

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 22-09-09

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 1831kg and rotation length at 45 days

Situation

Figure 1. Autumn Feed Budget

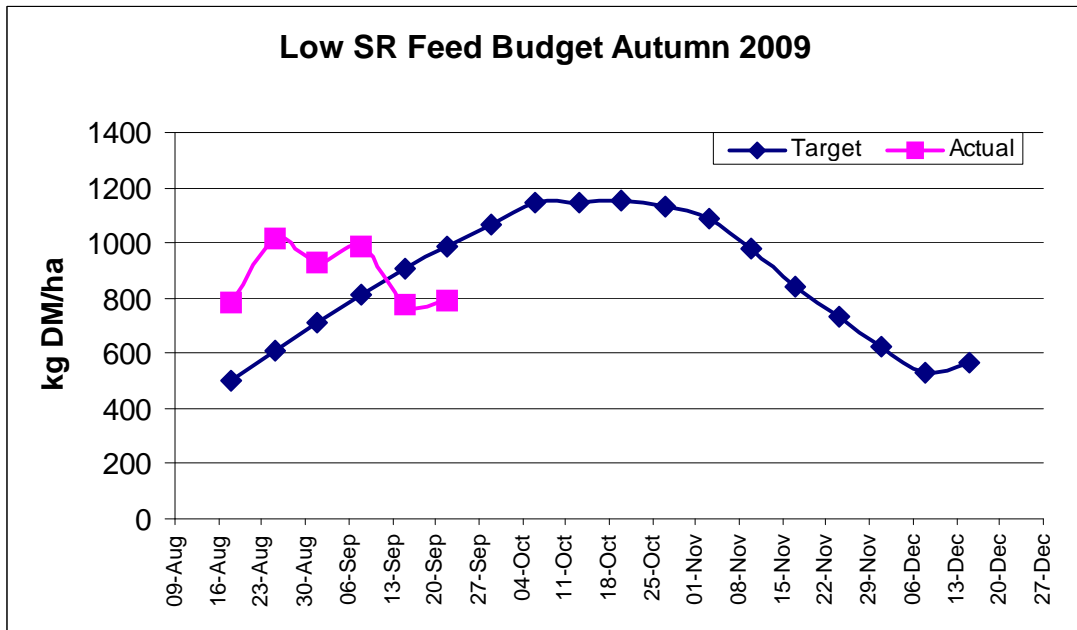
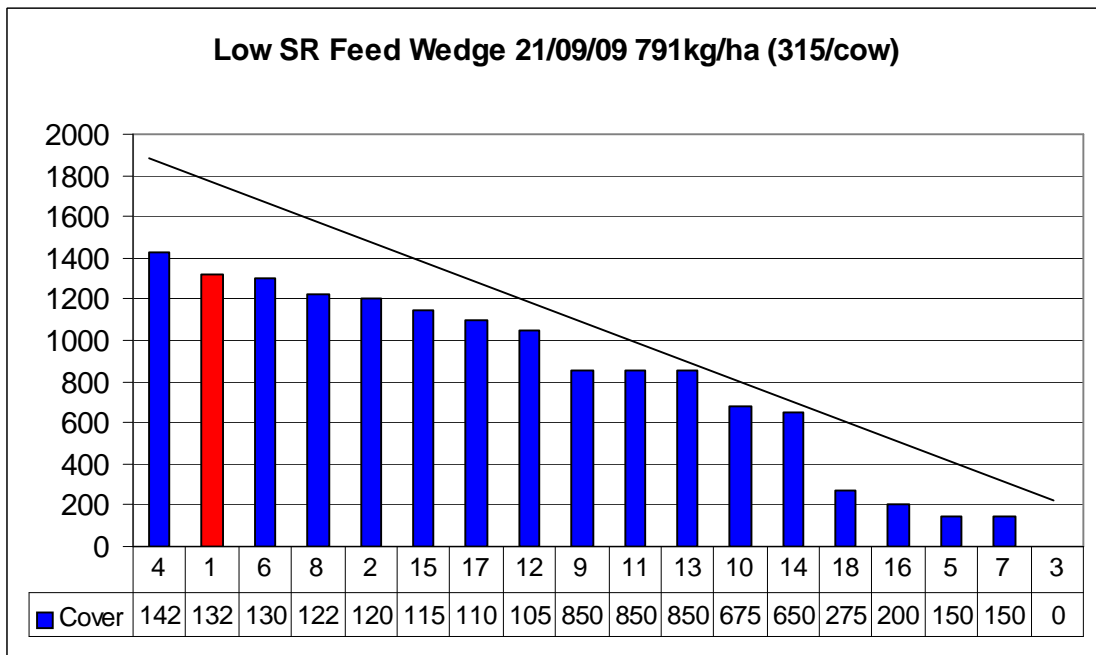


Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 21/09/09



- 1) As can be seen in figure 1, we are still well below target in terms of farm cover (791kg versus 983kg). This deficit is also reflected in the feed wedge (Figure 2).
- 2) Growth rates for this farmllet over the past week were 45kg/day while we had budgeted for 55kg/day. Demand is 35kg/day when the 3kg of concentrate being fed is included.
- 3) Growth rates are not sufficient to build covers so we must lower demand further by introducing more supplements.
- 4) As we are short approximately 80kg in grass cover per cow, we are going to replace this with supplements over the next 10 days by feeding 3kg of concentrates and 5kg of bale silage will be introduced at the weekend.
- 5) The reduction in growth is 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.
- 6) Block 1 (in red) is currently being grazed by the cows.
- 7) Target rotation length has increased to 45 days, actual rotation length is close to 36 days
- 8) Ideal pre-grazing yield is 1831kg ($2.51 \times 45 \times 14 + 250$)

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 1782kg and rotation length at 45 days**

Situation

Figure 3. Autumn Feed Budget

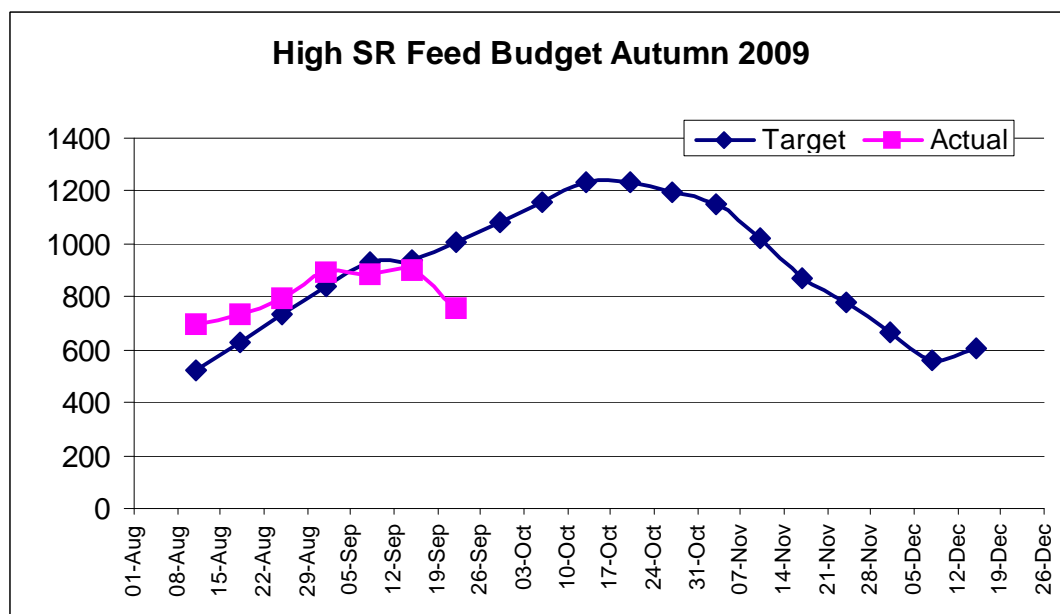
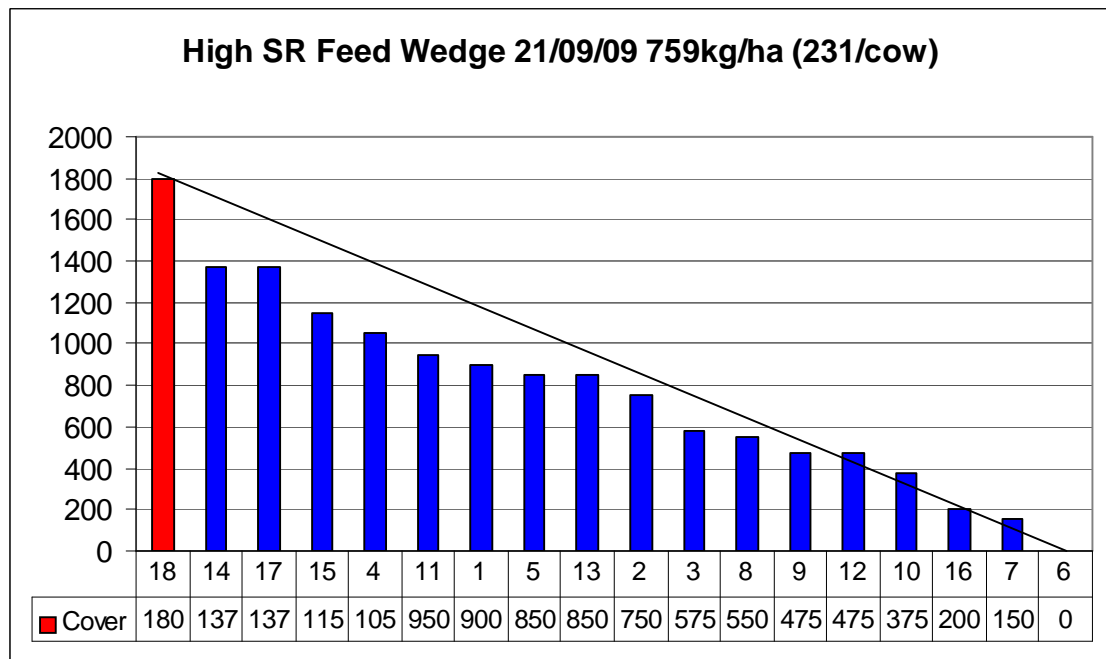


Figure 4. Farm Feed Wedge 21/09/09



1. We are below target in terms of farm cover (759kg versus 1010kg) (Figure 3) and have a deficit in the feed wedge (Figure 4).
2. Growth rate for this farmlet was 48kg/day while the target was 61kg. In order to slow down the rotation further and increase cover we are going to continue feeding the 3kg of concentrates and include 5kg of bale silage by the weekend.
3. Block 18 (in red) is currently being grazed by cows
4. Target rotation length is currently 45 days but the actual rotation length is 40 days.
5. Stocking rate is now 3.28 cows/ha and with a 45 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1830kg ($12 \times 3.28 \times 40$).

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 13.3°C, last week 13.3°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 0.7mm.
3. Average weekly growth this week was 48kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 60kg/day.
4. Dry matters were 15.2% on Monday morning.
5. 250kg N/ha have been spread this year.

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 4.50%, Protein 3.93%, Lactose 4.62%, SCC 320k, TBC 10k, Thermoturic 7, Sediment A.
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.

