

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 08-09-09

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 1850kg

Situation

Figure 1. Autumn Feed Budget

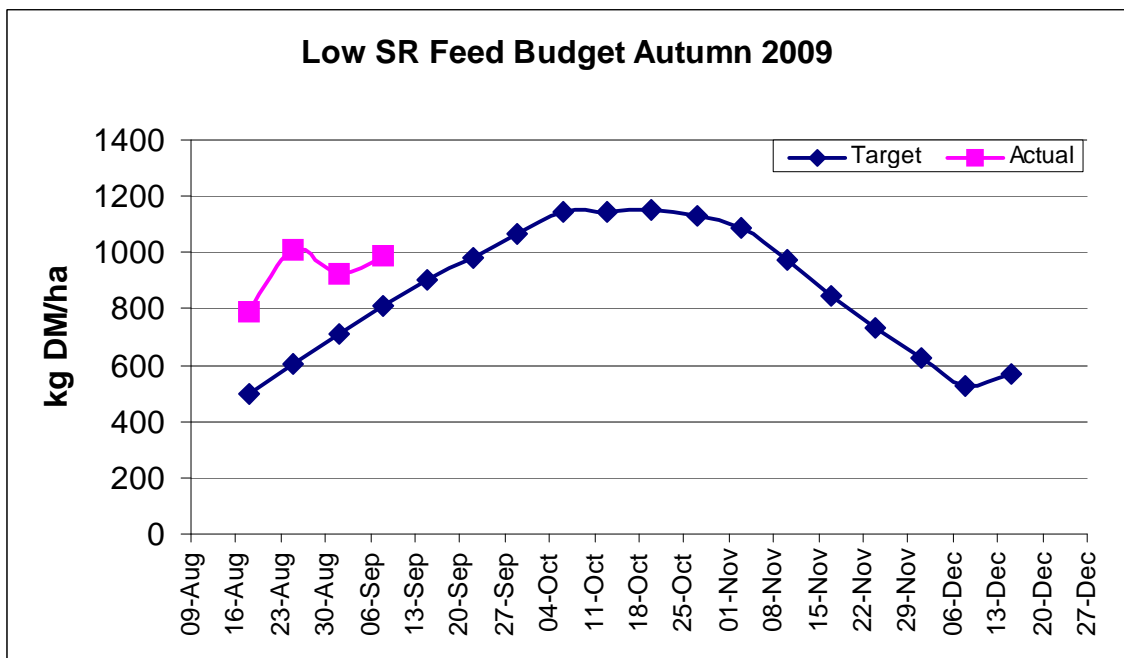
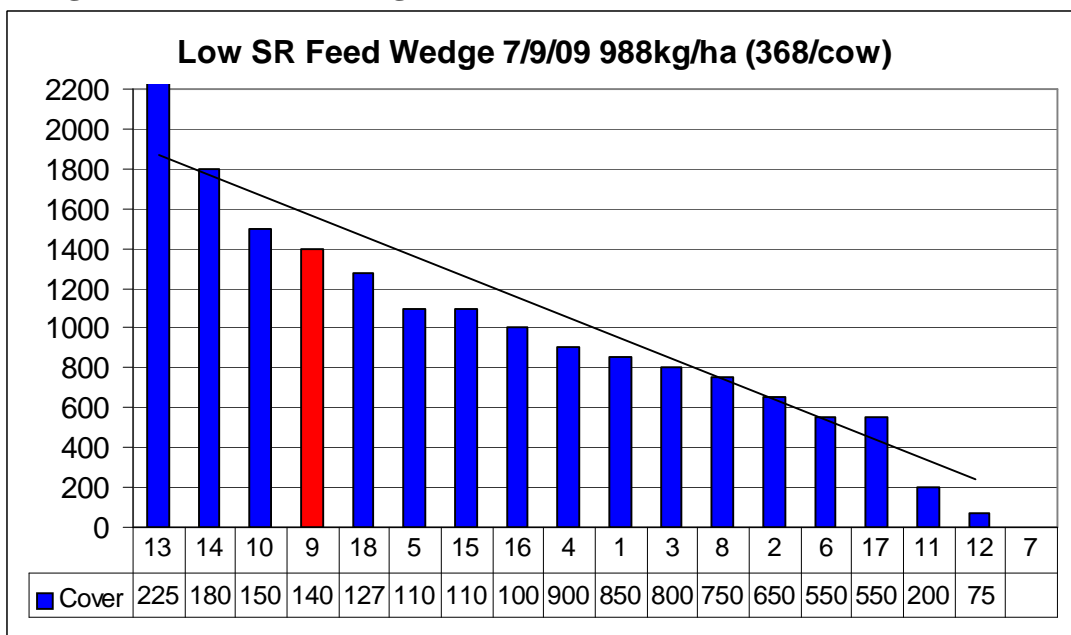


Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 07/09/09



- 1) As can be seen in the figure 1, we are still well above target in terms of farm cover. We have a relatively even shaped feed wedge (Figure 2) with a surplus at the start but a slight deficit thereafter.
- 2) Block 9 (in red) is currently being grazed by cows.
- 3) Rotation length has increased to 35 days, target for end of September is 45 days.
- 4) Ideal pre-grazing yield is 1850kg ($2.69 \times 35 \times 17 + 250$)
- 5) The post-grazing yield in Block 12 is lower than target but it was reseeded in spring so we target a lower residual in this block to enable further tillering.

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 1840kg**

Situation

Figure 3. Autumn Feed Budget

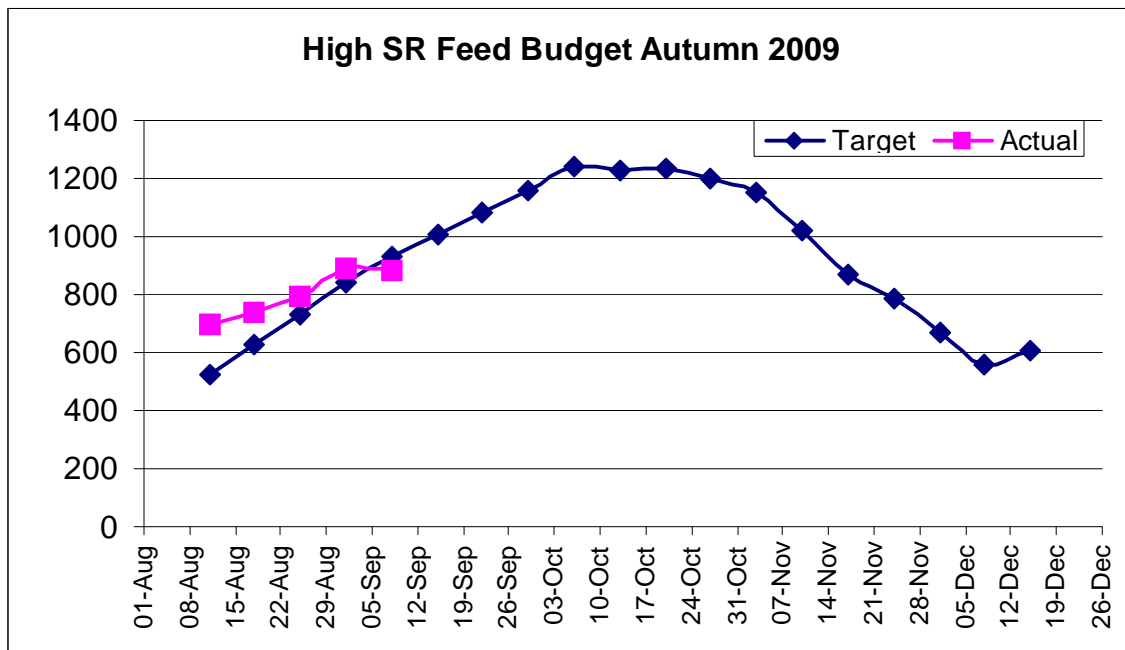
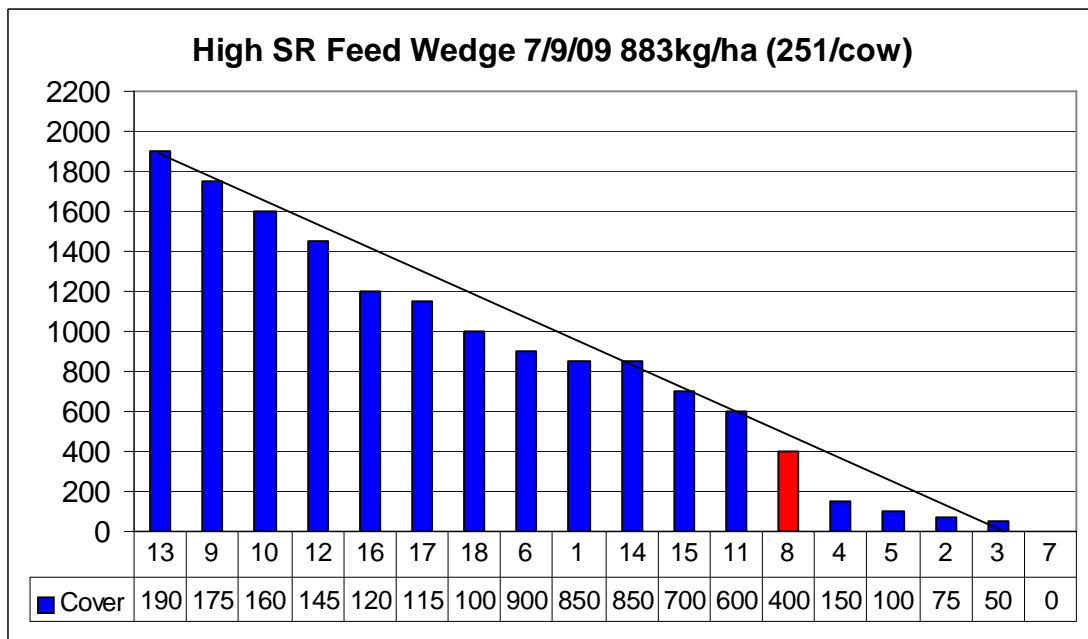


Figure 4. Farm Feed Wedge 07/09/09



1. We are slightly below target in terms of farm cover (Figure 3) but have a very even shaped wedge (Figure 4). Block 5 was cut for baled silage last Friday.
2. Block 8 (in red) is currently being grazed by cows
3. Rotation length is currently at 35 days and like the low stocking rate will increase weekly up to 45 days by end of September.
4. Stocking rate is now 3.51 cows/ha and with a 30 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1842kg ($15 \times 3.51 \times 30$).

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 14.26°C, last week 14.94°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 36.1mm.
3. All cows were housed on Wednesday night at 9pm with no silage, 2kg of concentrate was fed on Thursday morning, cows have been out fulltime since with no concentrates.
4. Average weekly growth this week was 76kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 59kg/day.
5. Dry matters were 12.9% on Monday morning.
6. 20 units of CAN is being spread per acre after grazing. We are going to blanket spread approximately 25% of the farm this week. This will bring us up to the 250kg N/ha limit by the 12th of September.

7. Breeding season commenced on Monday 20th April and ceased on Monday 20th of July (13 weeks).
8. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.58%, Protein 3.84%, Lactose 4.65%, SCC 312k, TBC 18k, Thermotolerant 7, Sediment B.
9. Critical Short-term Actions:
 - a. Cows are currently on 24-hour allocations.
 - b. If ground conditions deteriorate we will move to 12-hour blocks and/or on/off grazing.
 - c. Graze block 7 (reseed) as soon as weather and ground conditions improve
 - d. Maintain post-grazing height at desired level. As pre-grazing yields are increasing this is becoming increasingly harder to achieve.