

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 22-06-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

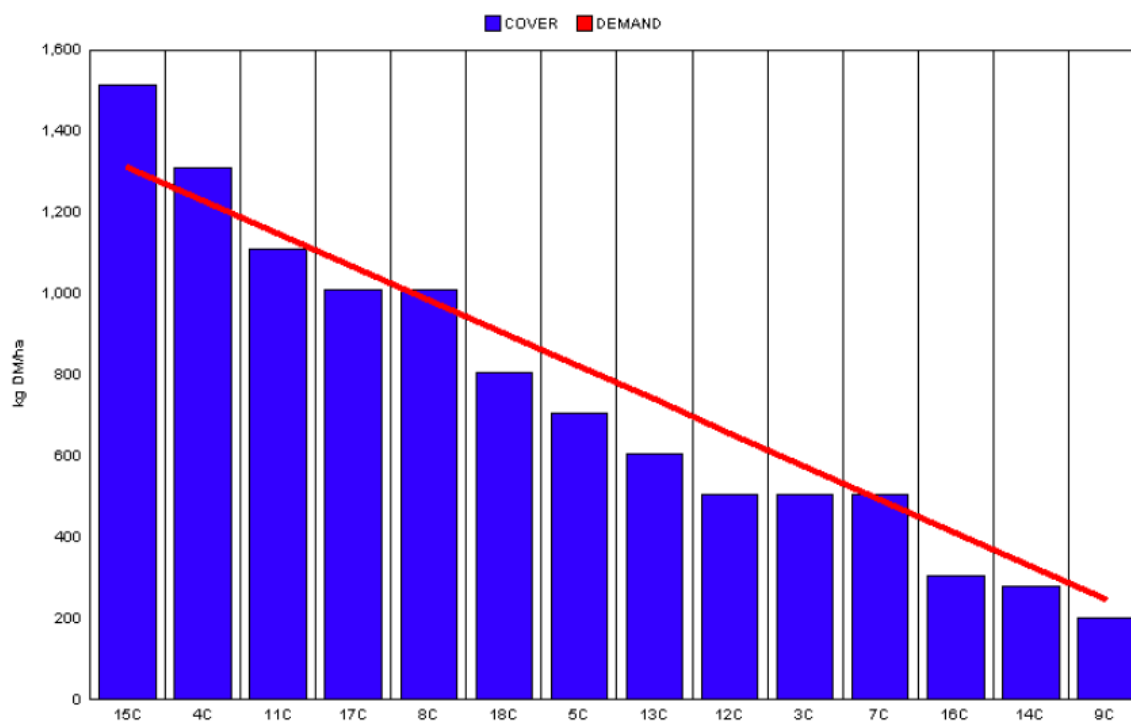
Critical Issues

- 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 22-JUN-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 21-JUN-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	743
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	235
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	2	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 :	70
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	51
Residual Height :	5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1313
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 743kg/ha (235kg/cow). As can be seen in Figure 1, we have a very even wedge with no significant surpluses or deficits.
- 2) Although growth rate is up on last week we do not see this continuing into the future as many paddocks are now showing signs of stress brought about by moisture deficit. As there is no substantial rain forecast over the next 7 days we can see a drought scenario developing.
- 3) Therefore, in an attempt to slow down the rotation in anticipation of this we are going to include 2kg into the diet on Wednesday. This is a 3-way mix (barley/citrus/gluten) with vitamins and minerals.
- 4) 28% of the farmlet that was closed two weeks ago and that was topped up with 20 units of sulCAN will be cut next week.
- 5) 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).
- 6) Dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day (16grass:2concentrate)
- 7) Growth rate last week was 70kg/day while current demand is 51kg/day.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

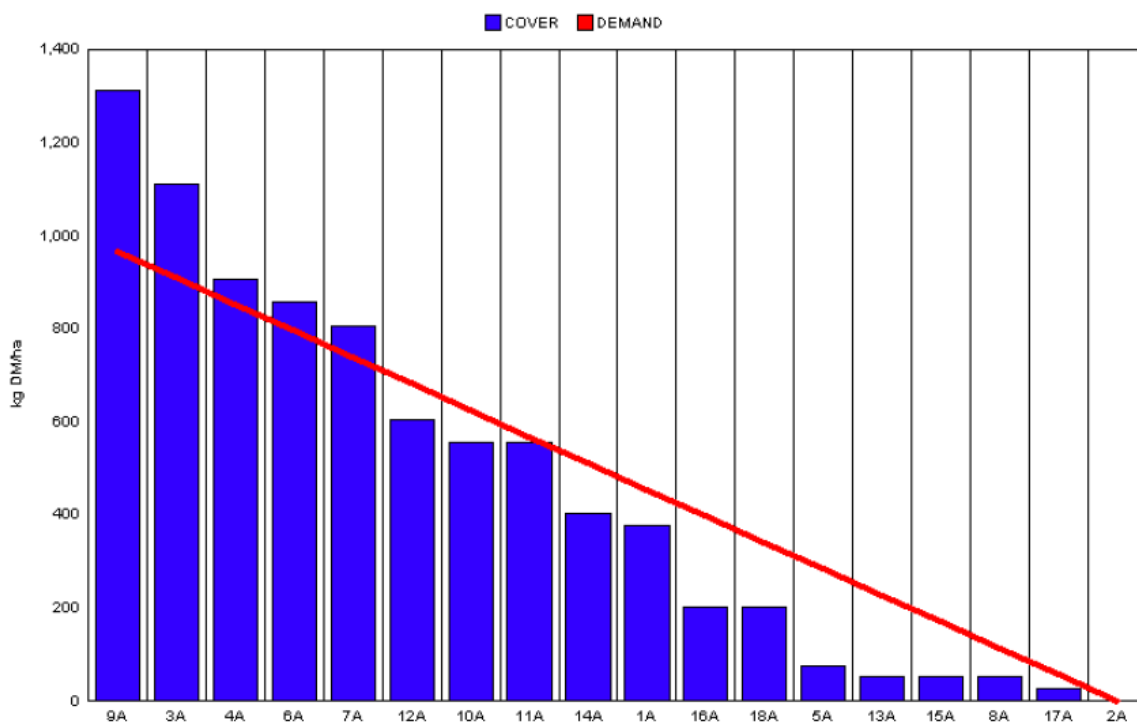
Critical Issues

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 22-JUN-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 21-JUN-10		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	455
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	14	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	138
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	2	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.30
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	61
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	46
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	969
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 455kg/ha (138/cow). As can be seen in the wedge we have a significant deficit in the bottom of the wedge and a slight surplus at the top of the wedge.

2. As with the low stocking rate, we feel it is necessary to slow down the rotation length so 2kg of concentrate is being fed per day.
3. Pre-grazing yields are 1200 - 1300kg, cows are getting full paddocks and residency time is approximately 36 hours. Cows are moved on when desired post grazing residual is achieved (3-3.5cm).
4. Dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day (14grass:2concentrate).
5. Growth rate was measured at 61kg/day while current demand is 46kg.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 59 and 70kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 17.5% on Tuesday morning.
3. 20 units of sulCAN is being spread per acre after grazing.
4. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.03%, Protein 3.48%, Lactose 4.75%, SCC 221k, TBC 14k, 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

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY, 20/06/10

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)	235	186	138	219	183	137
Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1550	1200	1300	1550	1200	1300
Residual grazing height (cm)	5.94	4.41	3.76	6.68	4.46	3.99
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)	1.73	1.65	1.66	1.76	1.60	1.70
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	23.2	21.7	21.2	23.6	22.6	22.2
% Fat	3.94	4.05	4.35	3.93	3.68	4.25
% Protein	3.52	3.61	3.55	3.56	3.45	3.47
Bodyweight (kg)	552	497	526	544	498	531
Condition Score	3.13	2.89	2.96	3.04	2.97	2.94

Cumulative:						
Milk solids (kg/cow)	226	210	217	206	190	203
(kg/ha)	567	613	712	517	555	666
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3000	2736	2858	2760	2606	2686
% Fat	4.08	4.22	4.22	3.99	3.91	4.19
% Protein	3.46	3.42	3.41	3.47	3.39	3.41
Days in milk	123	122	123	109	108	109
Total supplement fed (kg/cow)						
Concentrate	309	313	302	247	231	246
Silage	45	101	106	39	53	78
Conserved silage (kg DM /cow)	463	354	455	463	354	455
Bought in Silage (kg DM /cow)	0	0	0	0	0	0
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.