

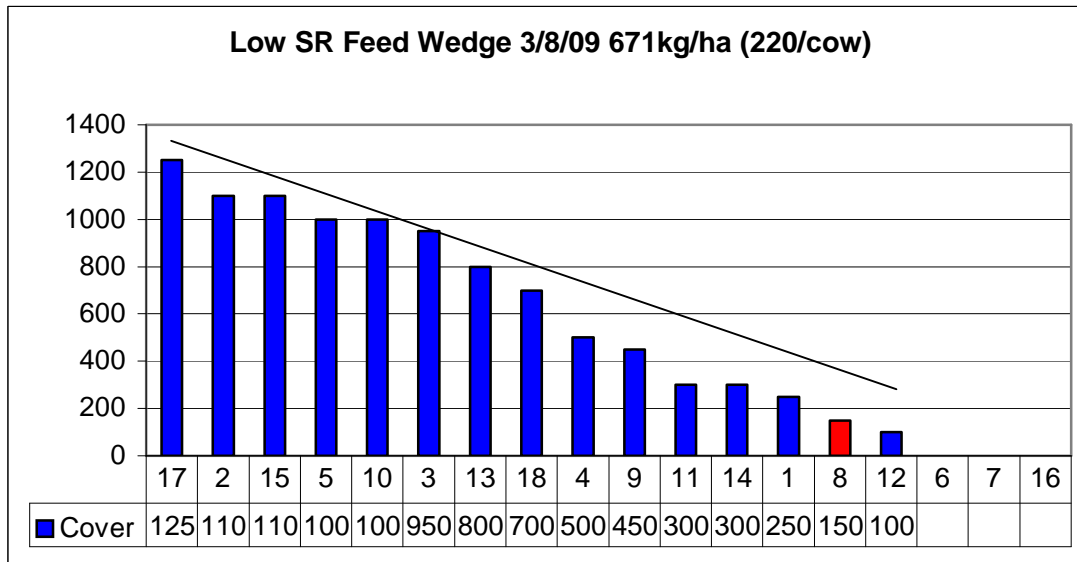
**Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)**

**Critical Issues**

- 1) **Maintain post-grazing height at between 5 – 5.5cm**
- 2) **Identify any surpluses and maintain pre-grazing yield at 1342kg**

**Situation**

**Figure 1. Farm Feed Wedge 03/08/09**



- 1) As can be seen in the figure 1, we have a fairly even wedge which is just slightly lower than target. No paddocks have been skipped this week and stocking rate is now 3.06 cows/ha.
- 2) Block 7, which was grazed last week has been sprayed off for reseeding, it will be ploughed this week.
- 3) Block 8 (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 1342kg ( $3.06 * 21 * 17 + 250$ )

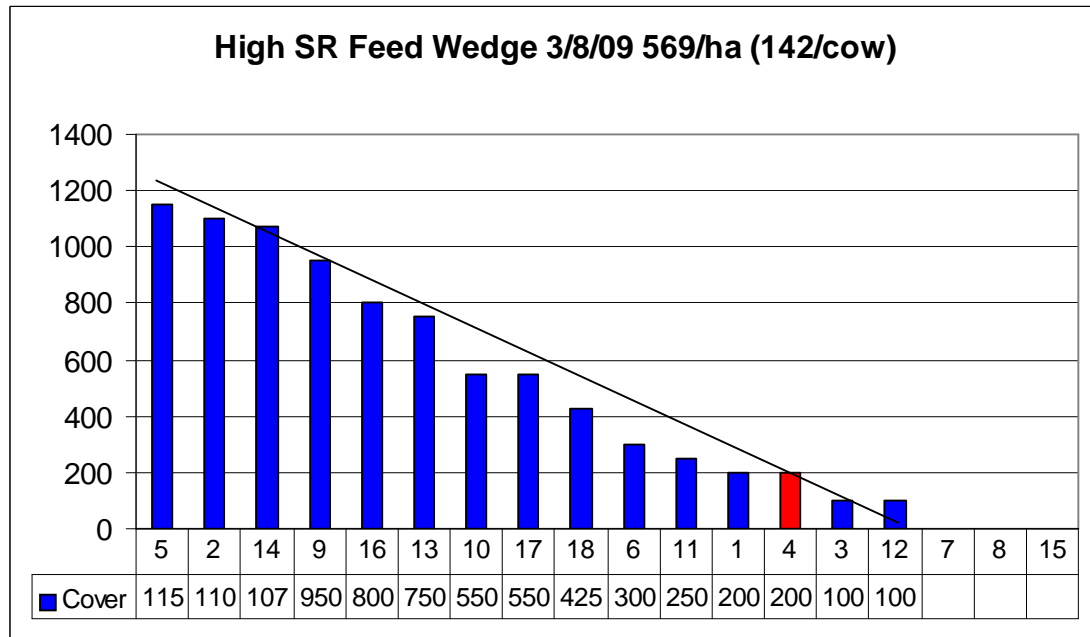
## High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

### Critical Issues

- 3) Maintain post-grazing height at between 3 and 3.5cm
- 4) Maintain pre-grazing yield at 1260kg

### Situation

Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 03/08/09



1. Cows are currently grazing Block 4 (in red). We have a very even wedge this week with no surpluses.
2. Blocks 8 and 15 will be cut for silage as soon as weather conditions allow. Block 7 has been sprayed off for reseeding.
3. Stocking rate is now 4 cows/ha and with a 21 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1260kg ( $15 \times 4 \times 21$ ).

### Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 15.76°C, last week 16.9°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 35.9mm.
3. Average weekly growth this week was 56kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 60kg/day. This week's growth is back from 79kg last week and is a reflection of soil temperatures reducing and soil becoming waterlogged.
4. Dry matters were 13% on Monday evening.
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 4.19%, Protein 3.58%, Lactose 4.66%, SCC 260k, TBC 18k, Thermoduric N/D, Sediment A.
8. Critical Short-term Actions:
  - a. Cows are on 36-hour allocations.
  - b. Cut silage as soon as weather conditions allow.
  - c. Plough block 7. This will be reseeded with Tyrella and Crusader clover.

## **EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY, 02/08/09**

*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 (€)
<b>Average</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-3</b>

*(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

<b>Week Details:</b>						
Area allocated (m <sup>2</sup> /day)	2400	2000	1800	2400	2000	1800
Farmlet cover (kg DM/cow)	220	184	142	226	182	141
Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1100	1000	1100	1100	1000	1100
Residual grazing height (cm)	3.56	4.35	3.56	4.94	4.70	3.10
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)	1.44	1.34	1.13	1.41	1.26	1.27
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	19.1	17.1	15.3	19.9	18.0	16.8
% Fat	3.87	4.26	3.78	3.50	3.56	4.03
% Protein	3.70	3.68	3.68	3.66	3.53	3.53
Bodyweight (kg)	544	494	482	543	514	490
Condition Score	2.93	2.73	2.66	2.85	2.78	2.65

<b>Cumulative:</b>						
Milk solids (kg/cow)	288	260	248	256	237	257
(kg/ha)	723	759	813	643	692	843
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3800	3391	3296	3470	3256	3415
% Fat	4.13	4.30	4.11	3.95	3.96	4.17
% Protein	3.45	3.38	3.41	3.43	3.33	3.33
Days in milk	174	170	171	156	159	161
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.**