

## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 26-04-10

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

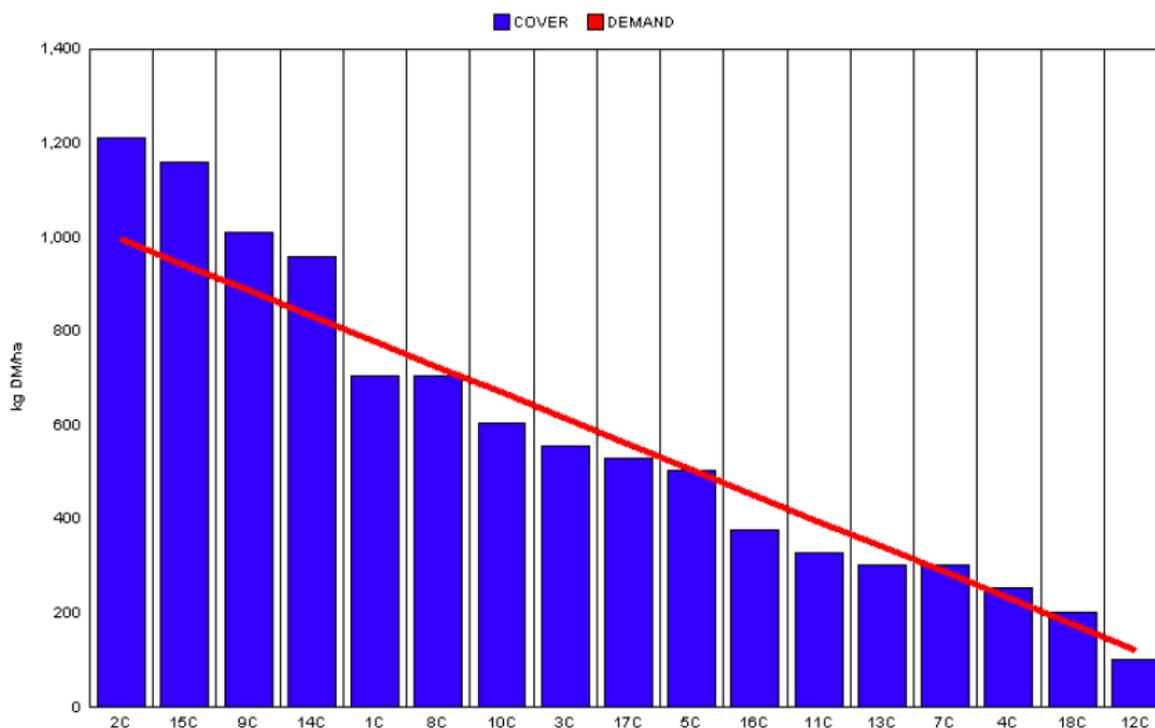
#### Critical Issues

- 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 27-APR-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 26-APR-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	577
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	218
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.64
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	51
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	48
Residual Height :	4.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	998
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 577kg/ha (218kg/cow). The pre-grazing yield required to maintain a 21-day rotation length at the current stocking rate of 2.64 cows/ha is 1000kg/ha (red line). However, we prefer to be grazing covers of between 1200kg and 1400kg so while it may look like we have surpluses at the start of the wedge we will not be skipping over these paddocks.
- 2) One paddock was skipped this week, (cover of 900kg) it will be topped up with 30 units of CAN and cut in 3 weeks time.
- 3) Pre-grazing yields are 1200kg, 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).
- 4) Dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day
- 5) Growth rate last week was 51kg/day, which was back on last week but we are expecting an increase in growth for this week.

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

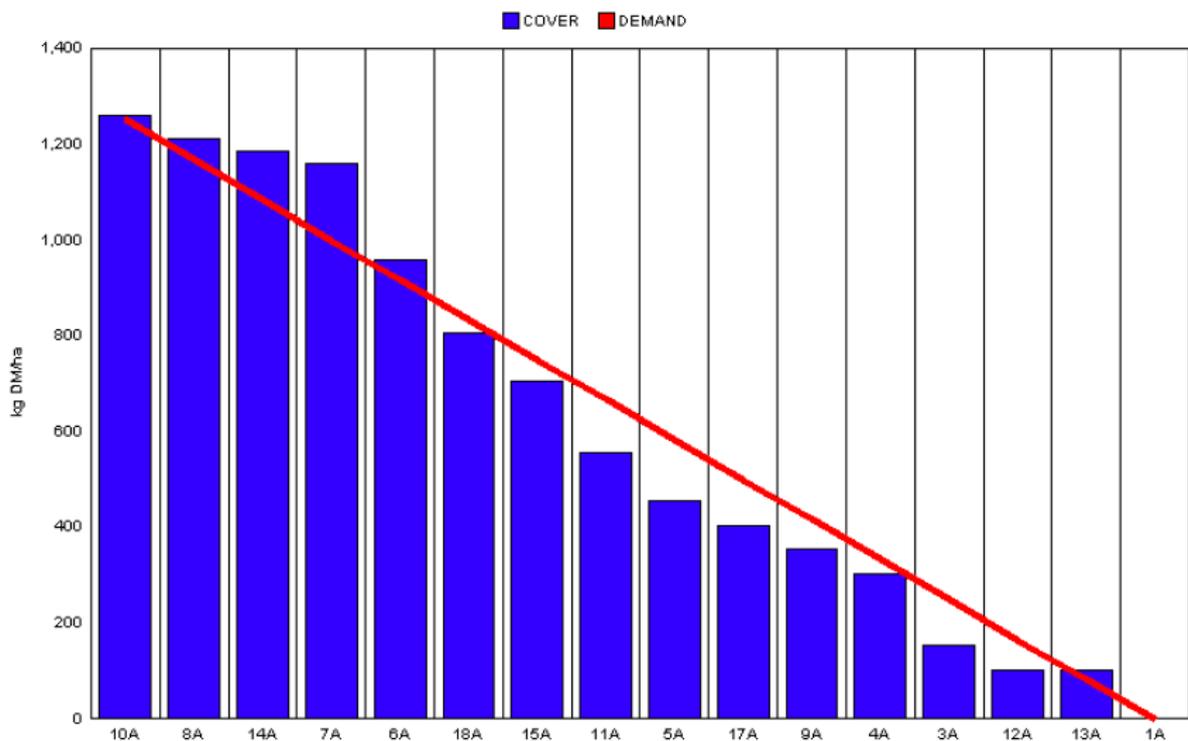
### Critical Issues

1. Maintain post-grazing height at between 3 and 3.5cm
2. 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 27-APR-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 26-APR-10		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	609
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	163
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.73
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	52
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	60
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1253
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 609kg/ha (163/cow) two paddocks were skipped this week, (cover of 1740kg and 1400kg). These will be topped up with 30 units CAN per acre and cut in 3 weeks time.
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. Dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day.

### **Whole Farm Situation**

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 51 and 58kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 15.5% on Monday morning in dew.
3. 30 units of CAN is being spread per acre after grazing.
4. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 3.80%, Protein 3.42%, Lactose 4.83%, SCC 159k, TBC 19k.
5. 2 cows were treated for mastitis last week. 3 late calving cows have retained afterbirths and are on a washout and antibiotic treatment regime.
6. AI commenced on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April
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