

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 05-05-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

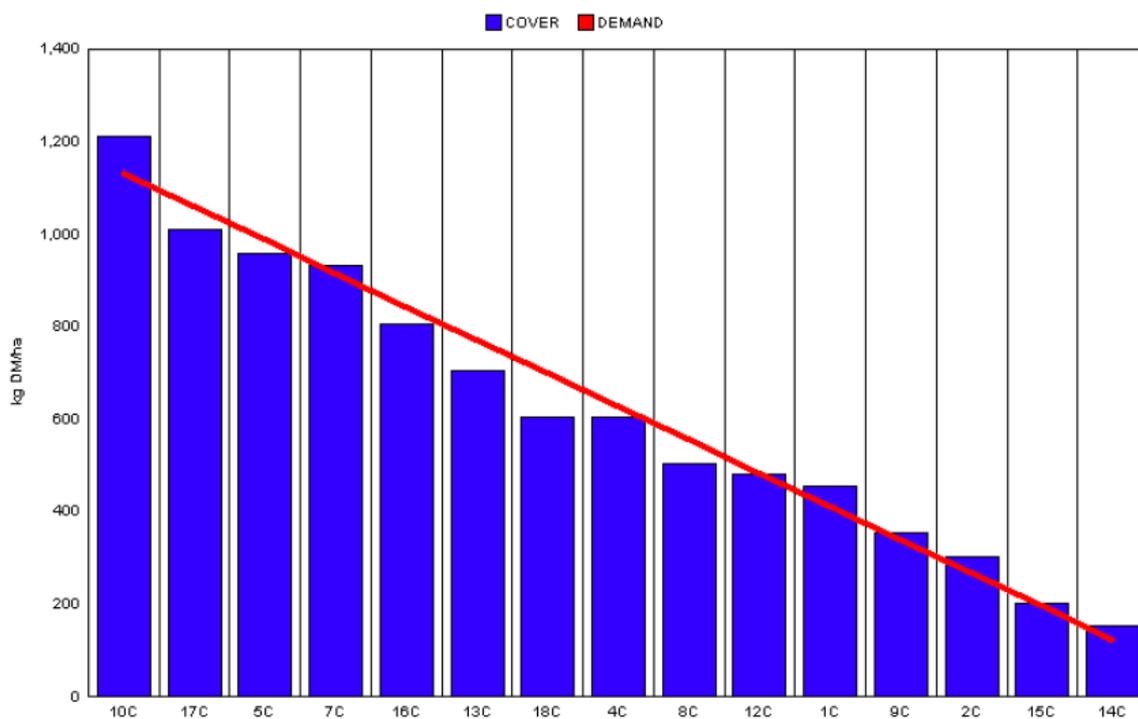
Critical Issues

- 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 05-MAY-10 | |
| Farm : Curtins Farm | | Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance | |
| Date : 04-MAY-10 | | Treatment : Low SR | |
| Rotation Length : | 21 | Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : | 622 |
| Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) | 18 | Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : | 208 |
| Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : | 0 | Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) : | |
| Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) : | 0 | Stock Rate (LU/ha) : | 3.00 |
| N Application Rate (units/acre) : | | Growth Rate : | 57 |
| N Application Rate (kg/ha) : | | Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :: | 54 |
| Residual Height : | 4.5 | Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : | 1134 |
| Total Livestock : | 23 | | |



- 1) Farm cover is 622kg/ha (208kg/cow). Two paddocks were skipped this week (covers >1300) these will be topped up with 30 units of CAN and cut for bale silage in 2 or 3 weeks time along with what was closed last week.
- 2) This has increased stocking rate to 3cows/ha so target pre-grazing yields are now 1134kg/ha.
- 3) 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 57kg/day..

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

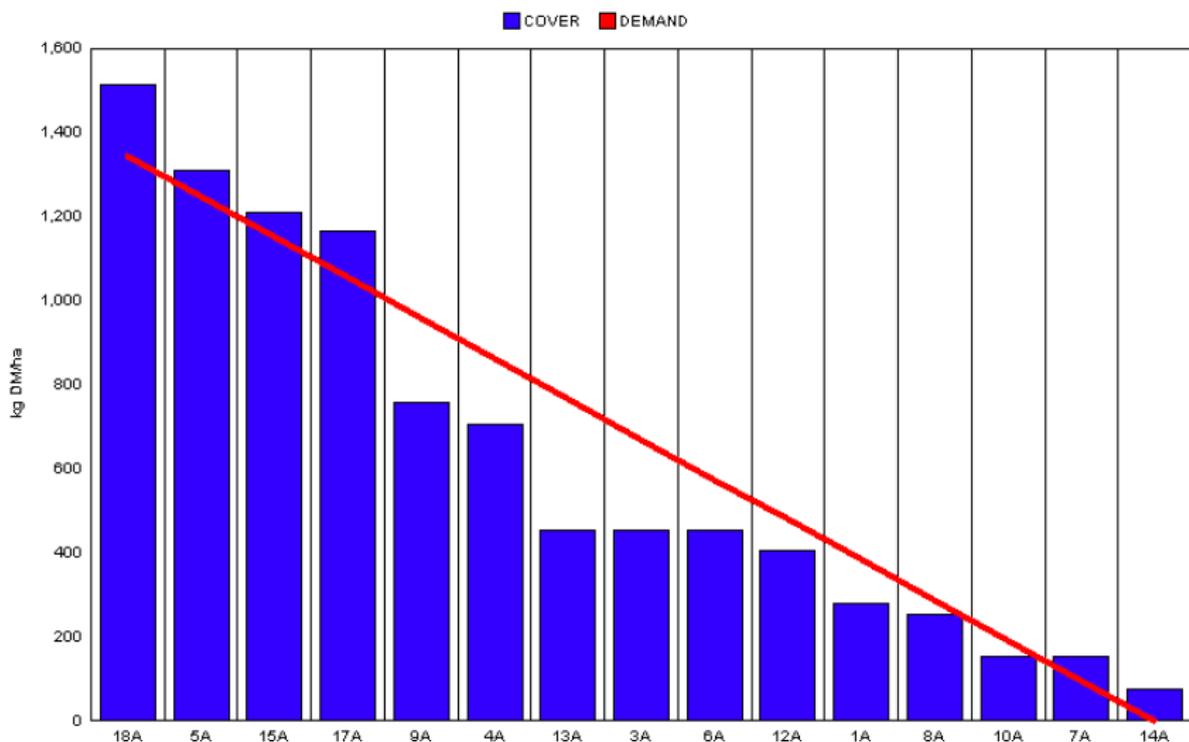
Critical Issues

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 05-MAY-10 | |
| Farm : Curtins Farm | | Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance | |
| Date : 04-MAY-10 | | Treatment : High SR | |
| Rotation Length : | 21 | Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : | 630 |
| Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) | 16 | Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : | 157 |
| Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : | 0 | Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) : | |
| Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) : | 0 | Stock Rate (LU/ha) : | 4.01 |
| N Application Rate (units/acre) : | | Growth Rate : | 61 |
| N Application Rate (kg/ha) : | | Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :: | 64 |
| Residual Height : | 3 | Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : | 1346 |
| Total Livestock : | 23 | | |



1. Farm cover is 630kg/ha (157/cow), one paddock was skipped this week (cover of 1500kg), this will be topped up with 30 units CAN per acre and cut in 3 weeks time.
2. Pre-grazing yields are 1300 - 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.
4. Growth rate was measured at 61kg/day

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 54 and 61kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 17.8% on Monday morning.
3. 30 units of CAN is being spread per acre after grazing.
4. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 3.87%, Protein 3.45%, Lactose 4.83%, SCC 179k, TBC 19k.
5. 2 cows were treated for mastitis last week.
6. AI commenced on the 26th 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