

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 08-06-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

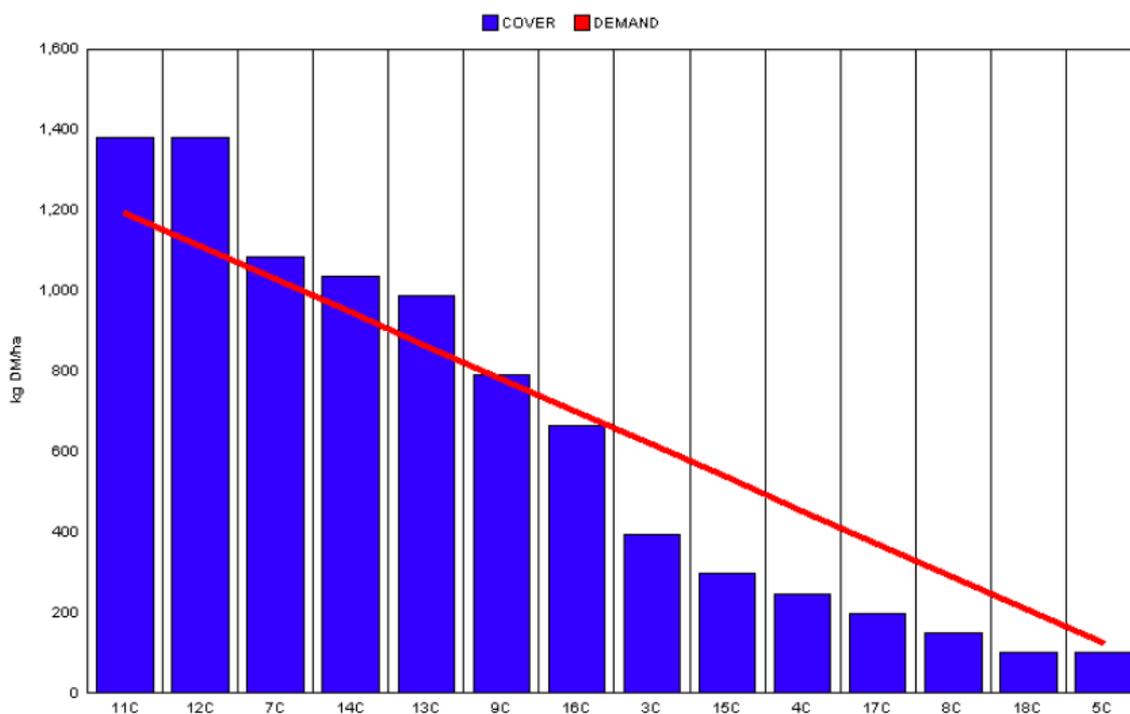
Critical Issues

- 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 09-JUN-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 08-JUN-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	644
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	204
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.16
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	90
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	57
Residual Height :	4.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1196
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 644kg/ha (204kg/cow). As expected, growth rates are up considerably on last week and paddocks that looked stressed last week have now improved. As can be seen in the wedge (Figure 1) we have a slight surplus at the start and a deficit at the end but overall we are happy with this wedge.
- 2) 28% of the farmlet that was closed for silage was cut on Wednesday and baled on Thursday. 3000gls/acre of watery slurry and 12 units of sulCAN have since been applied to this area.
- 3) A further 28% of the farmlet was closed this week and we plan to cut this towards the end of next week, 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 90kg/day while current demand is 57kg/day.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

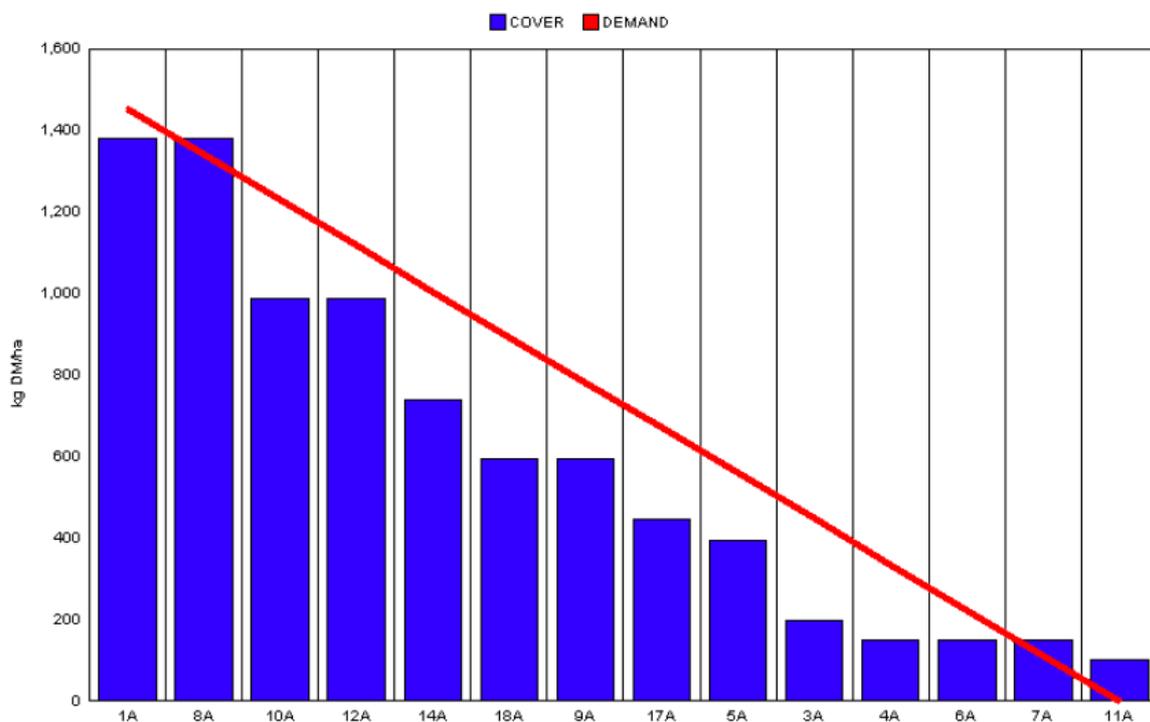
Critical Issues

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 09-JUN-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 08-JUN-10		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	569
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	131
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	4.33
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	77
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	69
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1455
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 569kg/ha (131/cow). As can be seen in the wedge we have a slight deficit in most paddocks on the wedge, however, we are not unduly concerned about this as the

next two paddocks are at target cover and paddock 10 is 4 days away from grazing so it will be close to target by the time the cows get there.

2. 14% of the farmlet that was closed last week was cut on Wednesday. A further 28% was closed this week and we plan to cut this towards the end of next week.
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 77kg/day while demand is 69kg.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 77 and 90kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 12.5% on Tuesday 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 3.98%, Protein 3.47%, Lactose 4.74%, SCC 156k, TBC 10k, THD 0, 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

