

## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 17-08-10

### Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

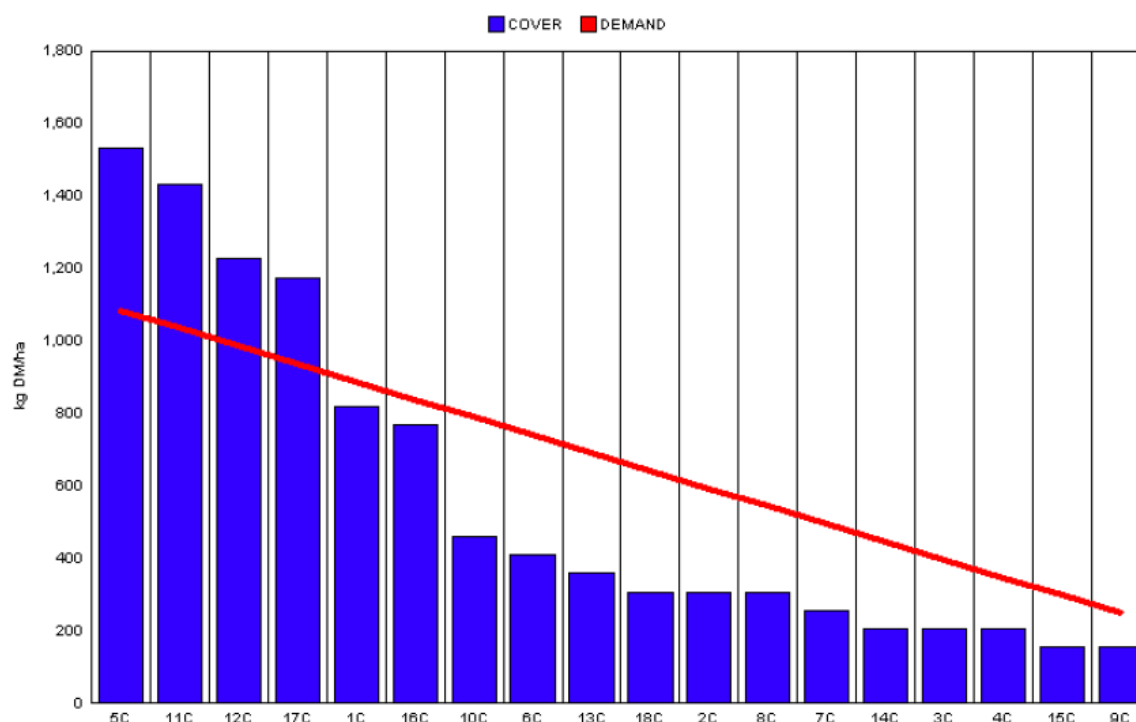
#### Critical Issues

- 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 17-AUG-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 16-AUG-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	24	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	574
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	228
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 :	65
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	45
Residual Height :	5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1087
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 574kg/ha or 228kg/cow. As can be seen in Figure 1, we have a very uneven wedge with a significant deficit in the bottom half of the wedge and a significant surplus in the top half. This is as a result of cutting 42% of the farmlet for silage last week. However we are not unduly concerned about this as the cover per cow figure is satisfactory and the farm is growing well.
- 2) Average growth rate for the week was 65kg, while demand for the coming week is 45kg.
- 3) Pre-grazing yields are approximately 1500kg 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 (4.5-5.5cm).
- 4) Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day

## High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

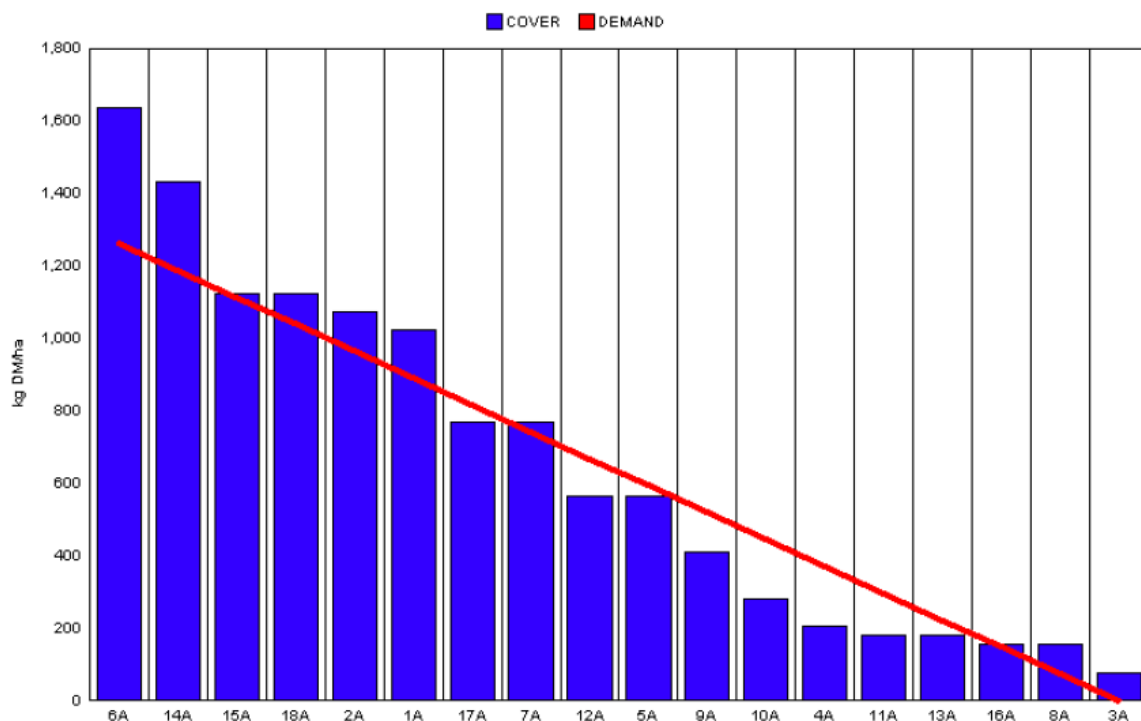
### Critical Issues

1. Maintain post-grazing height at 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	17-AUG-10
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 16-AUG-10		Treatment :	High SR
Rotation Length :	24	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	647
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	196
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 :	66
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) ::	53
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1265
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 647kg/ha (196/cow). As can be seen in Figure 2 we have a relatively even shaped wedge. Cows are currently grazing block 6, which has a slightly higher cover than desired and should have been skipped over.
2. Growth rate for this group is at 66kg/day while demand for the coming week is 53kg/day.
3. Pre-grazing yields are between 1400 and 1600kg, 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).
4. Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day

### **Whole Farm Situation**

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 56 and 66kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 16.3% on Monday morning.
3. 20 units of sulCAN is being spread per acre after grazing. Total amount of nitrogen spread to 1<sup>st</sup> August is 231kgN/ha
4. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 3.33%, Protein 3.55%, Lactose 4.64%, SCC 205k, TBC 11k, THD 0, Sediment A.
5. AI commenced on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April and ceased on the 7<sup>th</sup> 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

## **EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY, 15/08/10**

*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 (€)
<b>Average</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-3</b>

*(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

<b>Week Details:</b>						
Area allocated (m <sup>2</sup> /day)	4360	3700	2600	4360	3700	2600
Farmlet cover (kg DM/cow)	228	212	196	239	201	188
Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1500	1350	1600	1500	1350	1600
Residual grazing height (cm)	5.43	5.02	3.42	5.60	4.83	4.08
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)	1.57	1.41	1.32	1.56	1.42	1.33
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	20.1	16.8	15.6	20.3	17.9	16.5
% Fat	4.09	4.66	4.87	4.02	4.35	4.60
% Protein	3.75	3.79	3.61	3.71	3.68	3.54
Bodyweight (kg)	553	514	542	543	516	542
Condition Score	3.05	2.87	2.85	2.92	2.95	2.84

<b>Cumulative:</b>						
Milk solids (kg/cow)	315	290	297	296	271	285
(kg/ha)	791	847	974	743	791	935
Milk yield (kg/cow)	4168	3768	3875	3938	3709	3769
% Fat	4.08	4.22	4.25	4.01	3.89	4.15
% Protein	3.49	3.46	3.45	3.50	3.41	3.42
Days in milk	179	178	179	165	164	165
Total supplement fed (kg/cow)						
Concentrate	378	369	378	320	314	316
Silage	46	101	111	42	57	81
Conserved silage (kg DM /cow)	958	558	575	958	558	575
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.**