Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 30-03-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 4 – 5 cm
2) Avoid Poaching
3) Achieve high grass intakes

Situation

Figure 1. Low Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teagasc, Dairy Production Department, Moorepark</th>
<th>GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS</td>
<td>Date Produced: 30-MAR-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm : Curtins Farm</td>
<td>Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date : 29-MAR-10</td>
<td>Treatment : Low SR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotation Length :</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N Application Rate (units/acre) :</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residual Height :</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Livestock :</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock Rate (LU/ha) :</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate :</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :</td>
<td>634</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1) 91% of the herd is calved. Grazing commenced on the 31st of January and the second rotation started on the 29th of March.

2) Farm cover is 351kg/ha (Figure 1) which is below target but it is an increase on last week's figure (279kg)

3) Target rotation length is 21 days. Therefore, area allocation is 0.44ha/day [farm size/rotation length (9.16/21 = 0.44)]

4) Cows are currently grazing block 13, pre-grazing yield is 770kg and 200kg residual is left after grazing. Therefore, grass intake is estimated to be 12kg/day, [(570kg allowance*0.44ha)/21 cows calved]. Concentrate supplementation is at 6kg/day.

5) In order to sustain pre-grazing yields of 800kg we need a growth rate of 38kg/day, which is achievable.

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

**Critical Issues**

1. Maintain post-grazing height at between 3 and 3.5cm
2. Avoid poaching
3. Achieve high grass intakes

**Situation**
Figure 3. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

Teagasc, Dairy Production Department, Moorepark  
GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report

Group: TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS  
Farm: Curtins Farm  
Date: 29-MAR-10  
Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance  
Treatment: High SR

Rotation Length: 27  
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU): 8  
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow): 6  
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow): 4  
N Application Rate (units/acre):  
N Application Rate (kg/ha):  
Residual Height: 3  
Total Livestock: 23

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha): 400  
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU): 121  
Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha):  
Stock Rate (LU/ha): 3.30  
Growth Rate: 26  
Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day): 20  
Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha): 712

![Graph showing the relationship between cover and demand]
1. 95% of the herd is calved and grazing commenced on the 10\textsuperscript{th} of February, 10 days later than planned. 88% of the farmlet was grazed on the 29\textsuperscript{th} of March.

2. Pre-grazing yield is 700kg and area allocation is 0.26ha/day. Therefore, grass intake is estimated to be 8kg \([(700\text{kg}*0.26\text{ha})/22 \text{ cows calved}]\). 6kg of concentrate is being fed along with 4kg of high quality bale silage.

3. If pre-grazing yields increase further the silage will be removed from the diet.

4. Farm cover is 400kg/ha.

\textbf{Whole Farm Situation}

1. Average weekly growth this week was 28kg/day.

2. Dry matters were 14.8% on Monday morning.

3. So far this year, the farm has received 60 units of nitrogen/acre, in the form of slurry and urea. 30units of N will be spread after grazing in the second rotation.

4. Latest milk quality rest results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.37\%, Protein 3.23\%, Lactose 4.72\%, SCC 227k, TBC 18k.

5. Freshly calved cows are on 4kg of concentrate for 5 days after calving, this is then increased to 6kg thereafter.

6. Critical Short-term Actions:
   a. Cows getting grass are on 12 or 24-hour allocations depending on weather.
   b. Avoid poaching, we are back fencing and are using on/off grazing when required.
   c. Monitor cows closely for signs of ill health and treat early.