

## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 11-05-10

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

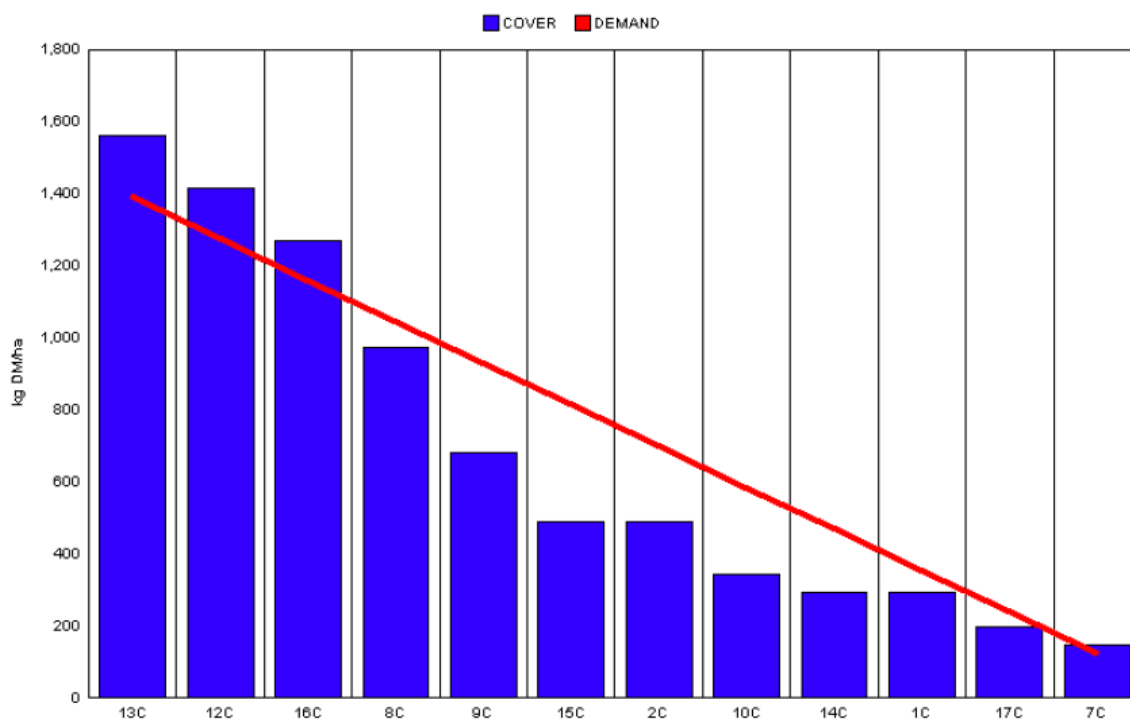
#### Critical Issues

- 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 11-MAY-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 10-MAY-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	679
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	184
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.69
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	76
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	66
Residual Height :	4.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1393
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 679kg/ha (184kg/cow). Two paddocks were skipped this week (block 5 and 18) and one paddock was skipped last Friday because the pre-grazing yield was too high (Block 4).
- 2) There is a slight deficit in the middle of the wedge but the surplus at the start will slow down the rotation which will give the middle of the wedge extra time to reach the target line.
- 3) 32% of the farmlet is now closed for silage. We plan to cut this for bale silage in 2 weeks.
- 4) This has increased stocking rate to 3.69cows/ha so target pre-grazing yields are now 1400kg/ha with 200kg residual being left after grazing.
- 5) 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).
- 6) Dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day
- 7) Growth rate last week was 76kg/day while current demand is 66kg/day.

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

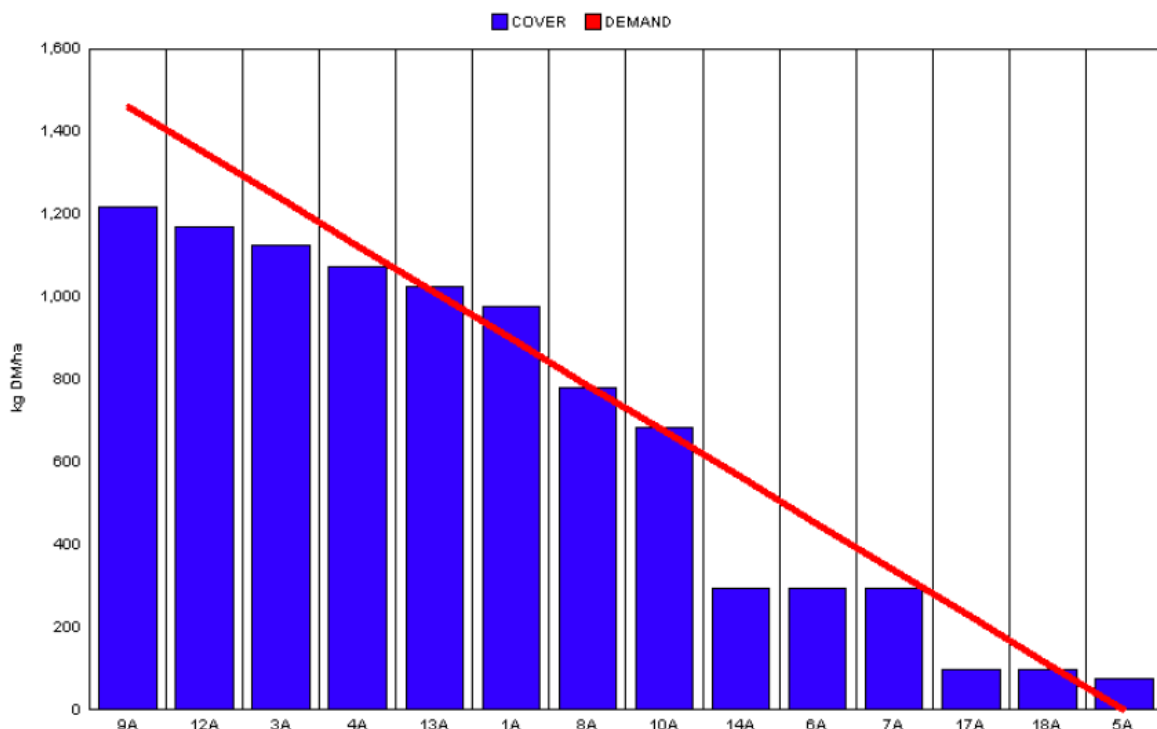
### Critical Issues

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 11-MAY-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 10-MAY-10		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	654
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	150
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	4.36
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	83
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	70
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1464
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 654kg/ha (150/cow), one paddock was skipped last Friday (paddock 15, cover of 1500kg).

2. As can be seen in the wedge we have a slight deficit at the start and towards the end of the wedge but we are not unduly concerned about this as growth rate last week was 83kg while demand is 70kg. Cows are currently grazing block 12 and there will be a cover of 1366kg on block 9 before the cows go into it, as it is 2 days away from grazing ( $83\text{kg} \times 2 + 1200\text{kg}$ )
3. As we have no surpluses we will not be skipping any paddocks this week. So far, 23% of the farmlet is closed and we plan to cut this in 2 weeks time.
4. Pre-grazing yields are 1300 - 1400kg, cows are getting half paddocks and residency time is approximately 24 hours per paddock. Cows are moved on when desired post grazing residual is achieved (3-3.5cm).
5. Dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day.
6. Growth rate was measured at 83kg/day

### **Whole Farm Situation**

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 76 and 86kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 16.6% 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 4.07%, Protein 3.41%, Lactose 4.78%, SCC 222k, TBC 19k, THD 700, Sediment A.
5. AI commenced on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April
6. Critical Short-term Actions:
  - a. Identify and close surplus pastures before pre-grazing yields get too high
  - b. Monitor cows closely for signs of oestrous.
  - 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**

## **EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY, 09/05/10**

*Objective: To compare the biological efficiency of alternative calving date and stocking rate combinations for Irish spring calving pasture-based production systems*

Herd Details	EBI (€)	MILK SI (€)	FERT SI (€)	CALVING SI (€)	BEEF SI (€)	HEALTH SI (€)
<b>Average</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-3</b>

*(September 2009 ICBF)*

Calving Date Group Stocking rate Group	Early Calving			Late Calving		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.51	2.92	3.28	2.51	2.92	3.28
Mean calving date	17-Feb	17-Feb	17-Feb	2-March	5-March	3-March
Ear-tag Colour	White	Blue	Orange	White	Blue	Orange
Band Colour	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue

<b>Week Details:</b>						
Area allocated (m <sup>2</sup> /day)	4360	3700	2600	4360	3700	2600
Farmlet cover (kg DM/cow)	184	172	150	167	189	163
Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1560	1365	1250	1560	1365	1250
Residual grazing height (cm)	4.43	3.80	2.95	4.07	4.37	2.96
Diet (kg DM/cow/day)						
Grass	18	17	16	18	17	16
Silage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concentrate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.96	1.80	1.87	1.96	1.77	1.99
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	26.1	23.4	24.3	26.9	24.4	25.7
% Fat	3.98	4.20	4.38	3.85	3.82	4.47
% Protein	3.54	3.50	3.35	3.46	3.21	3.26
Bodyweight (kg)	510	506	502	499	503	506
Condition Score	3.06	2.99	3.02	2.99	3.02	3.02

<b>Cumulative:</b>						
Milk solids (kg/cow)	145	141	149	120	107	130
(kg/ha)	364	412	489	301	313	426
Milk yield (kg/cow)	2007	1837	1946	1590	1438	1710
% Fat	4.20	4.33	4.34	4.05	4.11	4.39
% Protein	3.39	3.37	3.37	3.44	3.39	3.43
Days in milk	83	80	80	64	62	63
Total supplement fed (kg/cow)						
Concentrate	309	313	302	247	231	246
Silage	45	101	106	39	53	78
Conserved silage (kg DM /cow)						
Bought in Silage (kg DM /cow)						
Farmlet area (hectares)	9.17	7.87	7.01	9.17	7.87	7.01
Number of cows calved	23	23	23	23	23	23
Number of cows in group	23	23	23	23	23	23
Non-lactating cows						

**NB: These are raw data that have not been statistically analysed and, therefore, no definite conclusions can be drawn from them.**