

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 29-09-09

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 1944kg and rotation length at 45 days

Situation

Figure 1. Autumn Feed Budget

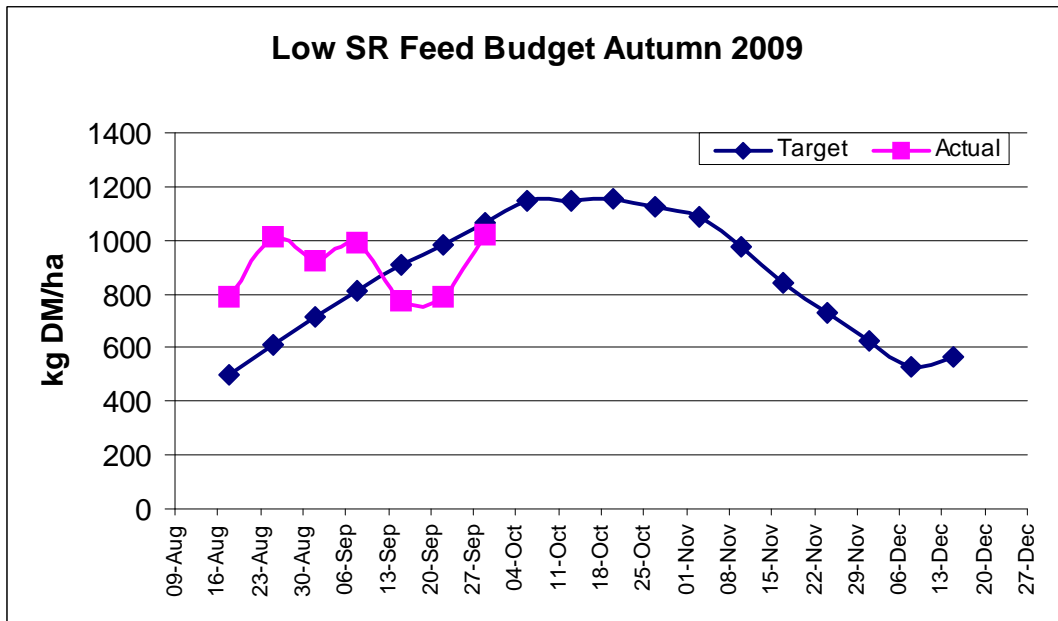
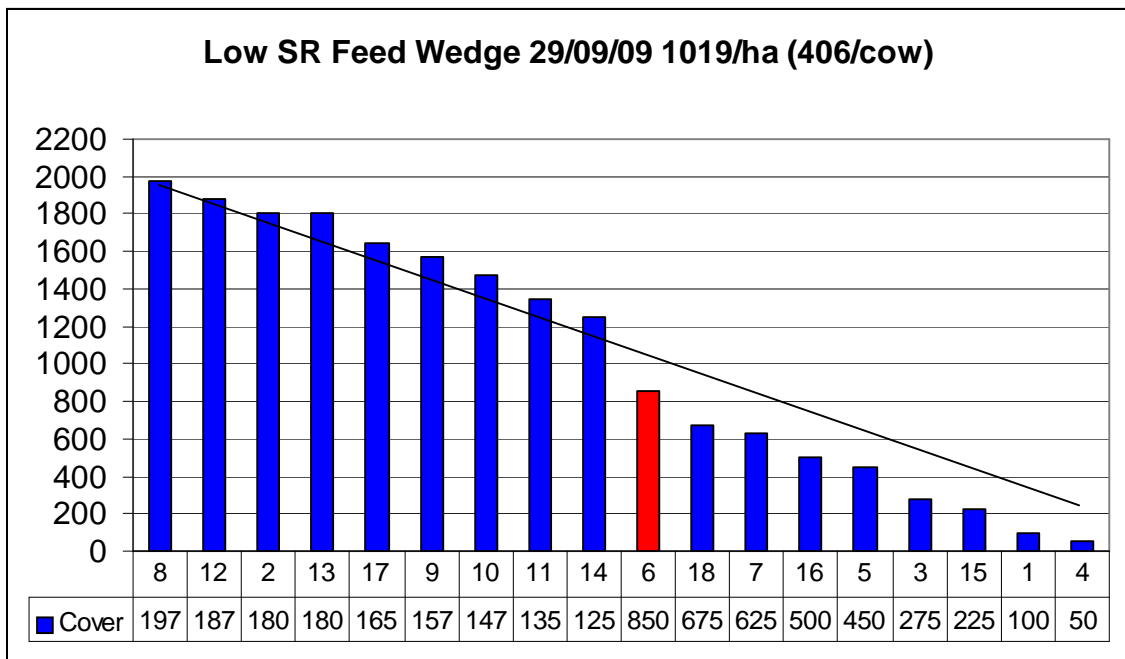


Figure 2. Farm Feed Wedge 28/09/09



- 1) As can be seen in figure 1, there has been a significant turnaround in farm cover this week. We are now almost on target (1019kg versus 1065kg). This increase in cover is also reflected in the feed wedge (Figure 2).
- 2) The reasons for the increase in cover this week are probably threefold. Firstly, growth rates have exceeded expectations as nights have become milder (soil temperatures have increased by almost 1 degree in the past 7 days). Secondly, the introduction of bale silage last week had a major effect in reducing demand. Thirdly, perhaps there was an element of underestimating last week.
- 3) As a consequence of this we will stop feeding silage and reduce concentrate levels back to 2kg/cow/day.
- 4) Block 6 (in red) is currently being grazed by the cows.
- 5) Target rotation length is 45 days.
- 6) Ideal pre-grazing yield is 1944kg ($2.51 \times 45 \times 15 + 250$)

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 1918kg and rotation length at 45 days**

Situation

Figure 3. Autumn Feed Budget

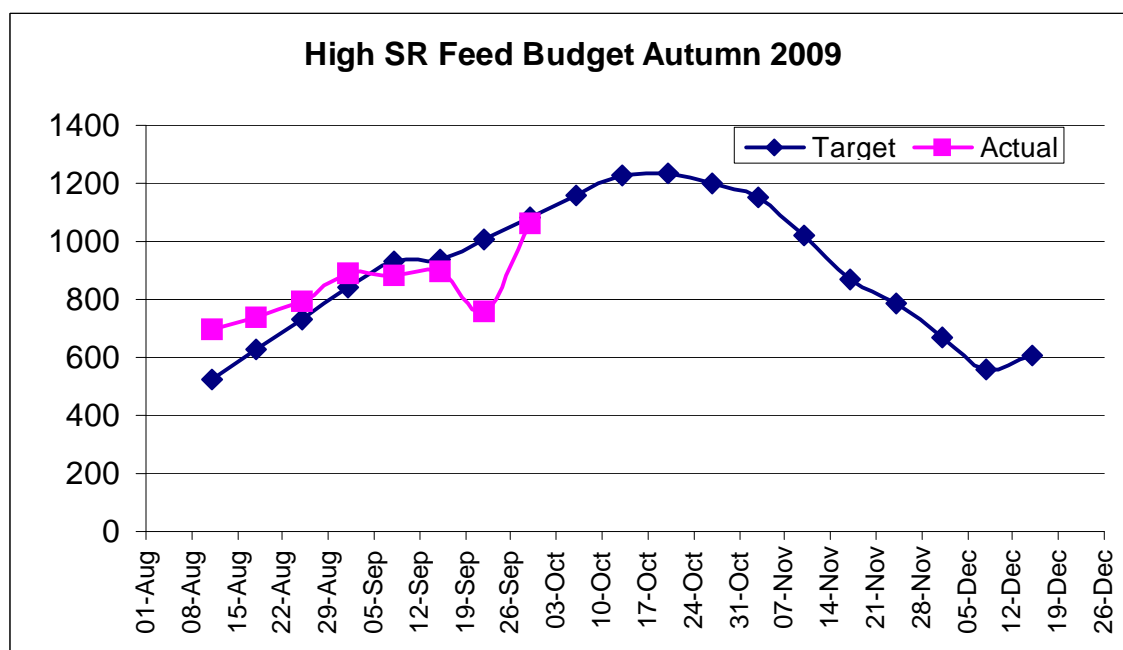
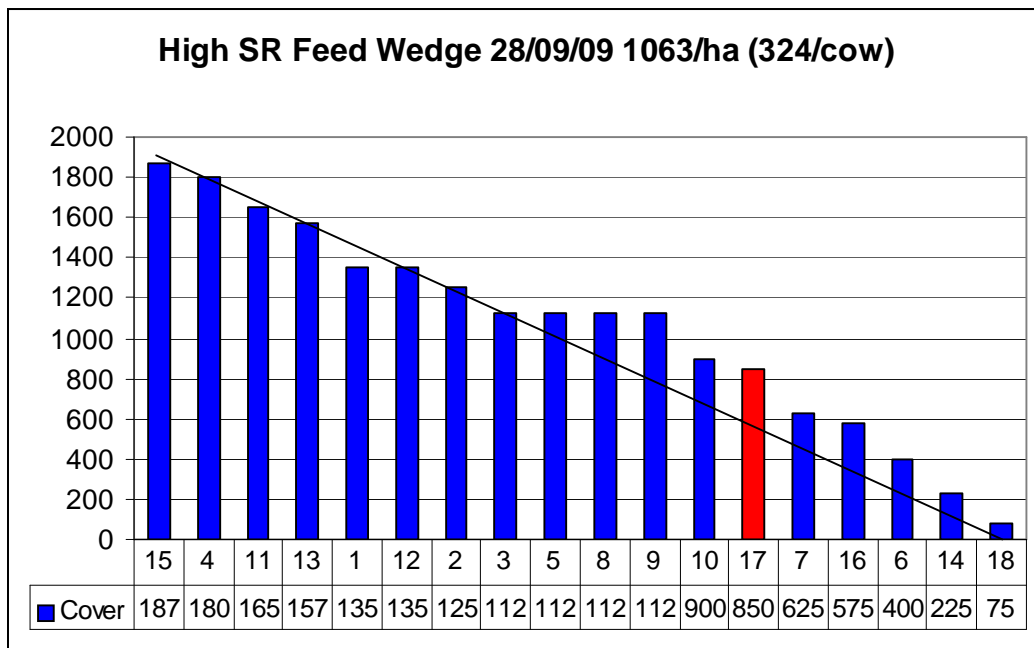


Figure 4. Farm Feed Wedge 28/09/09



1. As is the case with the low stocking rate, farm cover increased dramatically this week and we are now almost back on target (1063kg versus 1085kg) (Figure 3). The first half of the feed wedge is also on target while the second half is in surplus (Figure 4).
2. This has allowed us to remove the bale silage from the diet and reduce concentrate supplementation back to 2kg/cow/day.
3. Block 17 (in red) is currently being grazed by cows
4. Target rotation length is currently 45 days.
5. Stocking rate is now 3.28 cows/ha and with a 45 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is 1918kg ($13 \times 3.28 \times 45$).

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average soil temperature for the past week was 14.2°C, last week 13.3°C.
2. Total rainfall for the week was 0mm.
3. Average weekly growth this week was 75kg/day, average for the previous 3 years was 60kg/day.
4. Dry matters were 16.9% 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 4.58%, Protein 3.84%, Lactose 4.59%, SCC 311k, TBC 10k, Thermotolerant N/D, Sediment A.
8. Critical Short-term Actions:
 - a. Cows are currently on 36-hour allocations.
 - b. Maintain post-grazing height at desired level. As pre-grazing yields are increasing this is becoming increasingly harder to achieve.