

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Thursday 09-09-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

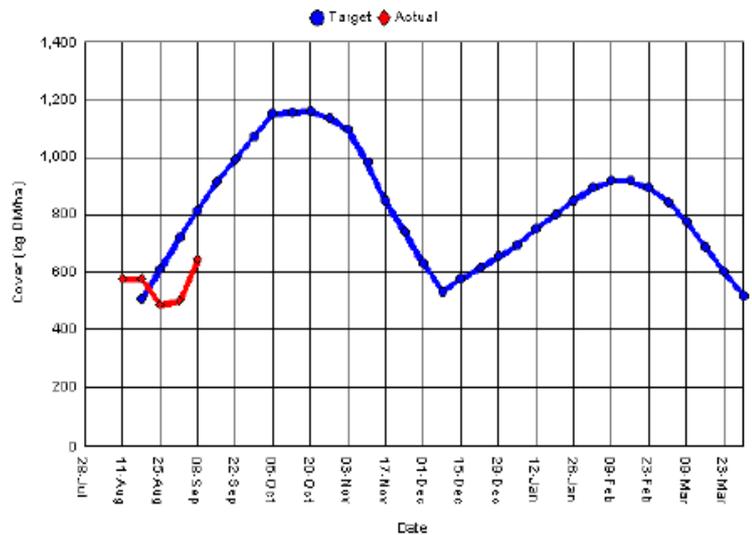
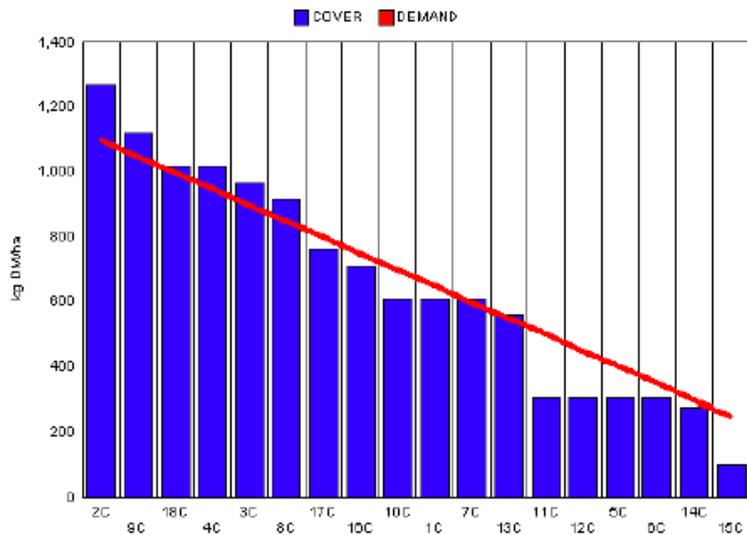
Critical Issues

- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 4.5 – 5cm
- 2) Achieve target autumn average farm cover.

Situation

Figure 1. Low Stocking Rate Feed Wedge & Autumn Budget

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced 09-SEP-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 09-SEP-10		Treatment : Low SR	
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Rotation Length :	38	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	647
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) :	11.5	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	257
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	4	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	2.52
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	2.6	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	43
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	43
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	29
Residual Height :	5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1100
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 647kg/ha or 257kg/cow, which is up considerably on last weeks figure, brought about by increased growth rate as a result of over 60mm of rain since Sunday.

However, we are still behind target in terms of average farm cover, 647kg versus target of 810kg for last Monday.

- 2) Therefore, we are continuing to supplement with 4kg of concentrate and 2.5kg of bale silage until such time as we are back on target. Growth rates for the last 9 days were 43kg but are expected to be greater for the coming week while demand is being held at 29kg/day.
- 3) The silage is fed out in the paddock underneath the dividing wire.
- 4) Cows are getting approximately 4 grazings per paddock. Despite the rain, conditions are still excellent for both grazing and feeding silage in the field. If conditions deteriorate we will commence strip grazing and start feeding silage indoors.
- 5) Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

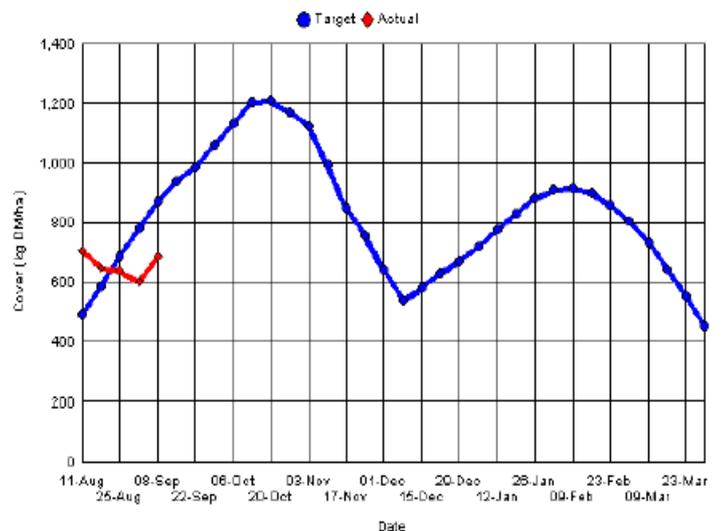
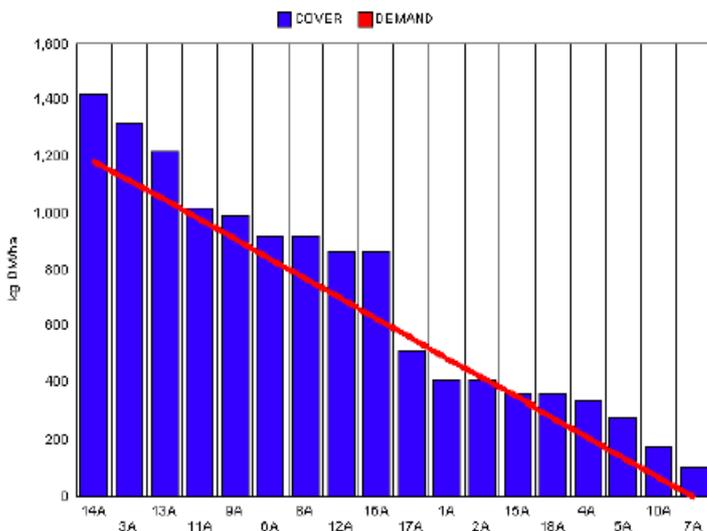
1. Maintain post-grazing height at 3.5cm
2. Achieve target autumn average farm cover.
- 3.

Situation

Figure 2. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge & Autumn Budget

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced	09-SEP-10
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 09-SEP-10	Treatment : High SR		

Rotation Length :	38	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	687
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) :	9.5	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	208
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	4	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	2.5	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.30
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	50
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	31
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1190
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 687kg/ha (208/cow), which is an increase on last weeks figure. As can be seen in Figure 2, we are still considerably behind target in terms of average farm cover (687 vs 931kg). For this reason we are continuing to feed 4kg of concentrate per day along with 2.5kg of bale silage.

2. Growth rate for this group is at 50kg/day while demand for the coming week is 31kg/day so farm cover should increase more by next week.
3. Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 43 and 50kg/day.
2. Dry matters were to be 13.7% on Monday morning.
3. Rotation lengths for all groups has been set at 38 days, target for end of September is 45-50 days.
4. 27 units of Urea is being spread per acre after grazing. Total amount of nitrogen spread to 1st August is 231kgN/ha. A number of paddocks (20-30% of the farm) will be spread with 27 units of urea prior to the closing date for spreading.
5. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.12%, Protein 3.50%, Lactose 4.28%, SCC 174k, TBC 11k, THD 0, Sediment A.
6. AI commenced on the 26th of April and ceased on the 7th of August.
7. 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