

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 25-05-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

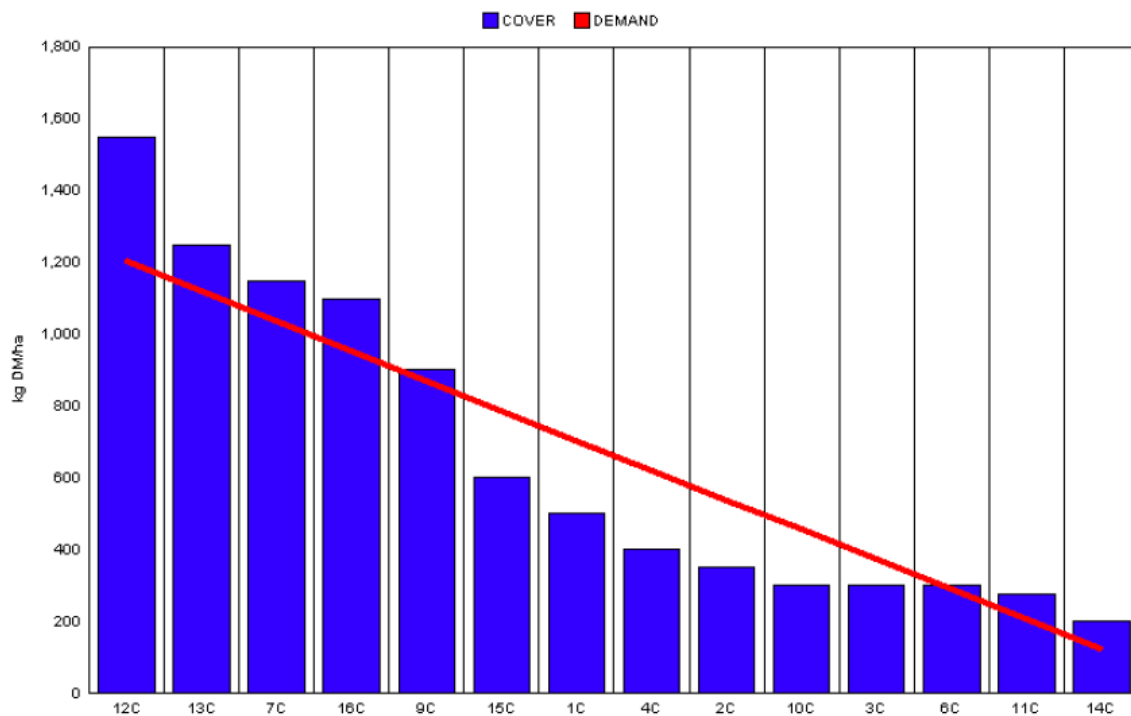
Critical Issues

- 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 24-MAY-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 24-MAY-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	676
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	212
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.19
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	116
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	57
Residual Height :	4.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1206
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 676kg/ha (212kg/cow). As can be seen in the wedge (Figure 1) we have a surplus at the start (paddock 12) and a deficit in the middle. We have decided to graze paddock 12 because it is still good quality and will allow us to slow down the rotation in time for the paddocks in the middle of the wedge to catch up to the line.
- 2) The four paddocks that were cut for silage last Monday (3,4,6,11) are now back in the grazing rotation and are contributing to a step in the wedge.
- 3) Two more paddocks were skipped this week so 28% of the farmlet is now closed. We plan to cut these on either Friday or Monday.
- 4) 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).
- 5) Dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day
- 6) Growth rate last week was 116kg/day while current demand is 57kg/day.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

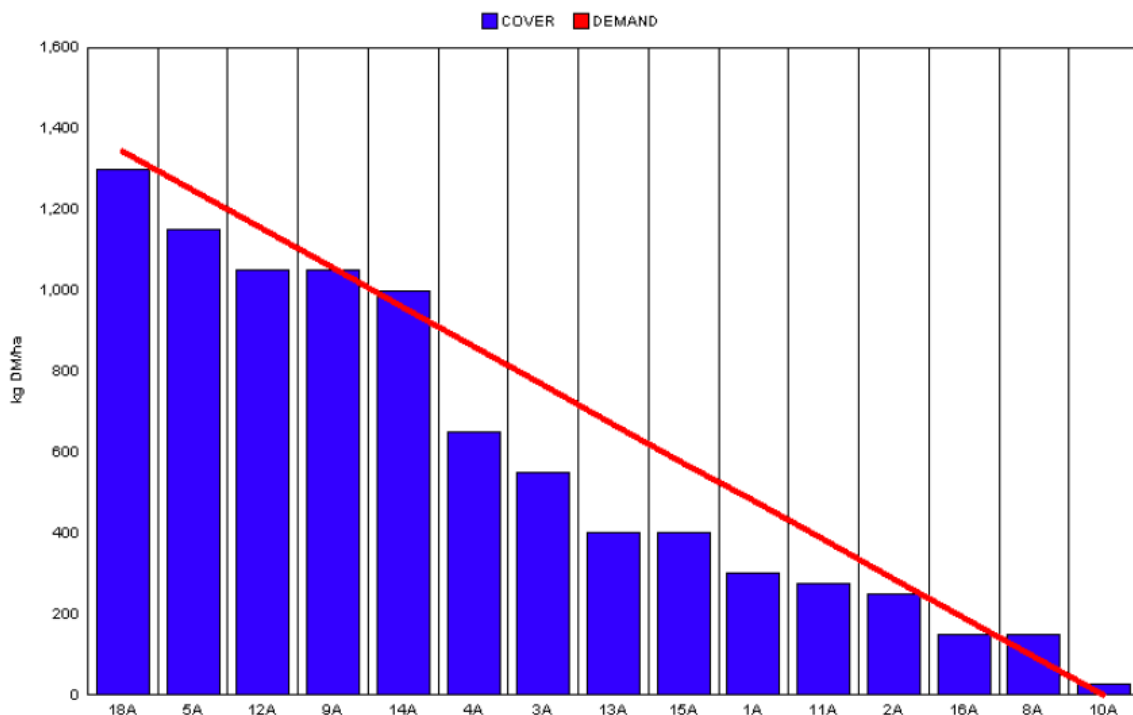
Critical Issues

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 24-MAY-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 24-MAY-10		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	570
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) :	4.01
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	85
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 570kg/ha (142/cow). 3 paddocks were skipped for silage this week and while we have a slight deficit in the wedge we are not unduly concerned about this as

cows are currently grazing Block 14 and are 24hrs away from entering block 18 where the cover will have increased by 100kg by the time the cows enter it.

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. 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).
4. Dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day.
5. Growth rate was measured at 85kg/day while demand is 64kg.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 85 and 121kg/day.
2. Dry matters were estimated at 16% on Monday morning.
3. 20 units of CAN is being spread per acre after grazing.
4. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 3.89%, Protein 3.41%, Lactose 4.74%, SCC 206k, TBC 14k, THD 700, Sediment A.
5. AI commenced on the 26th 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, 23/05/10

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 (€)
Average	120	59	52	22	-10	-3

(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

Week Details:						
Area allocated (m ² /day)	4360	3700	2600	4360	3700	2600
Farmlet cover (kg DM/cow)	212	151	142	225	160	147
Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1550	1275	1300	1550	1275	1300
Residual grazing height (cm)	4.58	4.12	3.45	4.50	4.50	3.55
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	1.73	1.73	2.00	1.78	1.84
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	25.7	23.6	23.2	26.8	25.6	25.1
% Fat	3.94	3.85	3.99	3.83	3.60	3.89
% Protein	3.70	3.54	3.50	3.64	3.38	3.44
Bodyweight (kg)	523	510	488	513	512	496
Condition Score	3.06	2.99	3.02	2.99	3.02	3.02

Cumulative:						
Milk solids (kg/cow)	175	162	168	154	140	153
(kg/ha)	439	473	551	387	409	502
Milk yield (kg/cow)	2315	2106	2225	2052	1905	2010
% Fat	4.17	4.29	4.28	4.05	3.99	4.30
% Protein	3.44	3.40	3.38	3.44	3.36	3.42
Days in milk	95	94	95	81	78	81
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.