

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 03-08-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

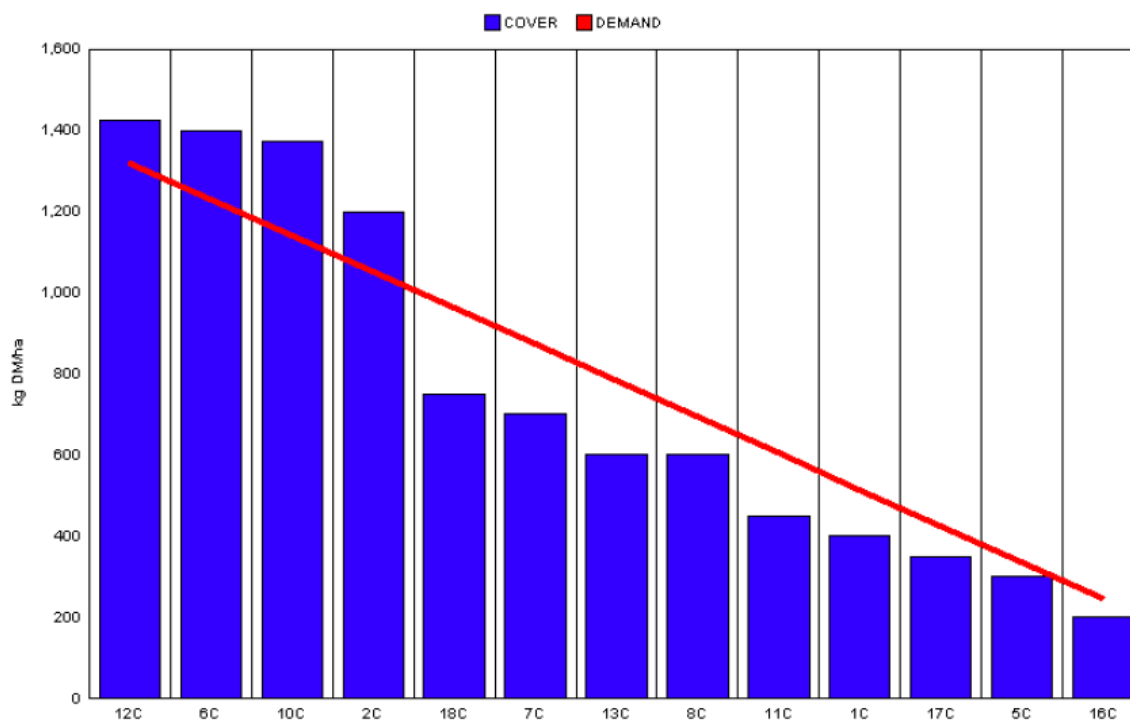
Critical Issues

- 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 03-AUG-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 03-AUG-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) :	208
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.50
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	60
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	63
Residual Height :	5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1321
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 727kg/ha (208kg/cow), which is similar to last week. This is after skipping over 2 more paddocks for silage, which brings the total number of paddocks closed for silage to 5 or 35% of the total area. These will be cut and baled early next week.
- 2) Average growth rate for the week was 60kg, while demand for the coming week is 63kg
- 3) Pre-grazing yields are approximately 1400kg and 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

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

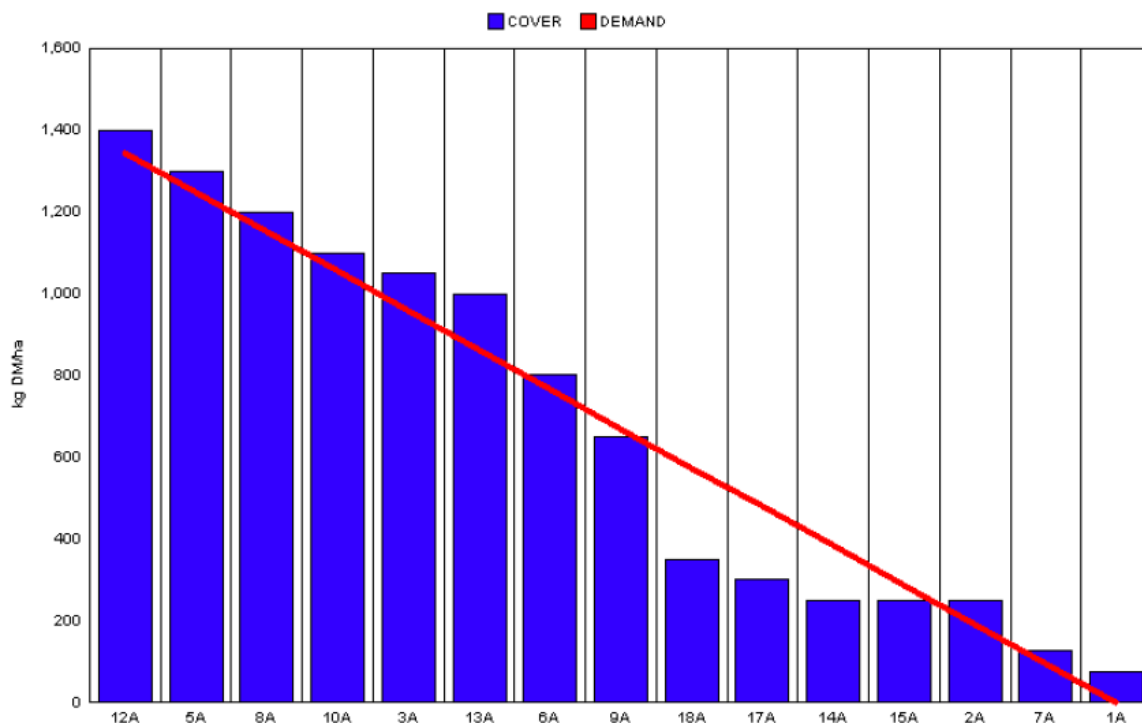
Critical Issues

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	03-AUG-10
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 03-AUG-10		Treatment :	High SR
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	657
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	164
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	4.01
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	65
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	64
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1346
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 657kg/ha (164/cow). As can be seen in Figure 2 we have a very even shaped wedge, albeit with a slight deficit towards the bottom.

2. Two more paddocks were skipped over this week which brings the total number of paddocks currently closed to 3 or approximately 21% of the total farmlet area. Like the Low SR paddocks these will be cut early next week.
3. Growth rate for this group is at 65kg/day while demand for the coming week is 64kg
4. Pre-grazing yields are between 1200 and 1400kg, 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 (3.5 – 3.7cm).
5. Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 60 and 65kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 13.2% on Monday morning.
3. 20 units of sulCAN is being spread per acre after grazing. Total amount of nitrogen spread to date is 231kgN/ha
4. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.45%, Protein 3.57%, Lactose 4.67%, SCC 207k, TBC 16k, 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

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY, 01/08/10

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)	208	187	164	199	184	151
Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400
Residual grazing height (cm)	5.18	5.01	4.02	5.24	4.69	3.60
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)	1.49	1.39	1.26	1.49	1.34	1.32
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	19.5	17.3	16.5	19.3	18.3	18.0
% Fat	4.14	4.44	4.13	4.12	3.97	3.90
% Protein	3.58	3.62	3.60	3.58	3.44	3.50
Bodyweight (kg)	559	514	526	548	520	529
Condition Score	3.05	2.87	2.85	2.92	2.95	2.84

Cumulative:						
Milk solids (kg/cow)	293	271	279	274	251	266
(kg/ha)	735	791	915	688	733	873
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3885	3531	3651	3655	3457	3531
% Fat	4.08	4.21	4.23	4.00	3.88	4.41
% Protein	3.48	3.45	3.44	3.48	3.39	3.42
Days in milk	165	164	165	151	150	151
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	470	474	773	470	474
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.