

## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 11-08-09

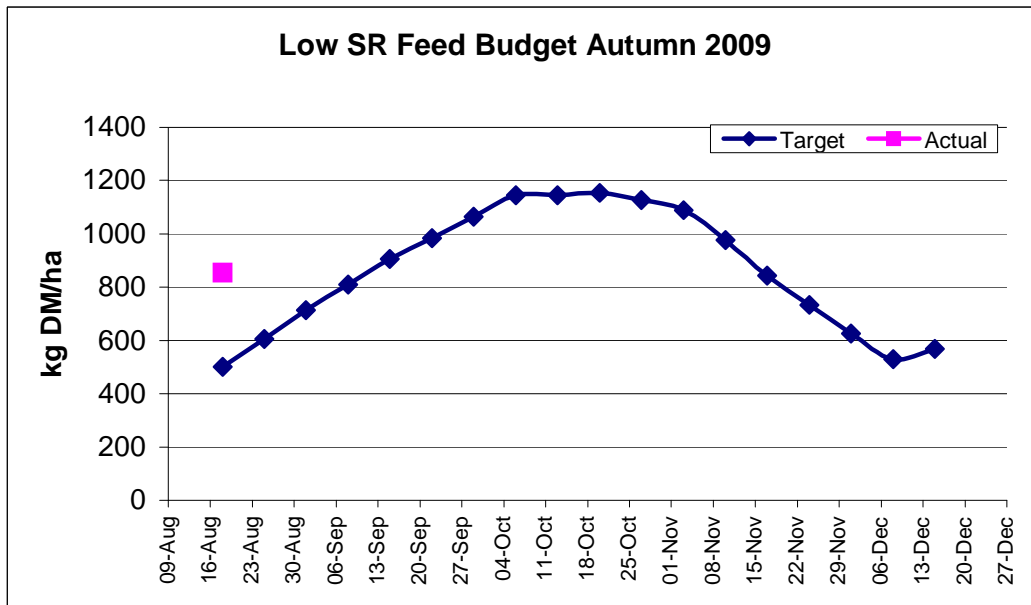
### Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

#### Critical Issues

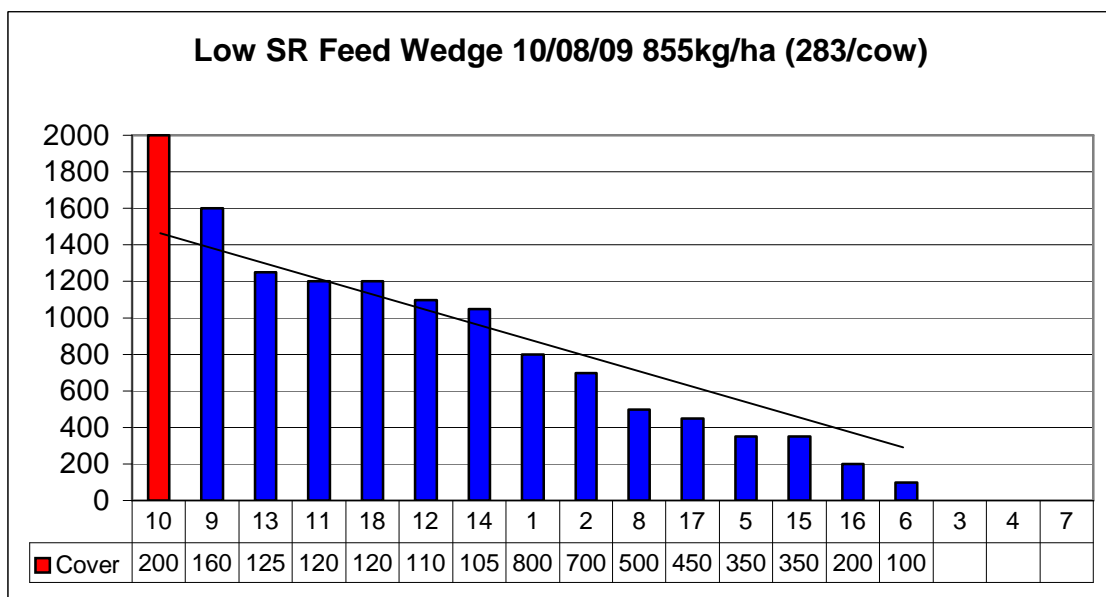
- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 5 – 5.5cm
- 2) Identify any surpluses and maintain pre-grazing yield at 1430kg

#### Situation

**Figure 1. Autumn Feed Budget**



**Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 10/08/09**



- 1) As can be seen in the figure 1, we are well above target in terms of farm cover. This is after removing blocks 3 and 4 which were above the target line in the feed wedge (Figure 2). Therefore we still have surpluses but have decided not to skip any more blocks for the moment but will review the situation on Friday.
- 2) While growth rates are extremely good at present, we are hesitant about closing too much ground for silage at once at this time of year. The reasons for this are, firstly, daylight hours are reducing fast which will have knock on effects for growth and secondly, weather is variable so there is no guarantee we will get silage cut when we would like, i.e. the situation can swing quickly from one of surplus to deficit.
- 3) Therefore, we are going to stick with our plan of slowly increasing rotation length. We are currently on a 23 day round and will increase this by about 3 to 4 days per week until the end of September by which time we will be on a 45 day round.
- 4) Block 3 and 4 will be cut late next week, blocks 6 and 16 were cut last Thursday. Block 7 was reseeded on Thursday.
- 5) Block 10 (in red) is currently being grazed by the cows.
- 6) Ideal pre-grazing yield is 1430kg ( $3.02 \times 23 \times 17 + 250$ )

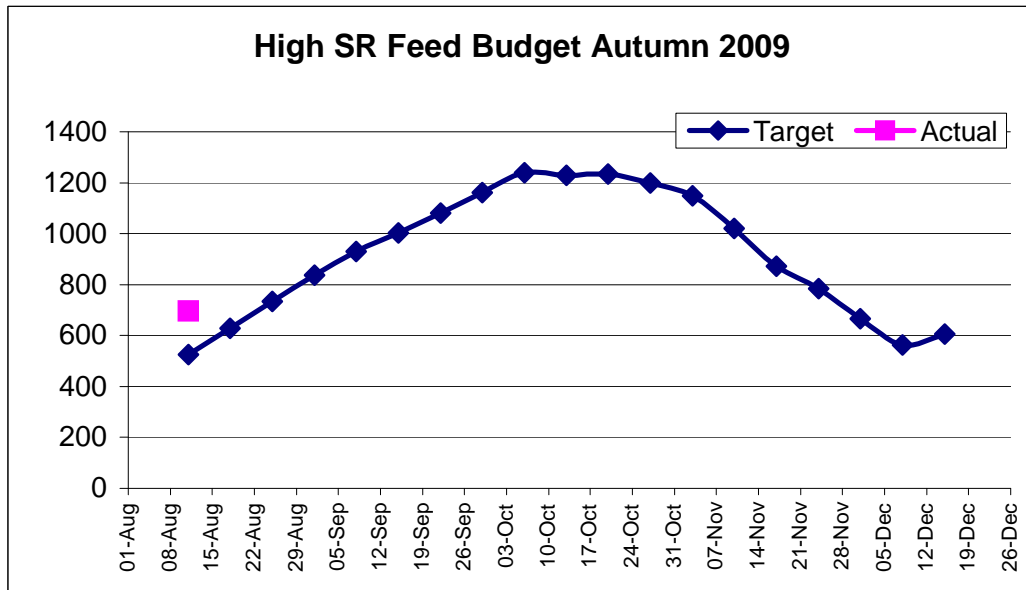
**High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)**

**Critical Issues**

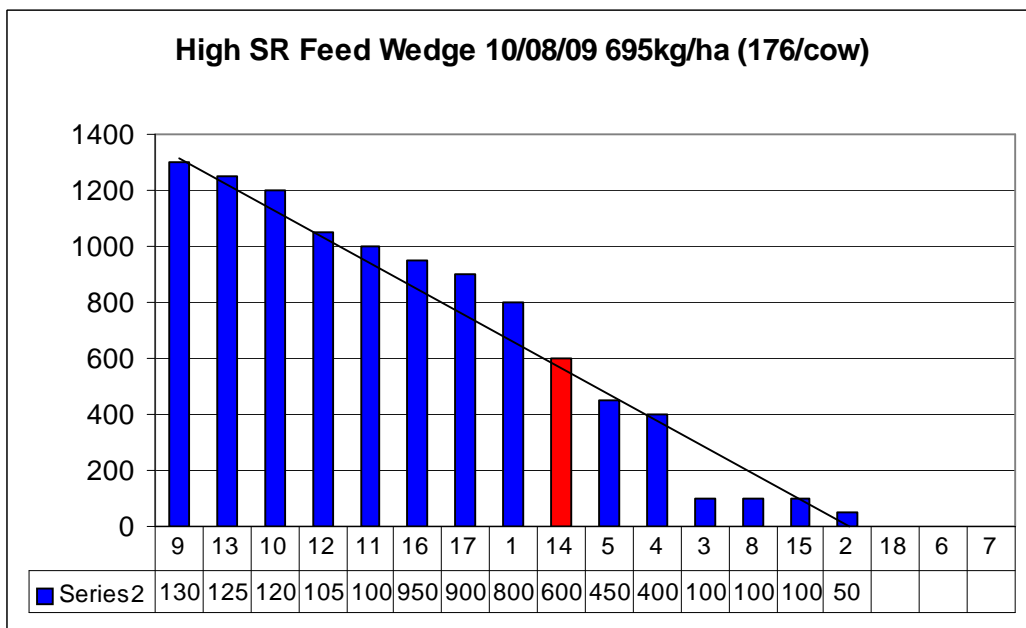
- 3) Maintain post-grazing height at between 3 and 3.5cm
- 4) Maintain pre-grazing yield at 1260kg

**Situation**

**Figure 3. Autumn Feed Budget**



**Figure 4. Farm Feed Wedge 10/08/09**



1. Similar situation to the low stocking rate in that we are well above target farm cover even after removing two blocks for silage. Blocks 6 and 18 will be cut late next week. Cows are currently grazing Block 14 (in red).
2. There is a step towards the bottom of the wedge because blocks 8 and 15 were both cut for silage last Thursday.
3. Rotation length is currently at 23 days and like the low stocking rate will increase weekly up to 45 days by end of September.
4. Stocking rate is now 3.96 cows/ha and with a 23 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1366kg ( $15 \times 3.96 \times 23$ ).

### **Whole Farm Situation**

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 16.84°C, last week 15.76°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 11mm.
3. Average weekly growth this week was 77kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 60kg/day. This week's growth is up from 56kg last week and is a reflection of soil temperatures increasing.
4. Dry matters were 13% on Monday evening.
5. 20 units of CAN is being spread per acre after grazing. 205kg N/ha have been spread up to the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.
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 4.36%, Protein 3.63%, Lactose 4.59%, SCC 280k, TBC 18k, Thermotolerant 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.