

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Thursday 01-07-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

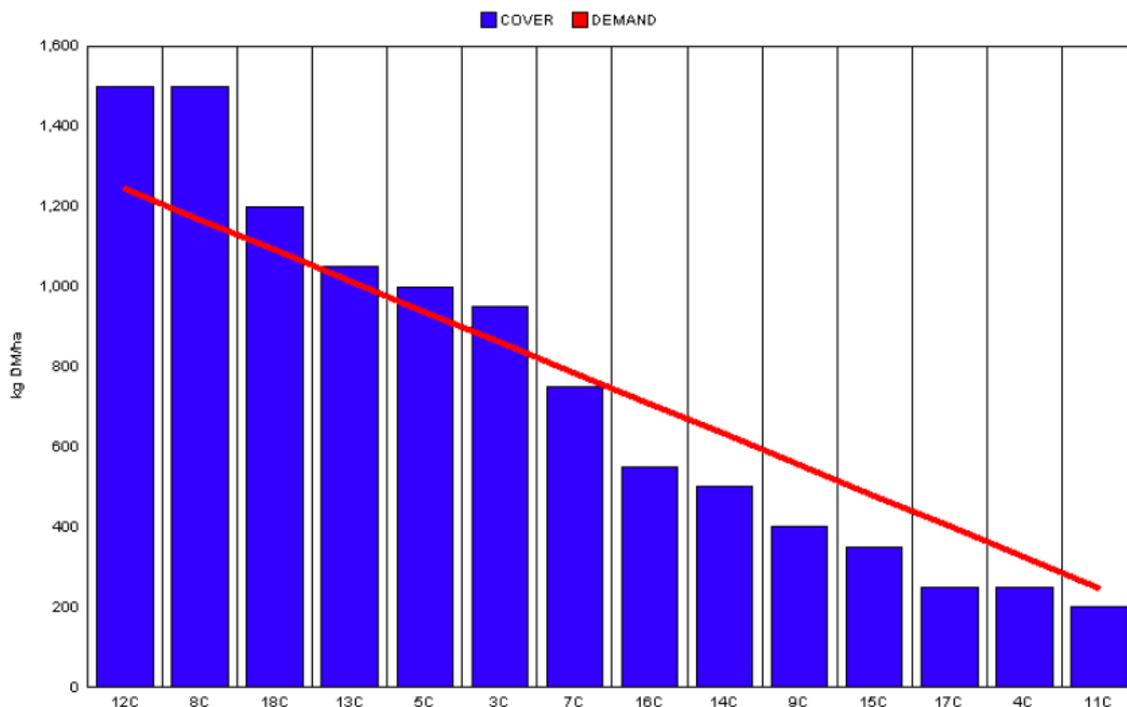
Critical Issues

- 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 30-JUN-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 28-JUN-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	722
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	15	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	228
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3	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 :	57
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	47
Residual Height :	5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1247
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 722kg/ha (228kg/cow). As can be seen in Figure 1, we have a fairly even wedge with no significant surpluses or deficits.
- 2) As expected, growth rate dropped as many paddocks were showing signs of moisture deficit. Concentrate feeding levels were increased from 2kg to 3kg on Thursday of last week. This is a 3-way mix (barley/citrus/gluten) with vitamins and minerals.
- 3) However, today's rain (Thursday) should increase growth for the coming week so for this reason we will cut the concentrate out of the diet from today on.
- 4) 28% of the farmlet was closed for silage and topped up with 20 units of sulCAN 3 weeks ago, this will be cut in the next few days.
- 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
- 7) Growth rate last week was 57kg/day while current demand is 47kg/day.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

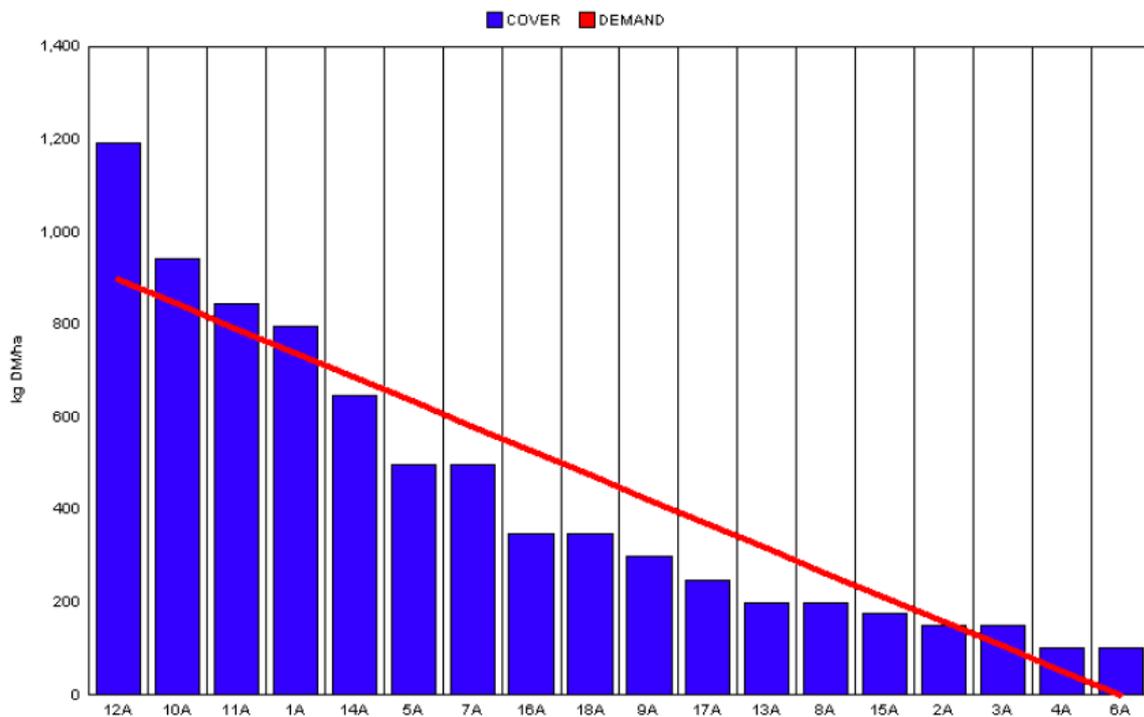
Critical Issues

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 30-JUN-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 28-JUN-10		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	425
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	13	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	129
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3	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 :	38
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	43
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	900
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 425kg/ha (129/cow). As can be seen in Figure 2 we have a slight deficit in the middle of the wedge but nothing too serious, however, pre-grazing yields are lower than we'd like.
2. As with the low stocking rate, concentrate supplementation increased to 3kg on Thursday of last week but after today's rain is now back to zero.
3. Pre-grazing yields are 1000 - 1200kg, 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
5. Growth rate was measured at 38kg/day while current demand is 43kg.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 38 and 57kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 14.2% 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 3.89%, Protein 3.46%, Lactose 4.76%, SCC 177k, TBC 18k, 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