

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 10-08-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

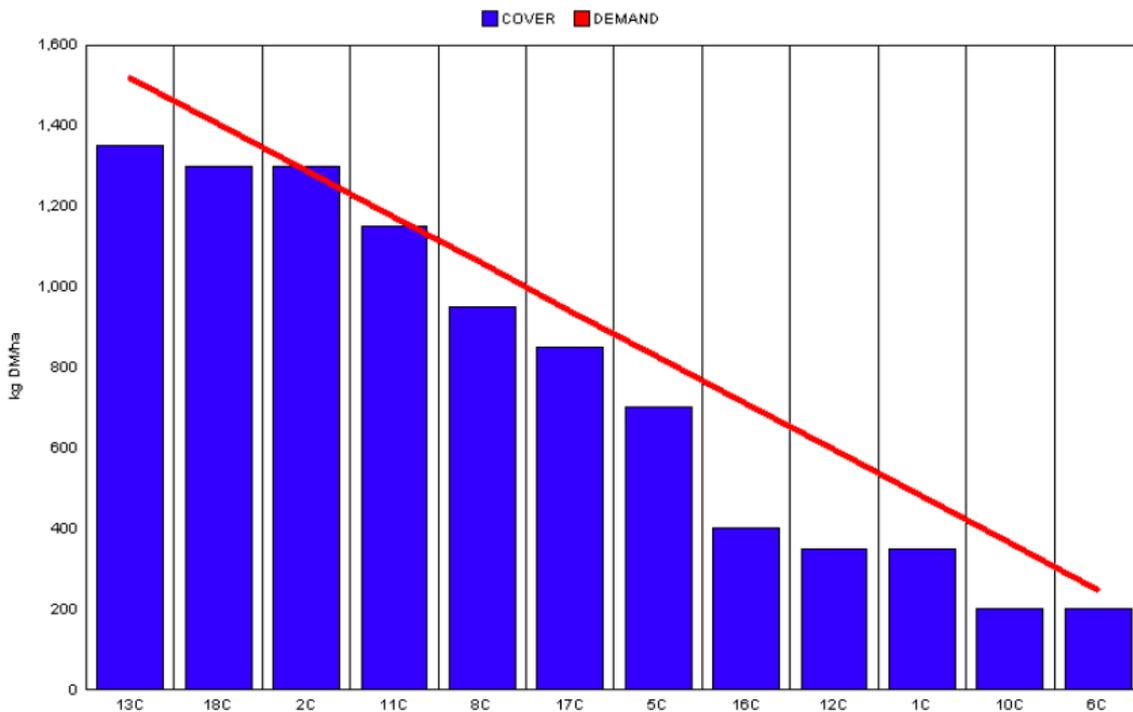
Critical Issues

- 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 10-AUG-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 09-AUG-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	22	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	766
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	199
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.85
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	74
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	69
Residual Height :	5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1523
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 766kg/ha (199kg/cow), which is similar to last week. This is after skipping over 1 more paddock for silage, which brings the total number of paddocks closed for silage to 6 or 42% of the total area.
- 2) These paddocks are being cut today (Tuesday) and will be baled tomorrow.
- 3) Average growth rate for the week was 74kg, while demand for the coming week (with the silage ground closed) is 69kg. This will drop to 45kg.
- 4) 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).
- 5) Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

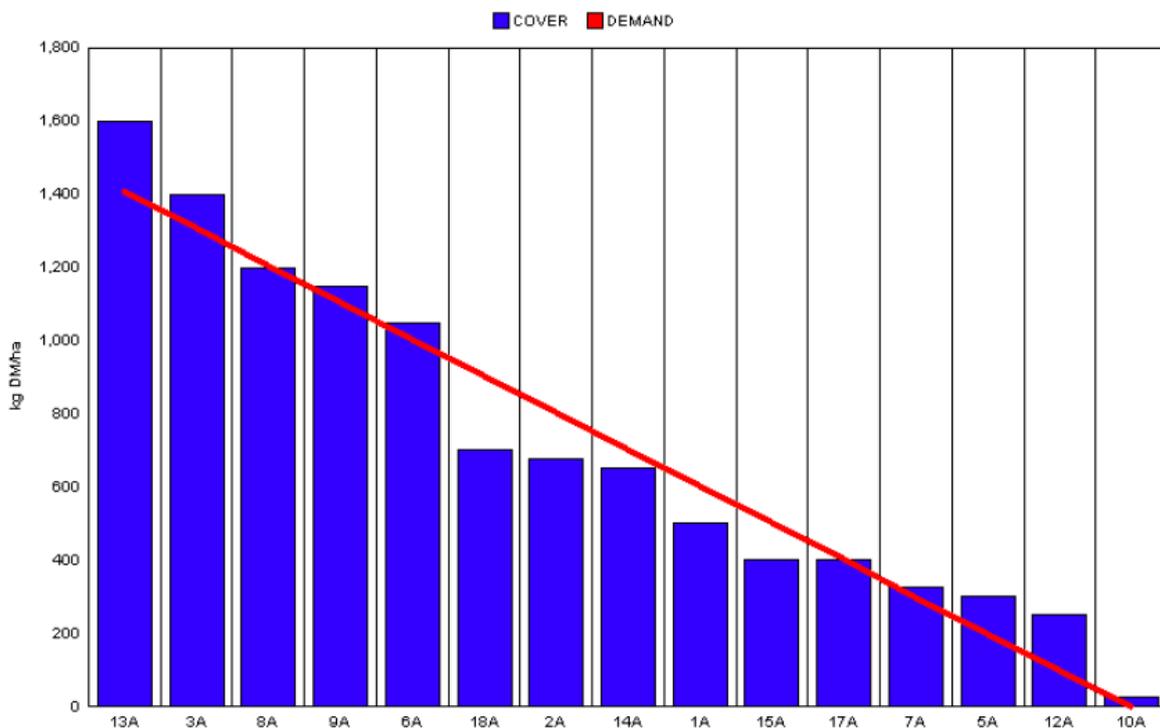
Critical Issues

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	10-AUG-10
Farm :	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date :	09-AUG-10	Treatment :	High SR
Rotation Length :	22	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	705
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	176
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 :	57
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	64
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1410
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 705kg/ha (176/cow). As can be seen in Figure 2 we have a relatively even shaped wedge with no obvious surpluses or deficits.

2. The three paddocks that were closed for silage last week (21% of the total farmlet area) will be cut today.
3. Growth rate for this group is at 57kg/day while demand for the coming week is 64kg. Once the silage paddocks are cut demand will drop to 53kg/day.
4. Pre-grazing yields are between 1300 and 1500kg, 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 57 and 74kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 13.3% on Monday morning.
3. 20 units of sulCAN is being spread per acre after grazing. Total amount of nitrogen spread to 1st August is 231kgN/ha
4. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.32%, Protein 3.58%, Lactose 4.67%, SCC 173k, TBC 10k, THD 0, Sediment A.
5. AI commenced on the 26th of April and ceased on the 7th of August.
6. Critical Short-term Actions:
 - a. 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