

## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 28-07-09

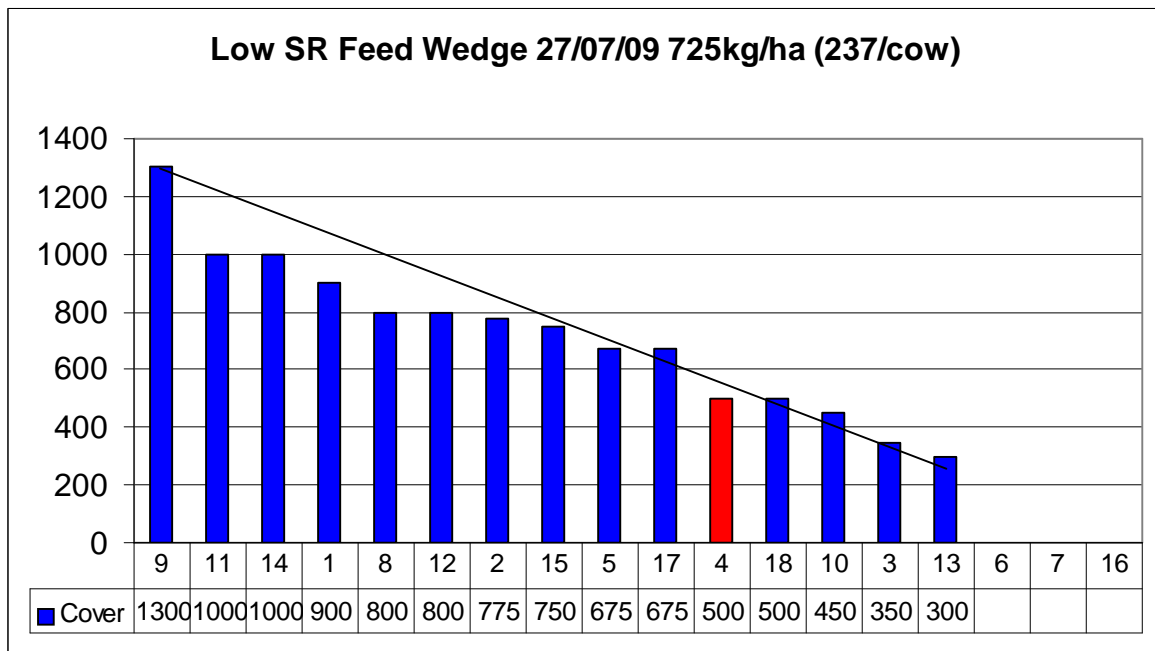
### Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

#### Critical Issues

- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 5 – 5.5cm
- 2) Identify any surpluses and maintain pre-grazing yield at 1290kg

#### Situation

Figure 1. Farm Feed Wedge 20/07/09



- 1) As can be seen in the figure 1, we have a dip in the first half of the wedge. We are not concerned about this as these blocks are all aftergrass which was cut low so most of the feed is available, i.e. the rotation length should not speed up in these blocks.
- 2) Block 7, which was grazed last week has been closed for reseeding.
- 3) Block 4 (in red) is currently being grazed by the cows.
- 4) Blocks 6 and 16 will be cut and baled as soon as weather conditions allow.
- 5) Ideal pre-grazing yield is 1290kg ( $3.06 \times 20 \times 17 + 250$ )

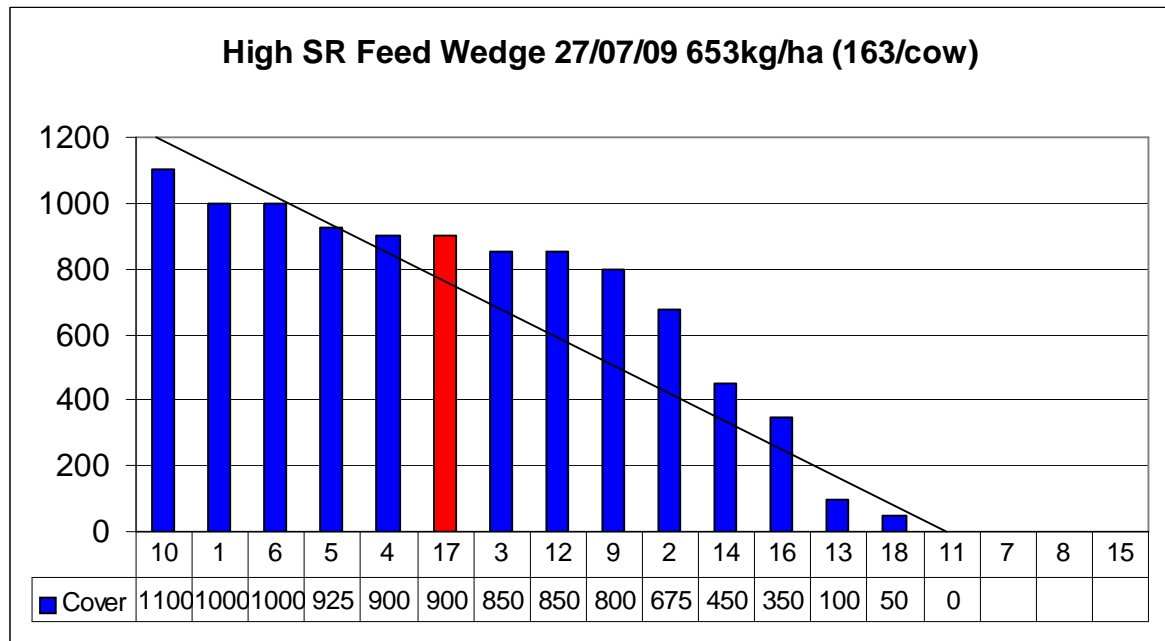
## High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

### 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 27/07/09



1. Cows are currently grazing Block 17 (in red). Block 10 will have 1200kg by the time the cows enter it. As can be seen in figure 2, there is a surplus emerging in the second half of the wedge. We will walk the farmlet again on Friday and depending on growth rates we will probably skip a block that is in surplus.
2. Blocks 8 and 15 will be cut for silage as soon as weather conditions allow. Block 7 has been closed for reseeding.
3. Stocking rate is now 4 cows/ha and with a 20-day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1200kg ( $15 \times 4 \times 20$ ).

### Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 16.9°C, last week 16.2°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 24mm.

3. Average weekly growth this week was 79kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 56kg/day.
4. Average dry matter was 13.9% on Monday, dry matter in this years Bealey reseed was 11.7%.
5. 20 units of CAN is being spread per acre after grazing. 170kg N/ha have been spread up to the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.
6. Breeding season commenced on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April and ceased on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of July (13 weeks).
7. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.16%, Protein 3.63%, Lactose 4.68%, SCC 305k, TBC 18k, Thermotolerant 80, 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. Spray block 7 with glyphosate on Friday. This will be reseeded with Tyrella and clover late next week.