

## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 15-09-09

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

#### Critical Issues

- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 5 – 5.5cm
- 2) Maintain pre-grazing yield at 1956kg and rotation length at 40 days

#### Situation

Figure 1. Autumn Feed Budget

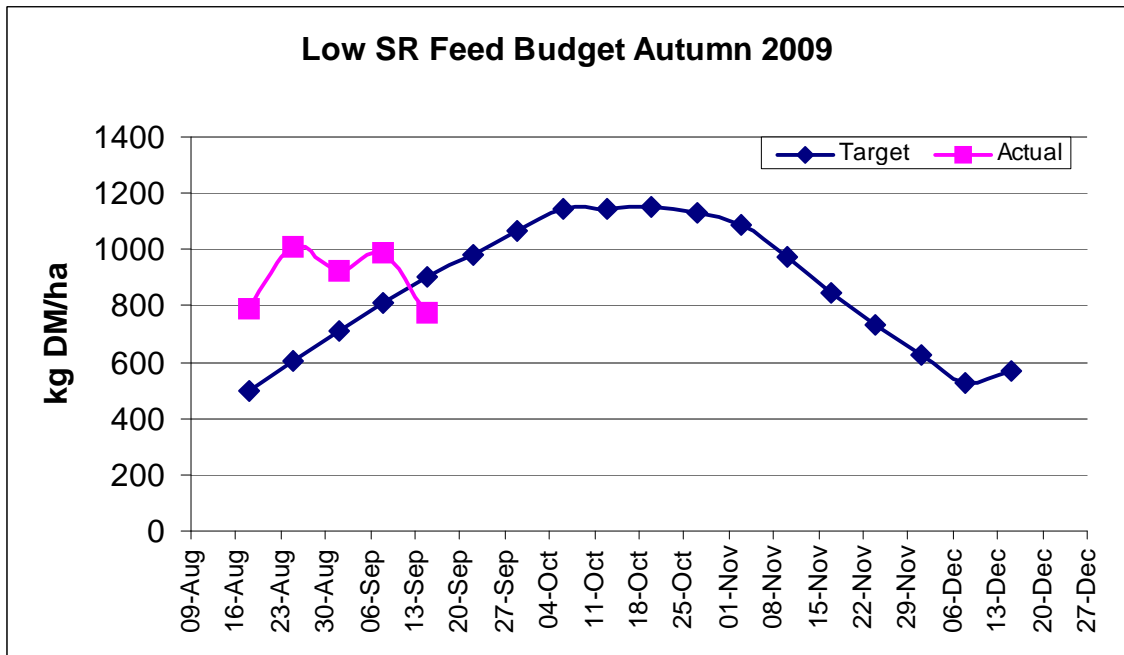
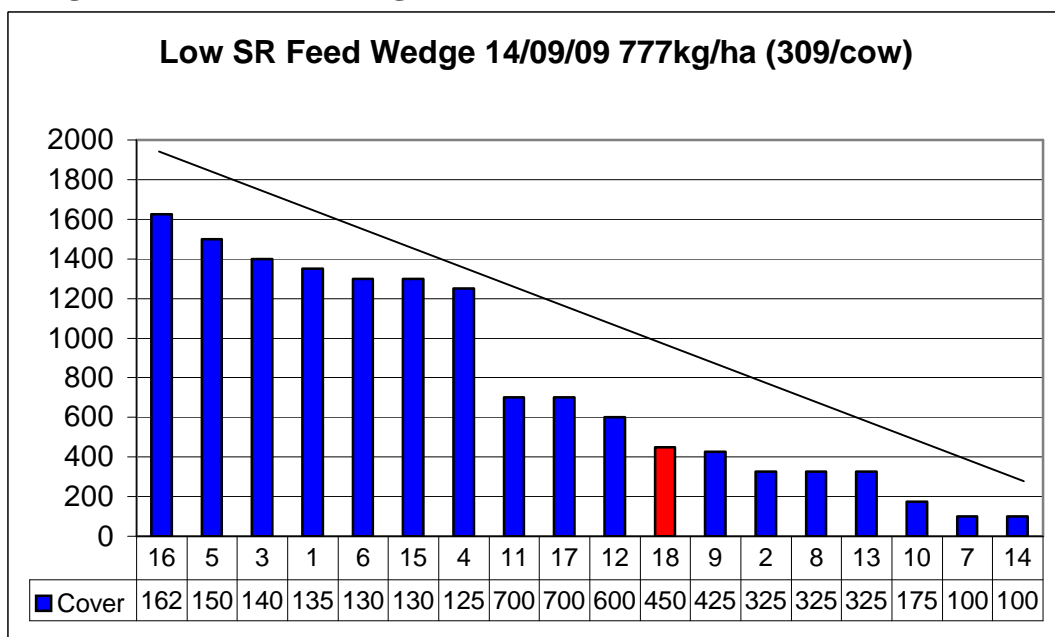


Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 14/09/09



- 1) As can be seen in figure 1, we are well below target in terms of farm cover (777kg versus 906kg). This deficit is also reflected in the feed wedge (Figure 2).
- 2) This is a major turnaround in the space of a week and is a result of a huge reduction in growth as a result of falling soil and night-time air temperatures. Soil temperatures at 10am are around 13°C and while daytime air temperatures are high in the sun, air temperatures at night reach 5 degrees under clear skies.
- 3) 3kg of concentrate is being fed per cow per day in order to slow down the rotation.
- 4) Growth rate for this farmlet was 47kg/day
- 5) Block 18 (in red) is currently being grazed by the cows.
- 6) Rotation length has increased to 40 days, target for end of September is 45 days.
- 7) Ideal pre-grazing yield is 1956kg ( $2.51 \times 40 \times 17 + 250$ )
- 8) Block 7 was grazed on Friday and is now back in the system after being reseeded, this is earlier than original planned.

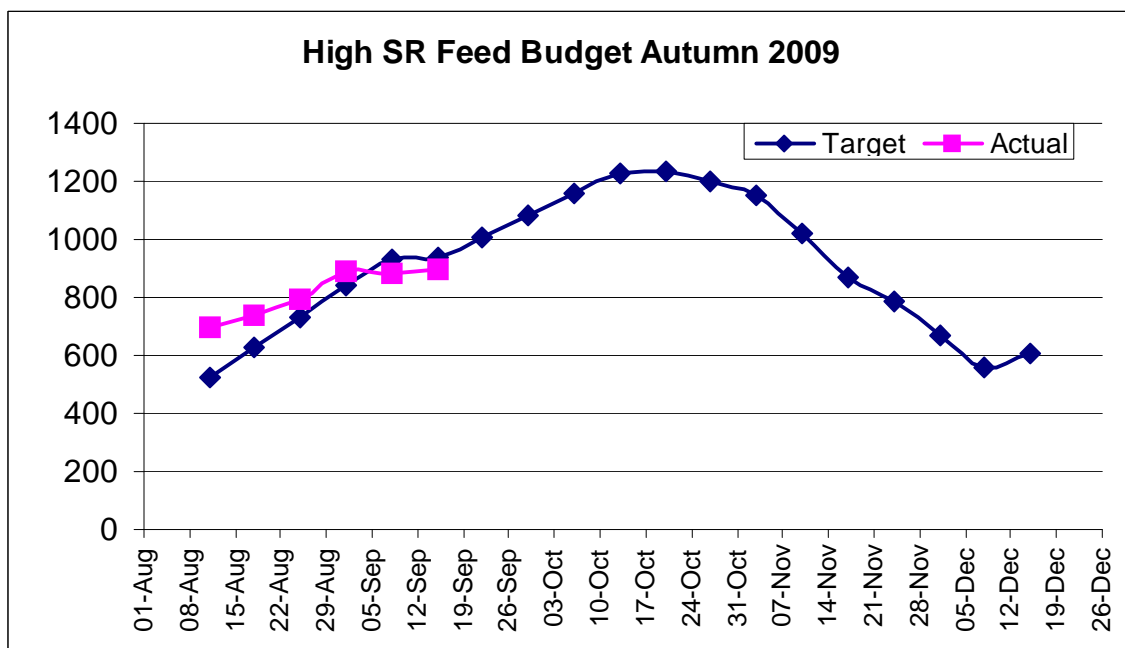
### High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

#### Critical Issues

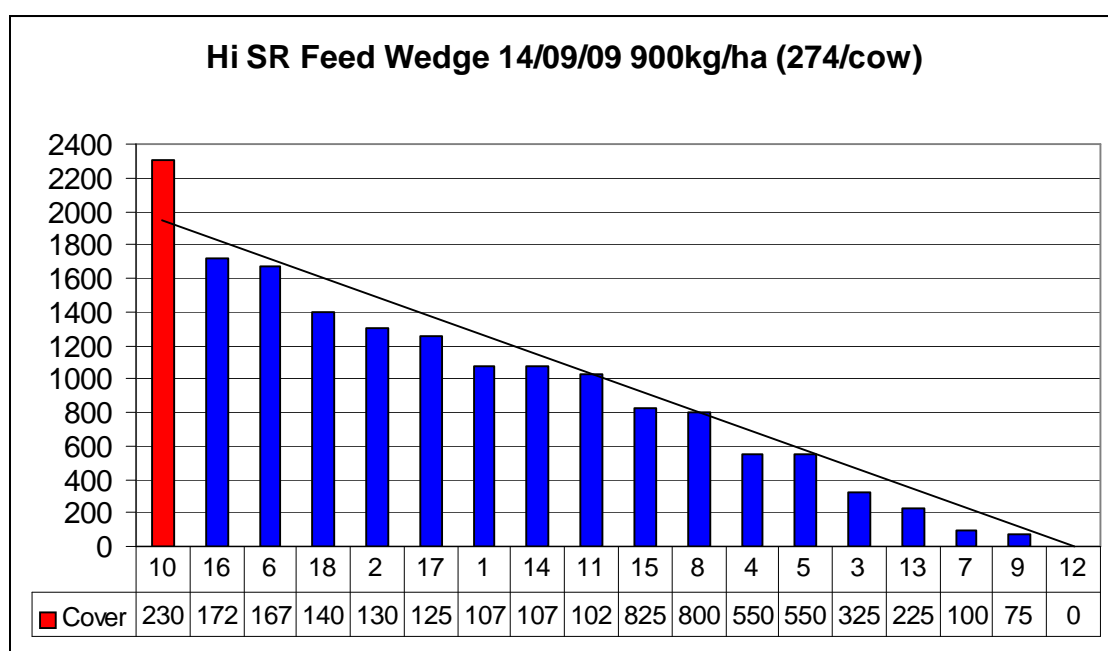
- 3) **Maintain post-grazing height at between 3 and 3.5cm**
- 4) **Maintain pre-grazing yield at 1970kg and rotation length at 40 days**

#### Situation

**Figure 3. Autumn Feed Budget**



**Figure 4. Farm Feed Wedge 14/09/09**



1. We are below target in terms of farm cover (Figure 3) and have a number of deficits emerging in the feed wedge (Figure 4). We have decided to be proactive in addressing this shortfall now, while there is still opportunity for growth so 3kg of concentrate is being fed per cow per day.
2. Growth rate for this farmlet was 67kg/day
3. Block 10 (in red) is currently being grazed by cows
4. Rotation length is currently at 40 days and like the low stocking rate will increase weekly up to 45 days by end of September.
5. Stocking rate is now 3.28 cows/ha and with a 40 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1970kg ( $15 \times 3.28 \times 40$ ).

### Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 13°C, last week 14.26°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 0mm.
3. Average weekly growth this week was 56kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 59kg/day.
4. Dry matters were 13.6% on Monday morning.
5. 250kg N/ha have been spread this year.

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 4.58%, Protein 3.84%, Lactose 4.65%, SCC 269k, TBC 18k, Thermoturic 7, Sediment B.
8. Critical Short-term Actions:
  - a. Cows are currently on 24-hour allocations.
  - b. Maintain post-grazing height at desired level. As pre-grazing yields are increasing this is becoming increasingly harder to achieve.

