

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 21-09-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

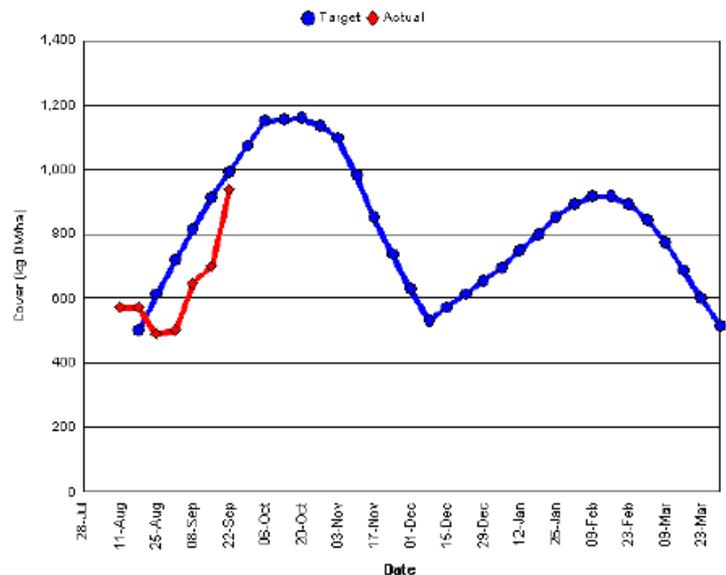
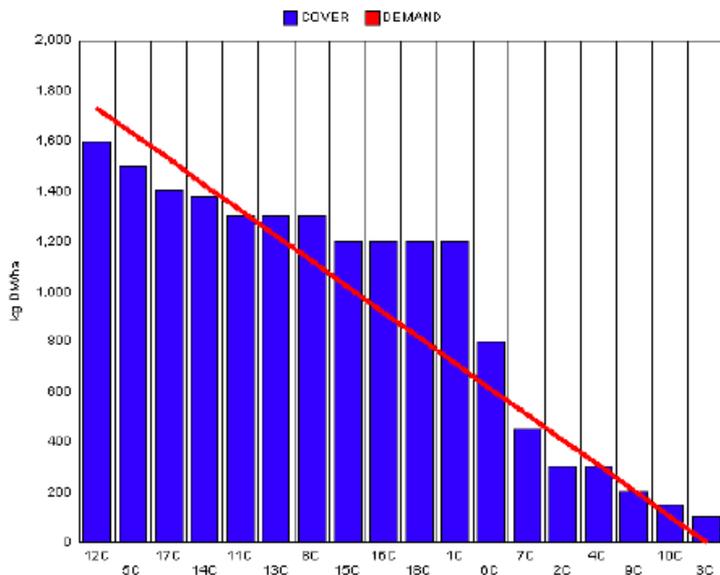
- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 4 – 5cm
- 2) Achieve target autumn average farm cover.

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 20-SEP-10
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance
Date : 20-SEP-10	Treatment : Low SR	

Rotation Length :	43	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	940
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	373
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	2	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 :	70
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	40
Residual Height :	4	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1731
Total Livestock :	23		



- 1) Farm cover is 940kg/ha or 373kg/cow, which is a massive increase on last weeks figure (cover per cow increased by almost 100kg) and is a reflection of above average growth rates for the week of 70kg/day while demand was kept low at 29kg/day.

- 2) As we are now almost back on target (Figure 1), we have taken silage out of the diet and reduced concentrates to 2kg/day with a view to removing it from the diet fully by the weekend. Weather is mild and conducive to good grass growth for the coming week.
- 3) As pre-grazing yields have increased to greater than 1600kg we are dividing paddocks in half. Residency time per segment is 24 hours.
- 4) Rotation length has increased to 43 days.
- 5) Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

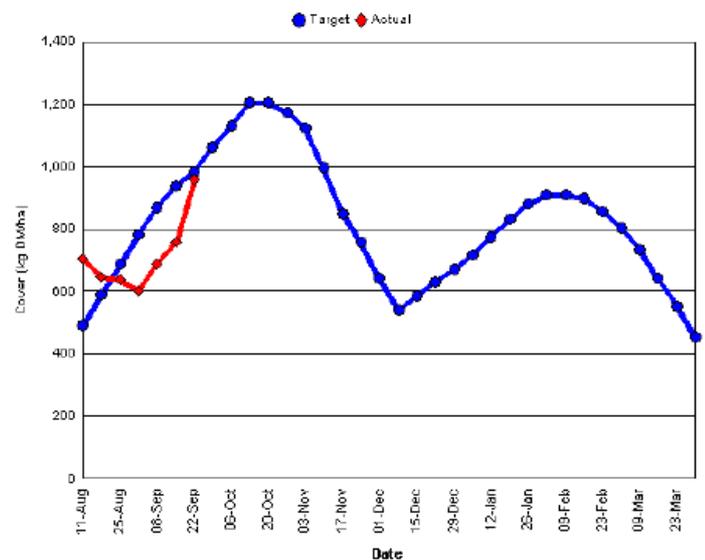
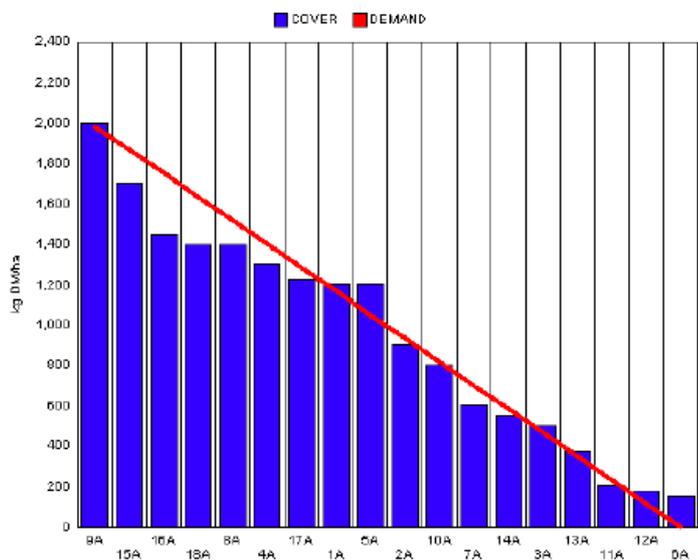
Critical Issues

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

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 20-SEP-10	
Farm	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date	20-SEP-10	Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	43	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	959
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL)	14	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	291
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	2	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 :	74
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	46
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1984
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 959kg/ha (291/cow), which is a considerable increase on last weeks figure. As can be seen in Figure 2, we are just back on target in terms of average farm cover (959 vs 1010kg).
2. For this reason we have reduced concentrate feeding levels to 2kg and ceased feeding silage. The situation will be monitored closely and if possible concentrates will be removed from the diet fully by the weekend.

3. Growth rate for this group is at 74kg/day while demand for the coming week is 46kg/day.
4. Rotation length has extended to 43 days.
5. Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 70 and 74kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 13.6% on Monday morning.
3. Rotation lengths for all groups has been set at 43 days, target for end of September is 45-50 days.
4. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.68%, Protein 3.76%, Lactose 4.56%, SCC 256k, TBC 14k, THD 0, Sediment B.
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