

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 01-06-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

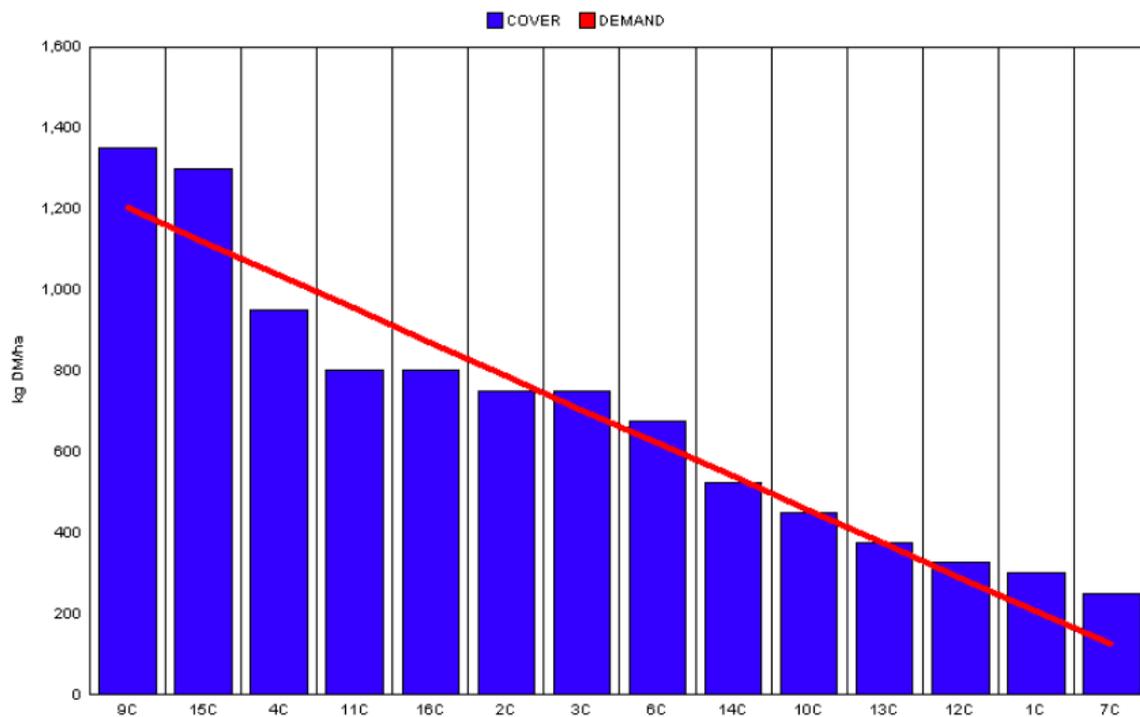
Critical Issues

- 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 31-MAY-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 31-MAY-10	Treatment : Low SR		
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	697
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) :	3.19
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	62
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 697kg/ha (218kg/cow) which is much the same as it was last week. As can be seen in the wedge (Figure 1) we have a slight surplus at the start but not enough to justify skipping over for silage. There has been a dramatic reduction in growth this week with many pastures showing signs of stress from lack of moisture and/or nitrogen deficiency.
- 2) Rain on Friday night and again on Monday (17.7mm for the week) should help to alleviate this.
- 3) 28% of the farmlet is closed and we plan to cut this on Wednesday, weather permitting.
- 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 62kg/day while current demand is 57kg/day.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

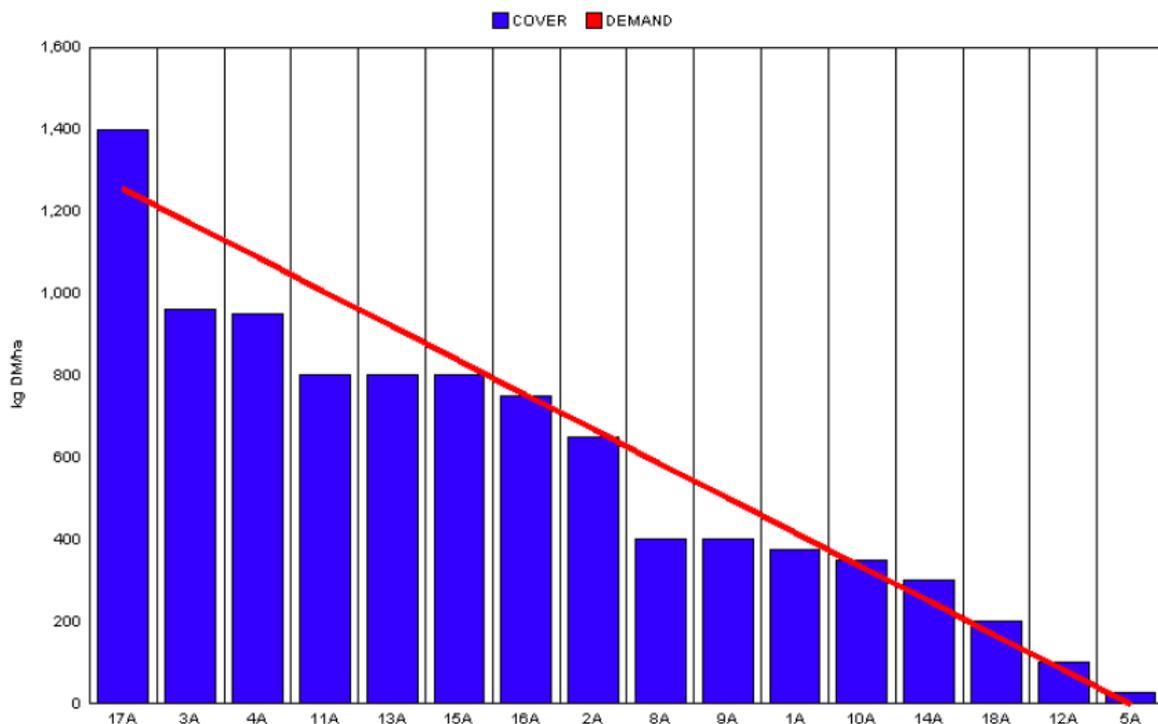
Critical Issues

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 31-MAY-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 31-MAY-10		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	593
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	158
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.75
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	53
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	60
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1259
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 593kg/ha (158/cow). Block 17 was skipped over for silage last Monday and was due to be cut tomorrow, however, as growth rate is substantially back on last

week if we exclude this paddock we have a large deficit in the wedge so for this reason we have decided to graze this paddock.

2. 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).
3. Dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day.
4. Growth rate was measured at 53kg/day while demand is 60kg.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 53 and 71kg/day.
2. Dry matters were estimated at 13% 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 4.09%, Protein 3.55%, Lactose 4.74%, SCC 136k, 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. Cows not yet mated have been synchronised and Kamars have been applied to all cows as an aid to heat detection.
 - 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 through the program to 086 3619628