

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 15-06-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

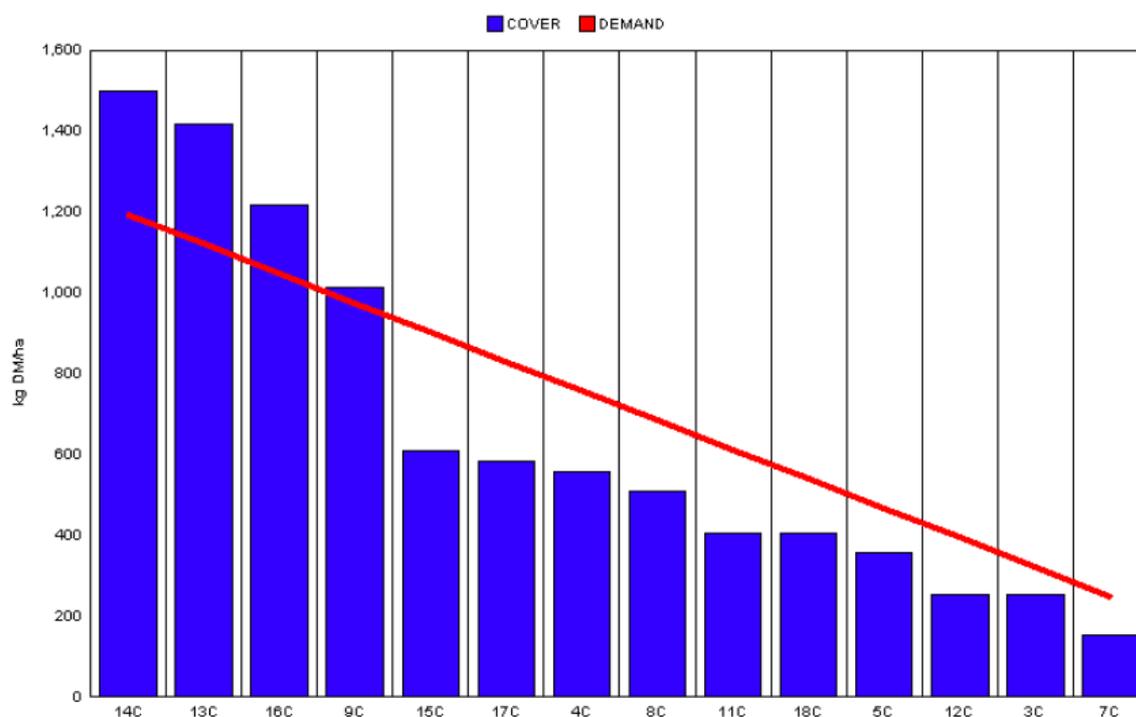
Critical Issues

- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 4.5 – 5.5cm
- 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 15-JUN-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 14-JUN-10	Treatment : Low SR		
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	664
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	210
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 :	60
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	57
Residual Height :	5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1196
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 667kg/ha (210kg/cow). Growth rates are back considerably on last week and an improvement in growth is not foreseen for this coming week. There is a deficit in the middle of the wedge but a surplus at the start so overall we are happy with this wedge.
- 2) As growth rate is equal to demand we do not foresee any surpluses this week.
- 3) 28% of the farmlet that was closed last week has been topped up with 20 units of sulCAN and will be cut in 2 to 3 weeks time.
- 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 60kg/day while current demand is 57kg/day.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

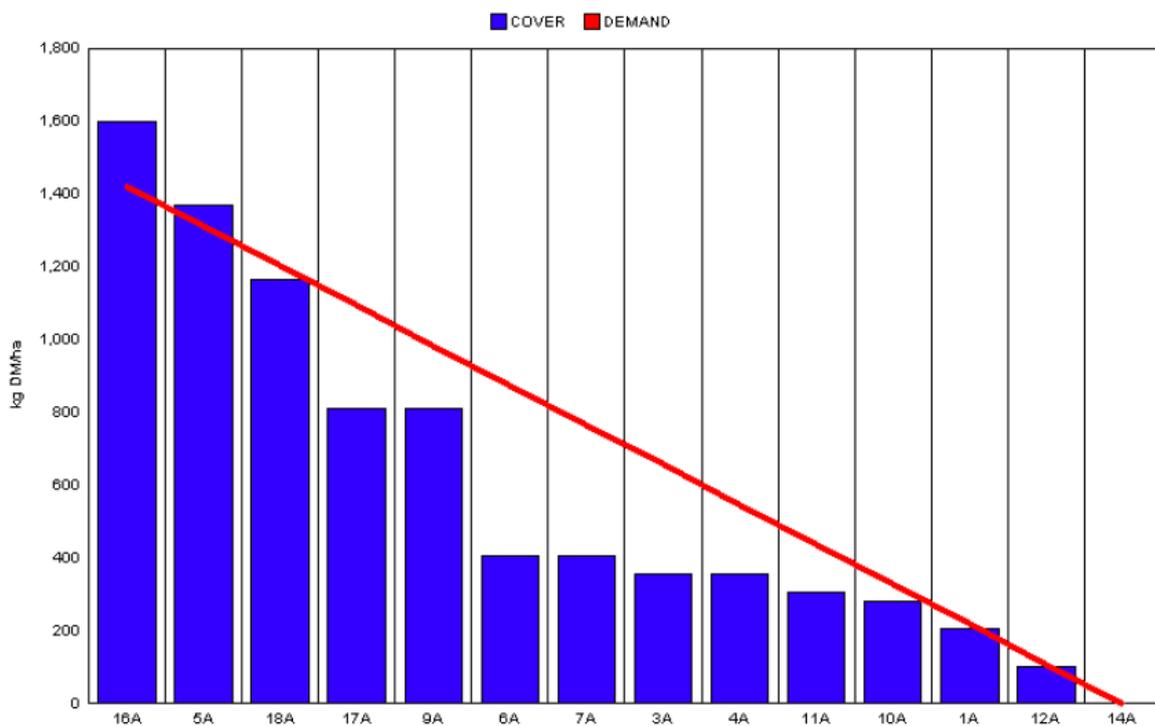
Critical Issues

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 15-JUN-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 14-JUN-10		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	597
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	141
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	4.24
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	60
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	68
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1426
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 597kg/ha (141/cow). As can be seen in the wedge we have a significant deficit in the second half of the wedge. This is a cause of concern as growth rates are currently less than demand.
2. In order to address this, the 28% of the farmlet that was closed last week will be cut today. This will lower the stocking rate, which in turn will reduce demand. Secondly, we will walk the farm again on Thursday and if further corrective action is required e.g. supplementation we will consider it then.
3. Pre-grazing yields are 1400 - 1600kg, 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 60kg/day while demand is 68kg.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 60 and 66kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 15.6% 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 3.8%, Protein 3.5%, Lactose 4.76%, SCC 186k, 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

