 |
| Milk yield (kg/cow) | 3532 | 3172 | 3082 | 3190 | 3019 | 3178 |
| % Fat | 4.16 | 4.29 | 4.13 | 3.97 | 3.97 | 4.19 |
| % Protein | 3.44 | 3.37 | 3.39 | 3.42 | 3.32 | 3.32 |
| Days in milk | 160 | 156 | 157 | 142 | 145 | 147 |
| Total supplement fed (kg/cow) | | | | | | |
| Concentrate | 215 | 224 | 220 | 167 | 170 | 172 |
| Silage | 63 | 111 | 119 | 20 | 37 | 43 |
| Conserved silage (kg DM /cow) | 696 | 489 | 449 | 696 | 489 | 449 |
| 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.