Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 20-07-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

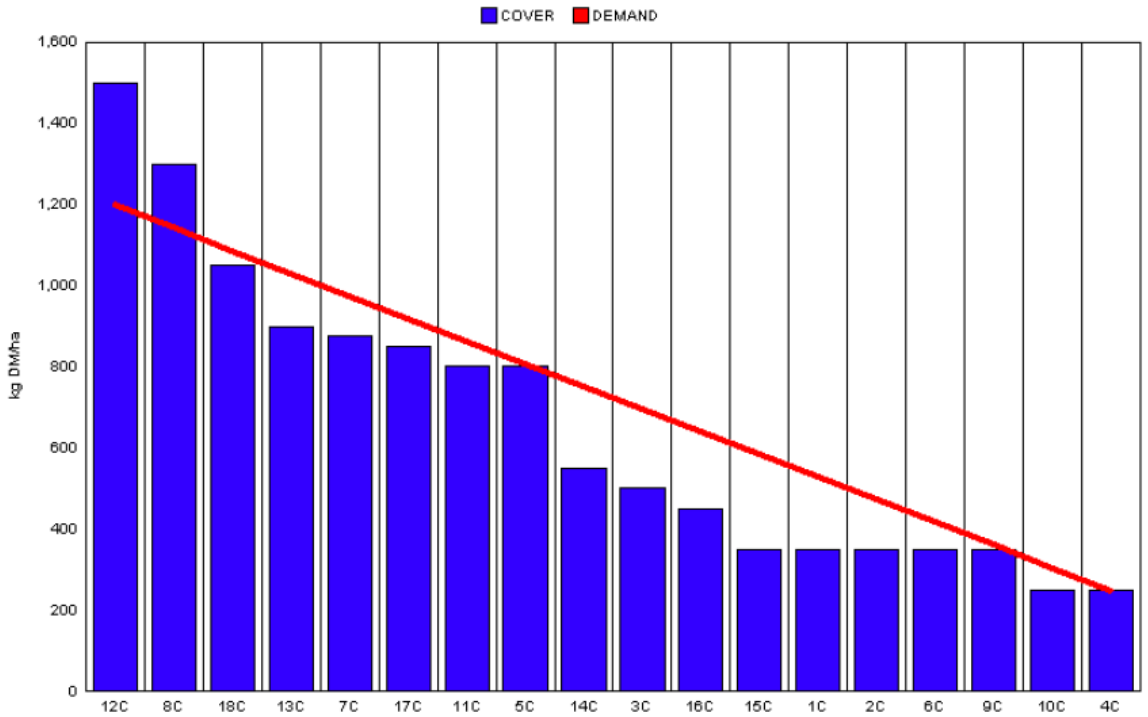
1) **Maintain post-grazing height at between 4.5 – 5.5cm**
2) **Achieve high grass intakes**

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 19-JUL-10
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance
Date : 19-JUL-10	Treatment : Low SR

Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	654
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	260
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 :	56
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 654kg/ha (260kg/cow), which is up considerably on last week. However, as can be seen in Figure 1, there are no significant surpluses in the wedge so no paddocks have been skipped for silage. Cows are currently grazing paddock 12.
2) Average growth rate for the week was 56kg, which is slightly lower than expected but is still higher than demand at 45kg.
3) 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).
4) Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day
5) Concentrate was removed from the diet on Thursday of last week.

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**

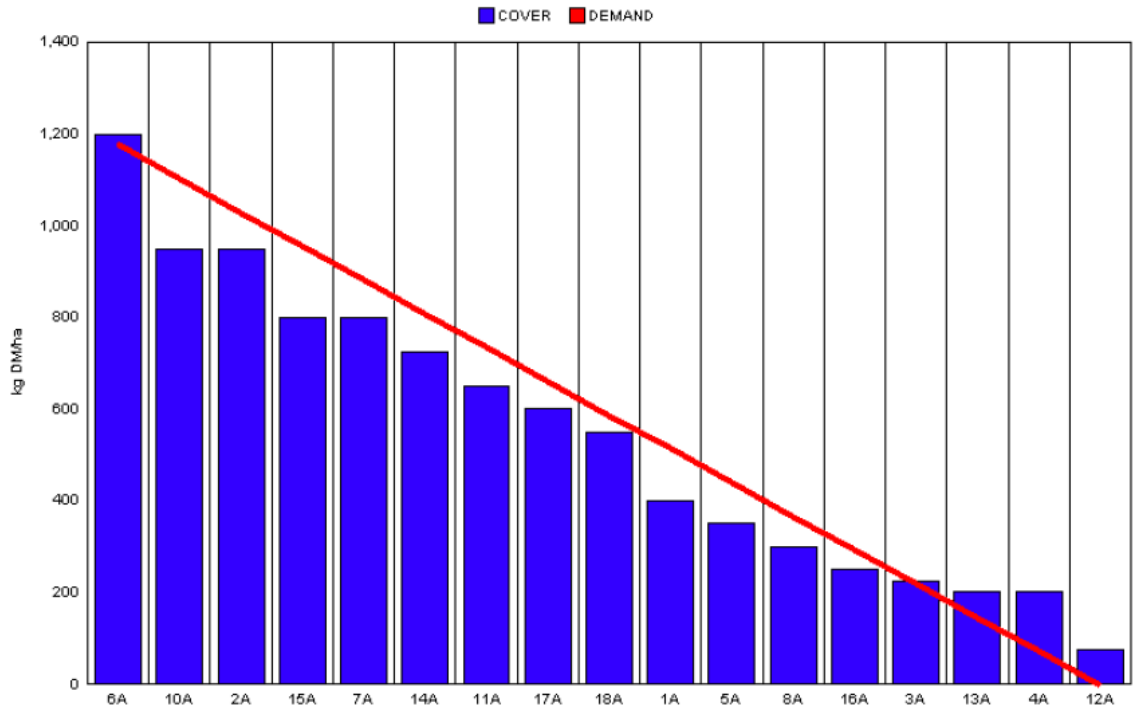
Situation

Figure 2. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre — **GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report**

Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS	Date Produced 19-JUL-10
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance
Date : 19-JUL-10	Treatment : High SR

Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	550
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	157
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.51
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	44
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	56
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1178
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 550kg/ha (157/cow). As can be seen in Figure 2 we have a very even shaped wedge. This is after removing one surplus paddock (cover 1400kg). This paddock will be cut and baled on Friday or Saturday of this week.

2. Growth rate for this group at 44kg/day is a lot less than expected and is actually lower than demand at 56kg. The reasons for this are unknown as there are no longer any soil moisture deficits and soil temperatures have remained stable at 17.5ºC.
3. Pre-grazing yields are between 1000 and 1300kg, 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 (3-3.5cm).
4. Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day
5. Cows came off concentrate on Thursday of last week.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 44 and 56kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 12.1% on Monday 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 4.40%, Protein 3.51%, Lactose 4.60%, SCC 171k, TBC 10k, 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 the username: Curtins Farm High SR

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY, 18/07/10

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	**Early Calving**			**Late Calving**		
Stocking rate Group	**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)	260	165	157	269	160	136
Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1500	1400	1200	1500	1400	1200
Residual grazing height (cm)	5.96	4.50	4.00	4.61	4.23	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)	1.62	1.38	1.50	1.60	1.41	1.47
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	21.1	18.9	19.0	21.5	20.4	19.8
% Fat	4.10	3.87	4.34	3.92	3.58	3.97
% Protein	3.55	3.53	3.60	3.53	3.41	3.48
Bodyweight (kg)	540	527	512	532	525	521
Condition Score	3.03	2.92	2.93	2.93	2.94	2.88
Cumulative:						
Milk solids (kg/cow)	272	252	261	256	233	247
(kg/ha)	683	736	856	643	680	810
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3615	3290	3412	3384	3200	3274
% Fat	4.07	4.19	4.25	3.99	3.87	4.17
% Protein	3.47	3.44	3.43	3.48	3.39	3.41
Days in milk	151	150	151	137	136	137
Total supplement fed (kg/cow)						
Concentrate	378	369	378	320	314	316
Silage	46	101	111	42	57	81
Conserved silage (kg DM /cow)	773	414	455	773	414	455
Bought in Silage (kg DM /cow)	593	593	593	593	593	593
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.