Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 27-07-10

<u>Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)</u>
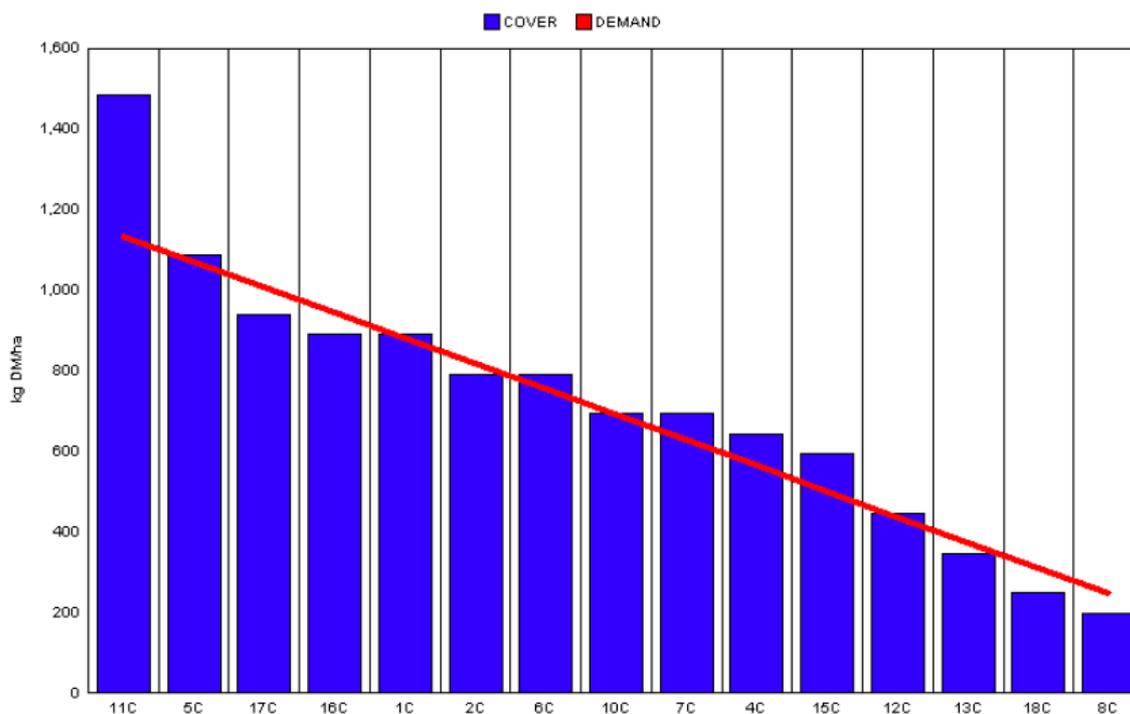
Critical Issues

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 28-JUL-10
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance
Date : 26-JUL-10	Treatment : Low SR

Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	727
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	242
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.00
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	57
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	54
Residual Height :	5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1135
Total Livestock :	23		

1) Farm cover is 727kg/ha (242kg/cow), which is up considerably on last week. 3 paddocks have been skipped this week and while we could have skipped paddock 11 we decided to graze it as pre-grazing yields on the remaining paddocks would be below our target range.

2) Average growth rate for the week was 57kg, which is lower than expected and is only equal to demand.

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
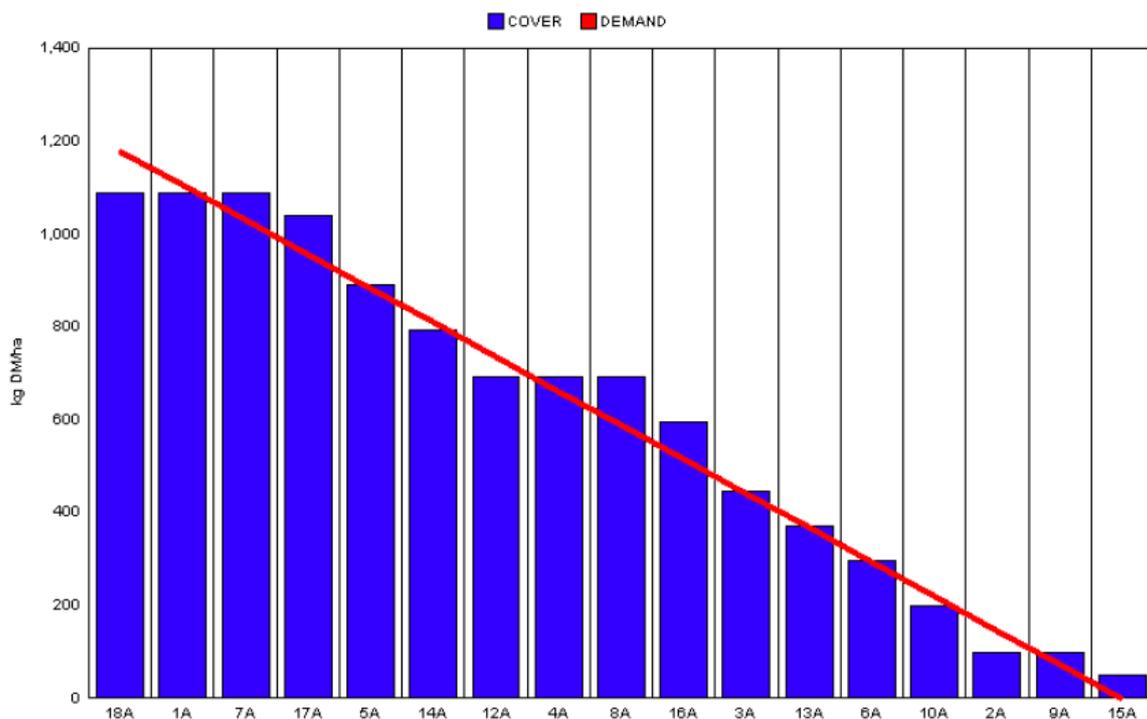
<u>High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)</u>

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	28-JUL-10
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 26-JUL-10	Treatment : High SR		

Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	593
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	169
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 :	57
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	56
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1180
Total Livestock :	23		

1. Farm cover is 593kg/ha (169/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 along with the 3 low stocking rate paddocks within the next 10 days weather permitting.

2. Paddock 9 which was skipped last week was cut on Thursday.

3. Growth rate for this group is at 57kg/day is a lot less than expected but is equal to demand.

4. Pre-grazing yields are between 1000 and 1200kg, 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).

5. Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 57 and 71kg/day.

2. Dry matters were 14.3% 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 4.14%, Protein 3.50%, Lactose 4.67%, SCC 233k, TBC 10k, THD 0, Sediment A.

5. AI commenced on the 26th of April and will cease on the 7th of August.

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