

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 20-04-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

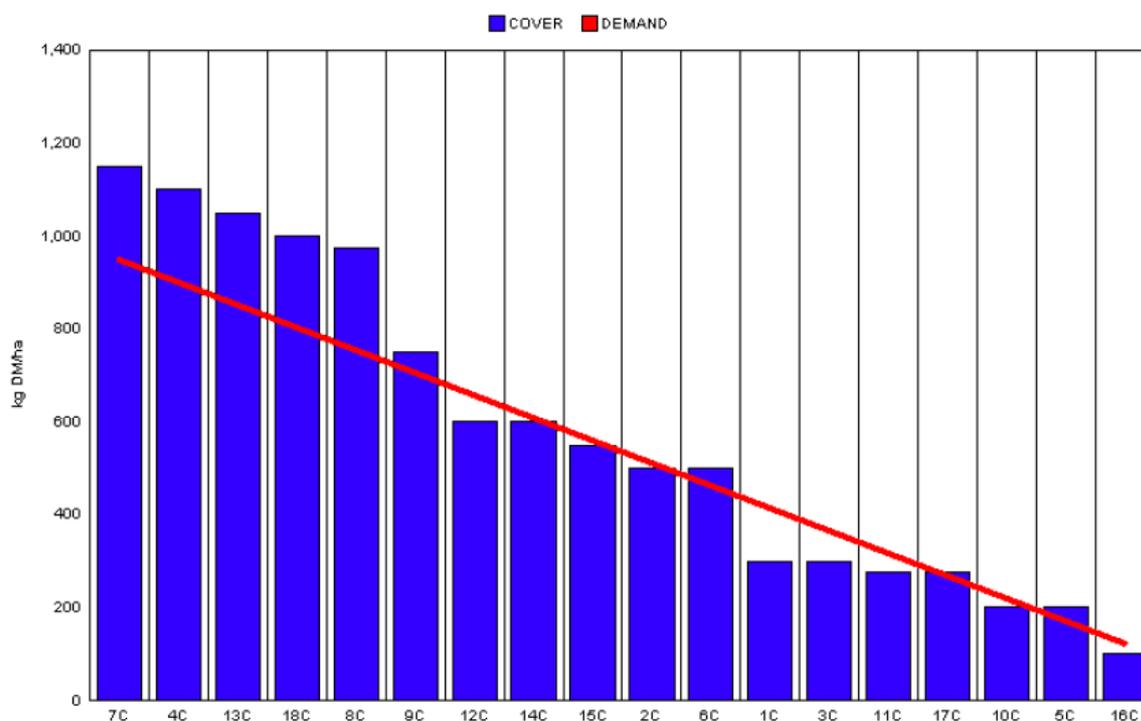
Critical Issues

- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 4 – 5cm
- 2) 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 20-APR-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 19-APR-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	578
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	230
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	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 :	61
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	45
Residual Height :	4.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	951
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 578kg/ha (230kg/cow). We have a reasonably even shaped wedge with a slight surplus at the start but not enough to justify closing paddocks for silage. However, if growth rates continue it is likely that some paddocks will be closed next week.
- 2) Pre-grazing yields are 1150kg, cows are getting full paddocks and residency time is approximately 36 hours per paddock. Cows are moved on when desired post grazing residual is achieved (4-5cm).
- 3) Concentrate has been removed from the diet and intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day
- 4) Growth rate last week was 61kg/day

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

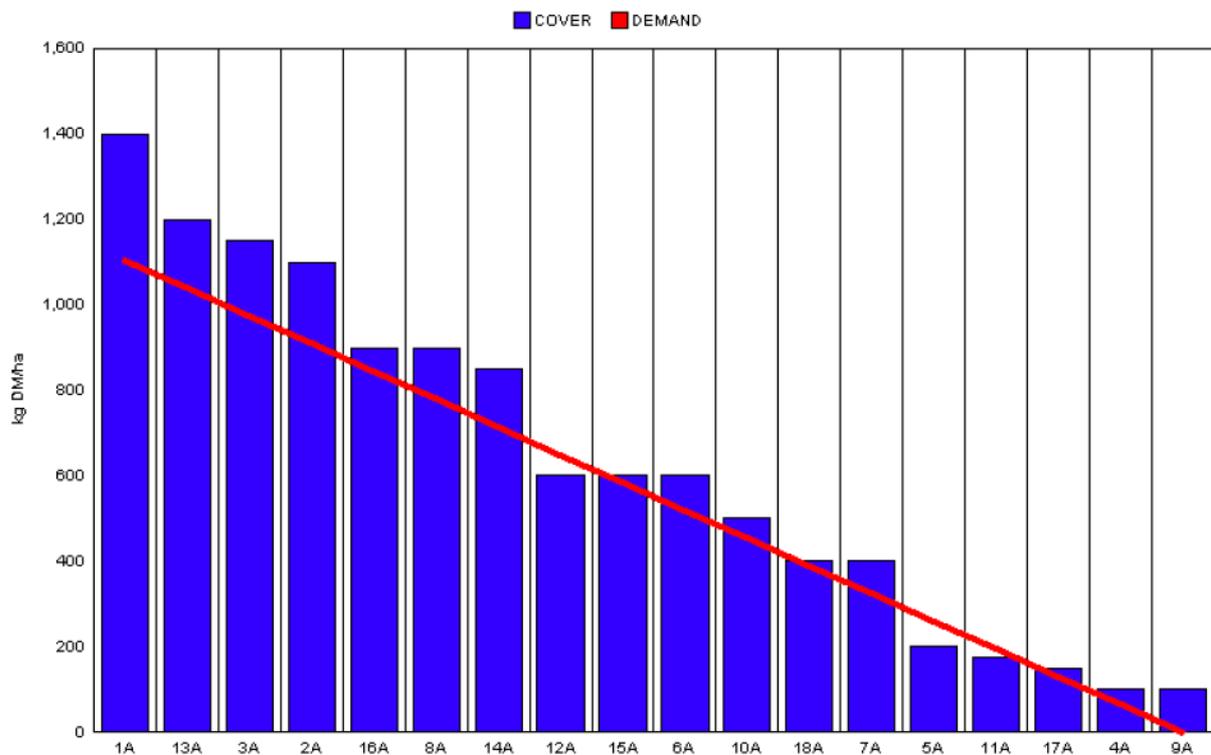
Critical Issues

1. Maintain post-grazing height at between 3 and 3.5cm
2. 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 20-APR-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 19-APR-10		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	619
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	188
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	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 :	56
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	53
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1107
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 619kg/ha (188/cow). We have a very even shaped wedge with no obvious surpluses just yet. Growth (56kg) is slightly ahead of demand (53kg).
2. Pre-grazing yields are 1200 - 1400kg, cows are getting full paddocks and residency time is approximately 36 hours per paddock. Cows are moved on when desired post grazing residual is achieved (3-3.5cm).
3. Concentrate has been removed from the diet and intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 56 and 61kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 16.9% on Monday morning in dew.
3. 30 units of urea is being spread per acre after grazing.
4. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 3.89%, Protein 3.34%, Lactose 4.81%, SCC 296k, TBC 16k.
5. In an effort to reduce SCC 9 cows were treated last week, clusters are also being disinfected after milking high cell count cows.
6. Cows are tail-painted for pre-breeding heat detection. 48% of the herd has been identified in oestrus since the 6/4/10. Planned start of mating is 26/04/10.
7. Critical Short-term Actions:
 - a. Identify and close surplus pastures before pre-grazing yields get too high
 - b. Monitor cows closely for signs of ill health and treat early.
 - c. Achieve desired post grazing heights for treatment groups, if this involves moving cows to fresh pasture between milkings it will be done.

Farmers and their advisors who wish to follow the progress of the High Stocking Rate group on the IFC Grass Program can do so by sending an invitation to 086 3619628