

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 13-07-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

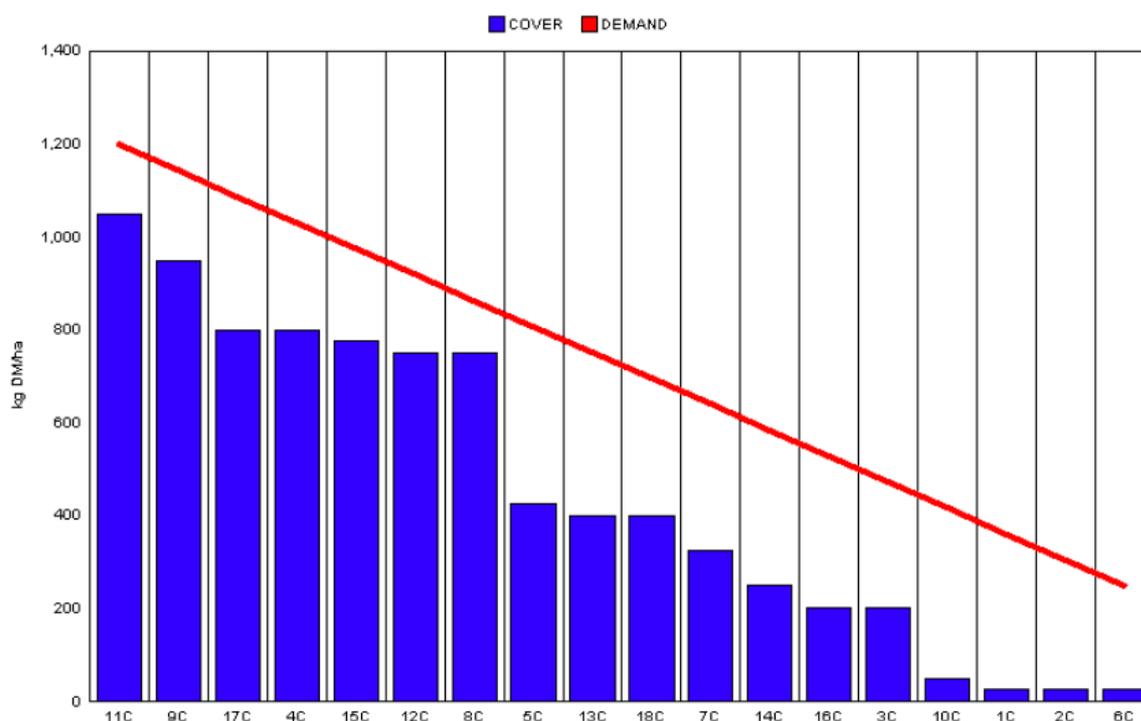
Critical Issues

- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 4.5 – 5.5cm
- 2) Achieve high grass intakes

Situation

Figure 1. Low Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

| Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre | | GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report | |
|---|--|---|-----------|
| Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS | | Date Produced | 12-JUL-10 |
| Farm : Curtins Farm | Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance | | |
| Date : 12-JUL-10 | Treatment : Low SR | | |
| Rotation Length : | 21 | Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : | 468 |
| Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU | 18 | Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : | 186 |
| Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : | 0 | Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) : | |
| Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) : | 0 | Stock Rate (LU/ha) : | 2.52 |
| N Application Rate (units/acre) : | | Growth Rate : | 49 |
| N Application Rate (kg/ha) : | | Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :: | 45 |
| Residual Height : | 5 | Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : | 1201 |
| Total Livestock : | 23 | | |



- 1) Farm cover is 468kg/ha (186kg/cow). As can be seen in Figure 1, we have a considerable deficit throughout the wedge.
- 2) Heavy rain on Friday and Saturday (>50mm) has dramatically improved growth rates. Average for the week was 49kg but as the spurt in growth only came after the rain current growth rates are probably in the region of 60 to 70kg/day.
- 3) As further heavy rain is forecast for this week we believe that growth rates are likely to continue at this level for at least the next 10 days. Therefore, we are not overly concerned about the deficit in the feed wedge and feel that it will be bridged by high growth rates over the next few days.
- 4) Concentrate supplementation has been reduced from 4kg to 2kg/day since Monday and will be phased out completely by Thursday (note there are no concentrates included in the feed wedge).
- 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) Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day
- 7) Growth rate last week was 49kg/day while current demand is 45kg/day.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

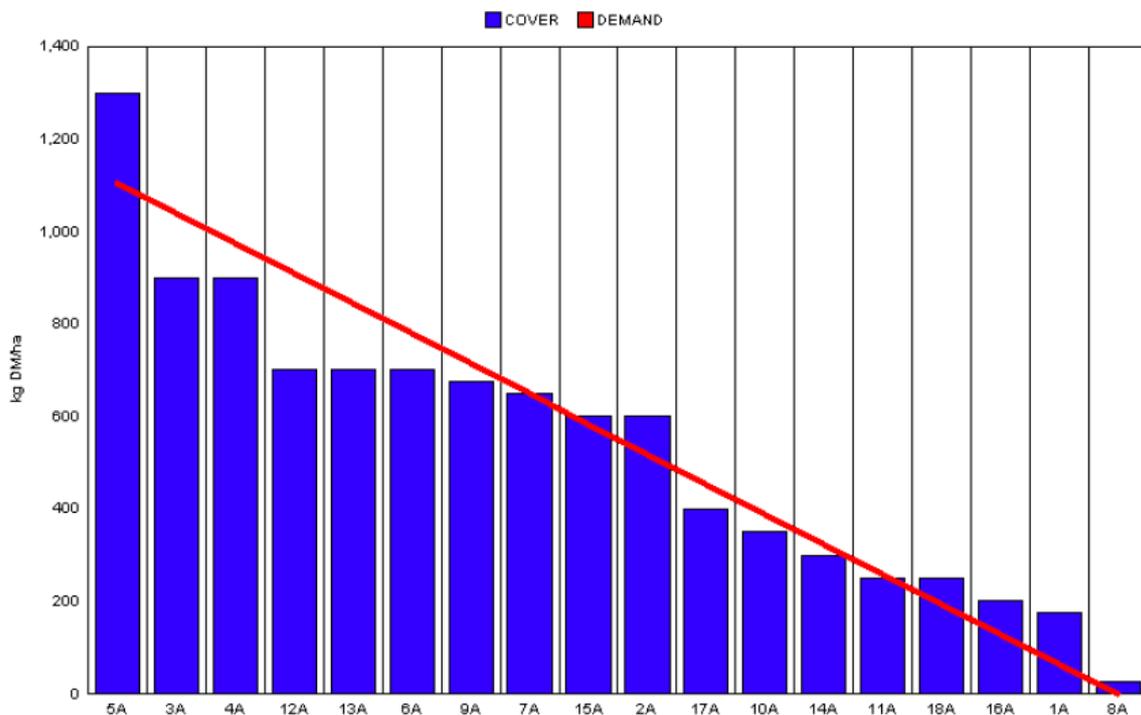
Critical Issues

1. Maintain post-grazing height at between 3 and 3.5cm
2. Achieve high grass intakes

Situation

Figure 2. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

| Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre | | GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report | |
|---|------------------------|--|-----------|
| Group : | TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS | Date Produced | 12-JUL-10 |
| Farm : | Curtins Farm | Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance | |
| Date : | 12-JUL-10 | Treatment : | High SR |
| Rotation Length : | 21 | Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : | 536 |
| Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) | 16 | Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : | 163 |
| Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : | 0 | 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 : | 57 |
| N Application Rate (kg/ha) : | | Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :: | 53 |
| Residual Height : | 3.5 | Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : | 1107 |
| Total Livestock : | 23 | | |



1. Farm cover is 536kg/ha (163/cow). As can be seen in Figure 2 we have a reasonably even shaped wedge.

2. Like the low stocking rate group, Fridays rain has greatly improved growth rates. Growth rate for this group over the last 7 days was 57kg (up from 39kg last week)
3. Concentrate supplementation has been reduced from 4kg to 2kg/day since Monday and will be phased out completely by Thursday (note there are no concentrates included in the feed wedge).
4. Pre-grazing yields are between 1000 and 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).
5. Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day
6. Growth rate was measured at 57kg/day while current demand is 53kg.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 49 and 65kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 14.5% 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 4.30%, Protein 3.52%, Lactose 4.67%, SCC 186k, TBC 18k, THD 0, Sediment A.
5. AI commenced on the 26th of April.
6. Critical Short-term Actions:
 - a. Monitor cows closely for signs of oestrous.
 - b. 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