

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 1480kg

Situation

Figure 1. Autumn Feed Budget

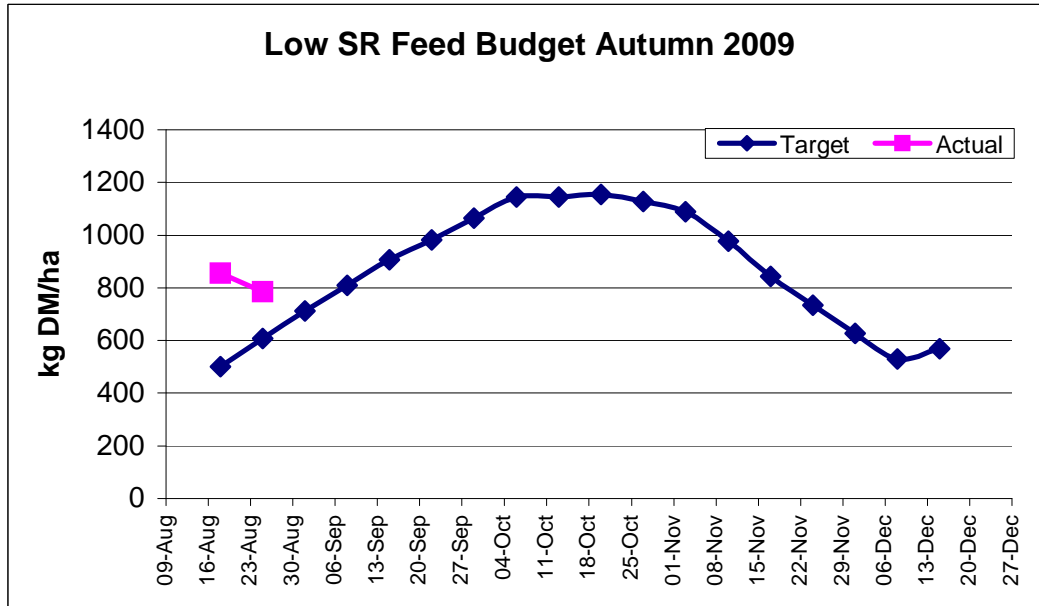
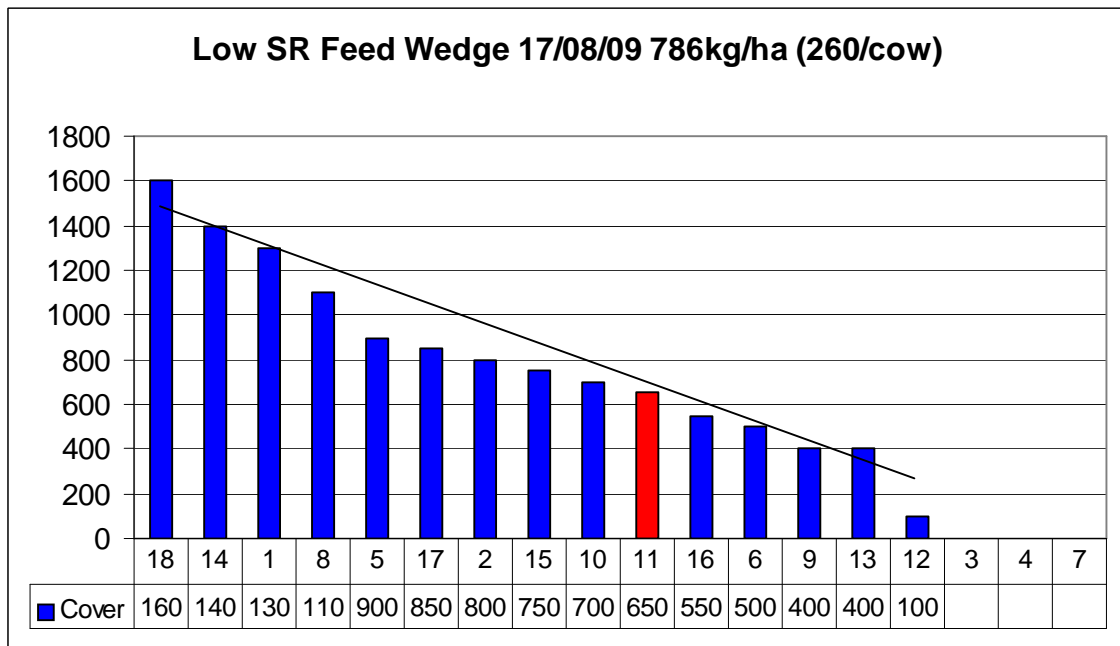


Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 17/08/09



- 1) As can be seen in the figure 1, we are still above target in terms of farm cover but it is reducing and coming back on target. We have a reasonably even feed wedge (Figure 2) so no blocks have been skipped over this week.
- 2) Blocks 3 and 4 will be cut and baled at the end of this week, weather permitting. Block 11 in red is currently being grazed by the cows.
- 3) Rotation length has increased to 24 days, target for the end of the month is 28 days and target for end of September is 45 days.
- 4) Ideal pre-grazing yield is 1480kg ($3.02 \times 24 \times 17 + 250$)

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 1425kg

Situation

Figure 3. Autumn Feed Budget

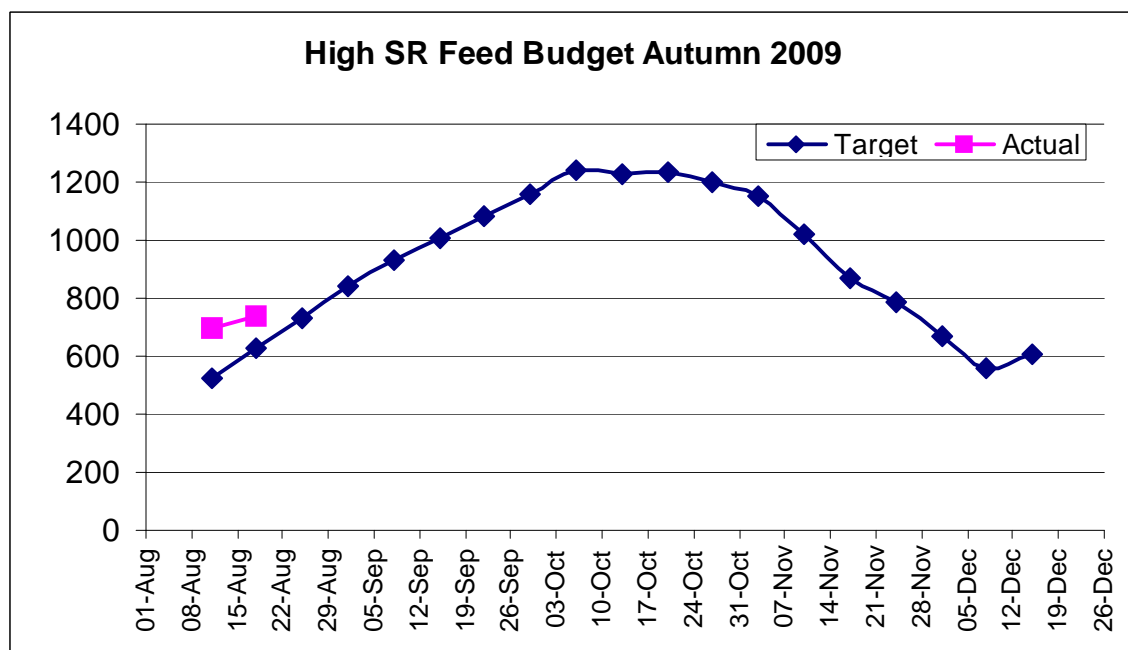
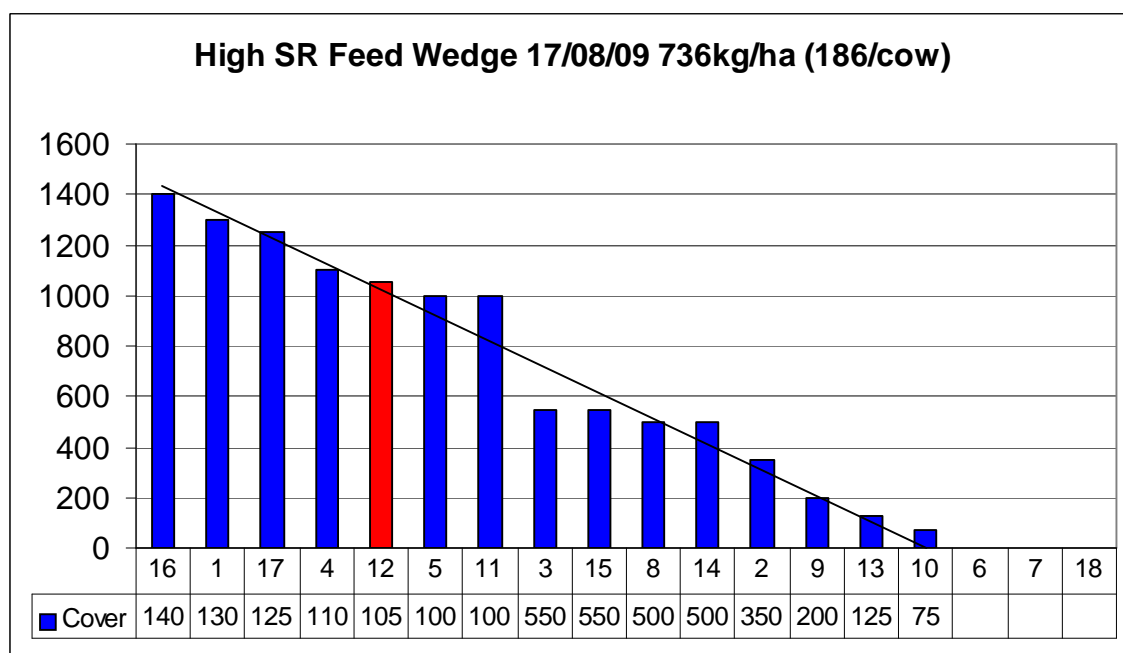


Figure 4. Farm Feed Wedge 17/08/09



1. We are still above target in terms of farm cover but have an even shaped wedge so no blocks have been removed for silage this week. Blocks 6 and 18 will be cut later this week. Cows are currently grazing Block 12 (in red).
2. Rotation length is currently at 24 days and like the low stocking rate will increase weekly up to 45 days by end of September.
3. Stocking rate is now 3.96 cows/ha and with a 24 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1425kg ($15 \times 3.96 \times 24$).

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 17.3°C, last week 16.84°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 7.4mm.
3. Average weekly growth this week was 65kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 50kg/day.
4. Dry matters were 14.9% on Monday evening.
5. 20 units of CAN is being spread per acre after grazing. 205kg N/ha have been spread up to the 1st of August.
6. Breeding season commenced on Monday 20th April and ceased on Monday 20th of July (13 weeks).

7. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.28%, Protein 3.66%, Lactose 4.72%, SCC 284k, TBC 11k, Thermoturic 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. Maintain post-grazing height at desired level. As pre-grazing yields are increasing this is becoming increasingly harder to achieve.

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY, 16/08/09

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 (€)
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)	260	225	186	275	211	191
Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1600	1800	1400	1600	1800	1400
Residual grazing height (cm)	5.67	4.97	4.20	6.44	4.77	3.90
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)	1.45	1.29	1.11	1.35	1.25	1.19
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	17.9	15.6	13.9	18.1	16.6	15.5
% Fat	4.32	4.64	4.27	3.75	3.99	4.18
% Protein	3.76	3.75	3.74	3.76	3.61	3.62
Bodyweight (kg)	538	515	503	534	524	518
Condition Score	2.93	2.73	2.66	2.85	2.78	2.65

Cumulative:						
Milk solids (kg/cow)	307	278	264	275	256	273
(kg/ha)	771	812	866	690	748	895
Milk yield (kg/cow)	4049	3610	3498	3725	3495	3636
% Fat	4.13	4.31	4.13	3.94	3.97	4.15
% Protein	3.47	3.40	3.43	3.45	3.35	3.35
Days in milk	188	184	185	170	173	175
Total supplement fed (kg/cow)						
Concentrate	215	224	220	167	170	172
Silage	63	111	119	20	37	43
Conserved silage (kg DM /cow)	807	585	535	807	585	535
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.