

## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 06-04-10

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

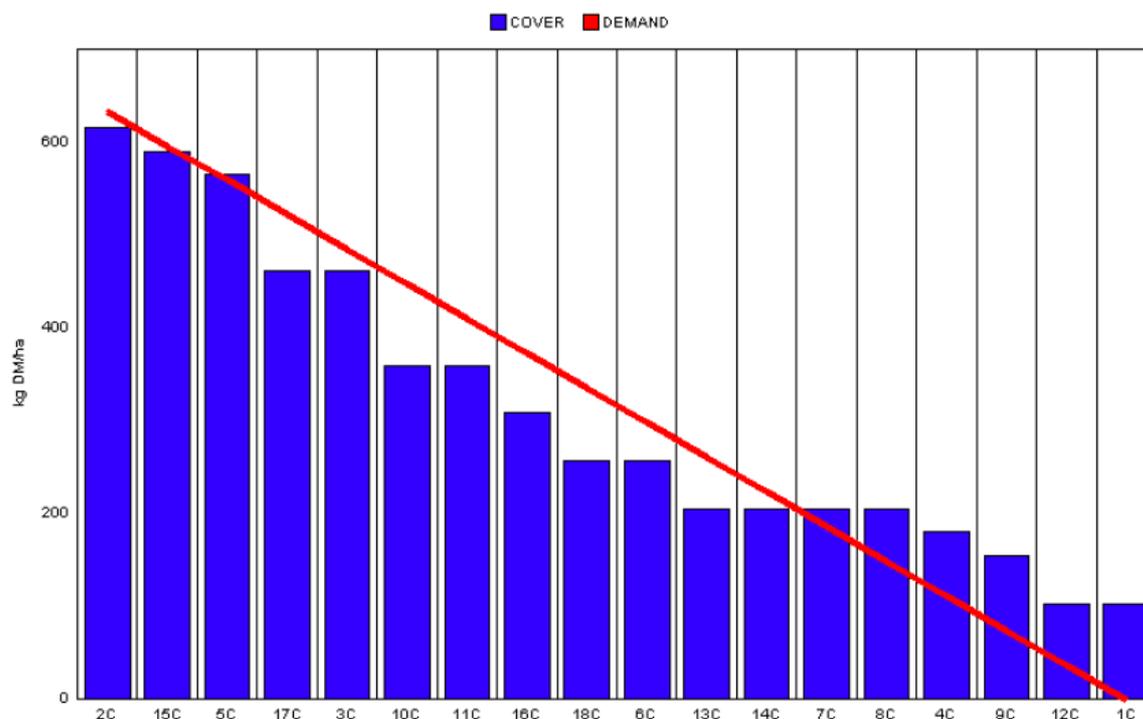
#### Critical Issues

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

#### Situation

**Figure 1. Low Stocking Rate Feed Wedge**

Teagasc, Dairy Production Department, Moorepark		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced 07-APR-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 06-APR-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	313
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	12	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	124
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	6	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.52
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	18
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	30
Residual Height :	4	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	634
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) 95% of the herd is calved. Grazing commenced on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January and the second rotation started on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March.
- 2) Farm cover is 313kg/ha (124kg/cow). We have a reasonably even shaped wedge but pre-grazing yields are low. For this reason 6kg of concentrate is being fed per day.
- 3) Target rotation length is 21 days. Therefore, area allocation is 0.44ha/day [farm size/rotation length ( $9.16/21 = 0.44$ )]
- 4) Growth rate for last week was 18kg/day, which was lower than expected. With the long range weather forecast good we are expecting a boost in growth this week.

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

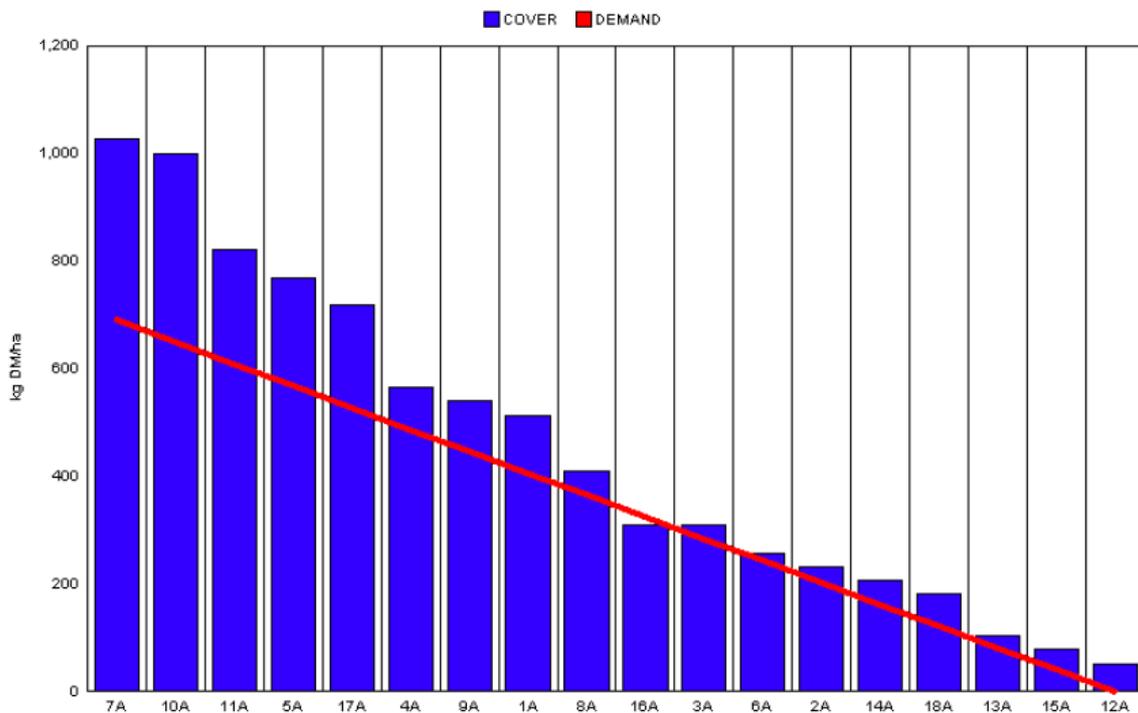
### Critical Issues

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

### Situation

**Figure 2. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge**

Teagasc, Dairy Production Department, Moorepark		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced 07-APR-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 06-APR-10		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	454
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	10	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	138
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	6	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.30
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	27
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	33
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	692
Total Livestock :	23		



1. 95% of the herd is calved and grazing commenced on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February and the second rotation started on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April.
2. Farm cover is 454kg/ha (138/cow). While pre-grazing yields are higher than the low stocking rate, they are not up to target levels (1200kg) and there is a dip in the wedge, for this reason we are continuing to feed 6kg of concentrate but we will review this at the weekend.
3. Target rotation length is 21 days so area allocation per day is 0.33ha/day [farm size/rotation length ( $7/21 = 0.33$ )]

### **Whole Farm Situation**

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 18 and 28kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 16.9% on Tuesday morning.
3. So far this year, the farm has received 60 units of nitrogen/acre, in the form of slurry and urea. 40units of N is being spread after grazing.
4. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.65%, Protein 3.2%, Lactose 4.81%, SCC 361k, TBC 29k.
5. 3 new cases of clinical mastitis were found this week. Milking practices are good and milking machine has been tested.
6. Cows were tail-painted on Tuesday for pre-breeding heat detection. Planned start of mating is 26/04/10.
7. Freshly calved cows are on 4kg of concentrate for 5 days after calving, this is then increased to 6kg thereafter.
8. Critical Short-term Actions:
  - a. Cows were indoors for 2 days this week. They are now out fulltime on 24 hour allocations, this will be increased to 36 hour allocations depending on weather and circumstances.
  - b. Monitor cows closely for signs of ill health and treat early.