

## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 18-05-10

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

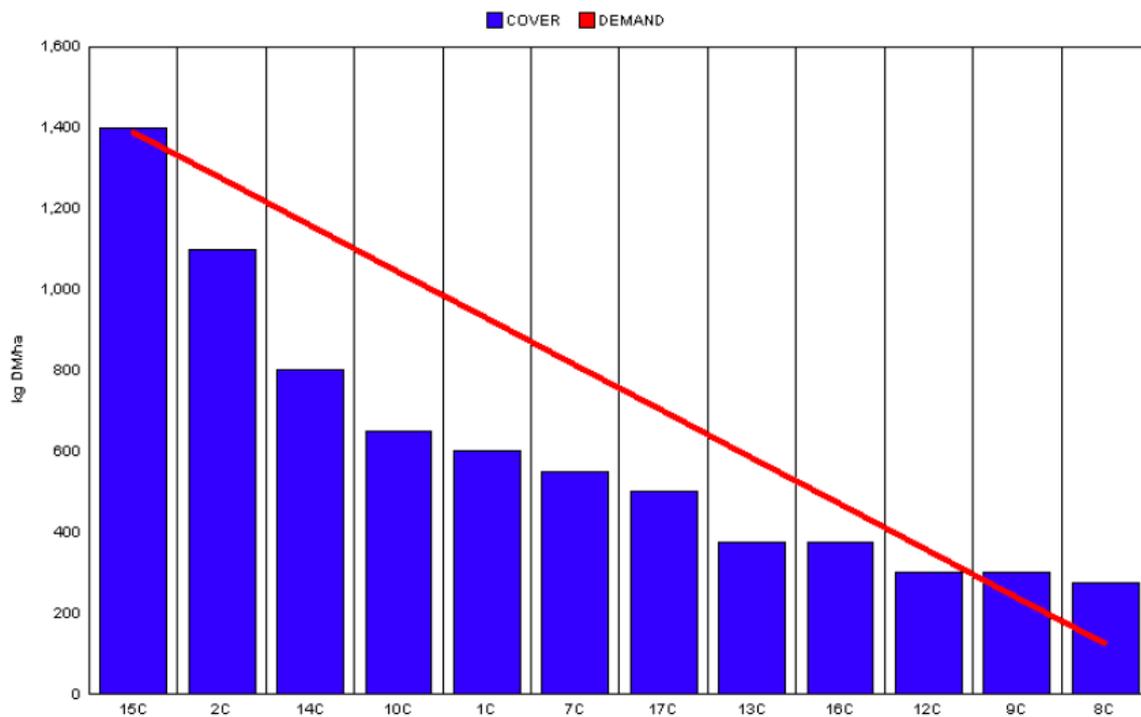
#### Critical Issues

- 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 17-MAY-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 17-MAY-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	607
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	165
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 :	69
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 607kg/ha (165kg/cow). This is lower than expected and there is a large deficit in the wedge. This is a cause for concern as cows are currently grazing Block 15 and are due to enter Block 2 on Tuesday PM. In order to rectify this we have decided to cut 4 of the 6 paddocks that were closed for silage today (one week earlier than planned). This will reduce stocking rate to 2.8 cows/ha and demand to 50kg/day and target pre-grazing yield will be 1258kg once these paddocks are cut.
- 2) Rain is forecast for Tuesday evening with warm dry weather forecast thereafter so we are expecting a lift in growth for this coming week.
- 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 69kg/day while current demand is 66kg/day.

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

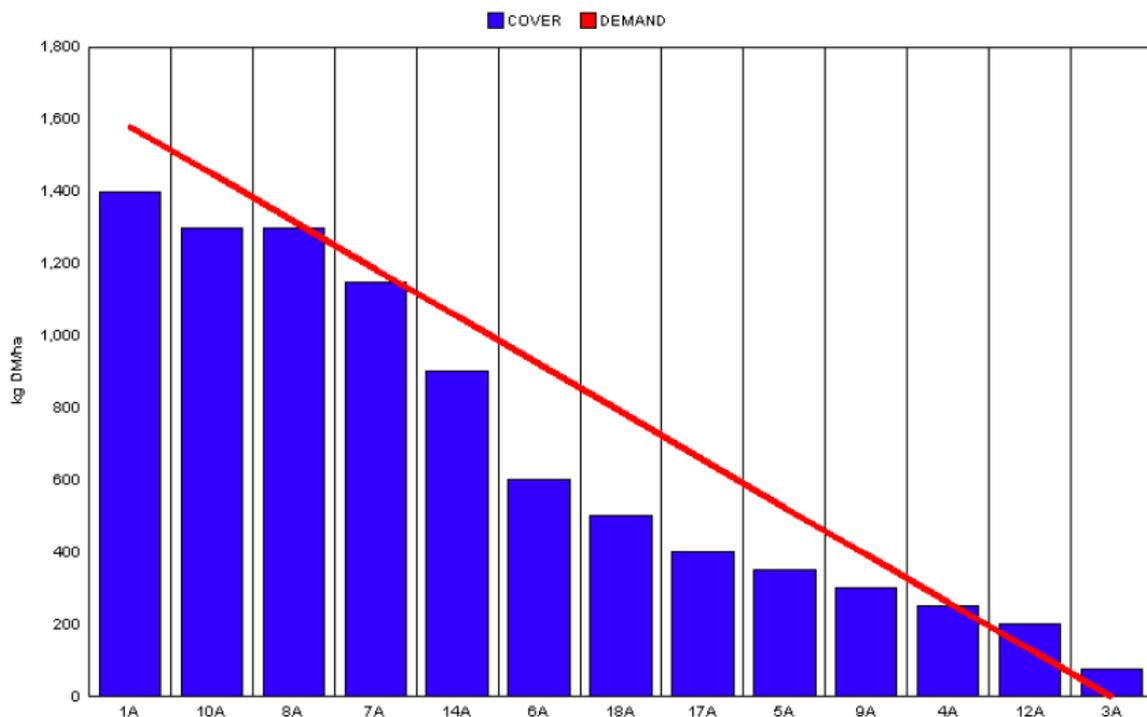
### Critical Issues

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 17-MAY-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 17-MAY-10		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	671
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	142
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	4.71
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	69
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	75
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1584
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 671kg/ha (142/cow), one paddock was skipped this week (cover 1850kg).

2. There is a deficit in the second half of the wedge but we are not unduly concerned about this as there is sufficient time for these paddocks to catch up to the line.
3. All the paddocks that were taken out for this farmlet (30% of area) will be cut today. This will reduce stocking rate back to 3.3 cows/ha and demand will fall to 53kg/day.
4. Pre-grazing yields are 1300 - 1400kg, cows are getting half paddocks and residency time is approximately 24 hours per section. 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 69kg/day

### **Whole Farm Situation**

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 69kg/day.
2. Dry matters were estimated at 17% 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 4.18%, Protein 3.50%, Lactose 4.74%, SCC 221k, TBC 14k, 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