

## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 28-09-10

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

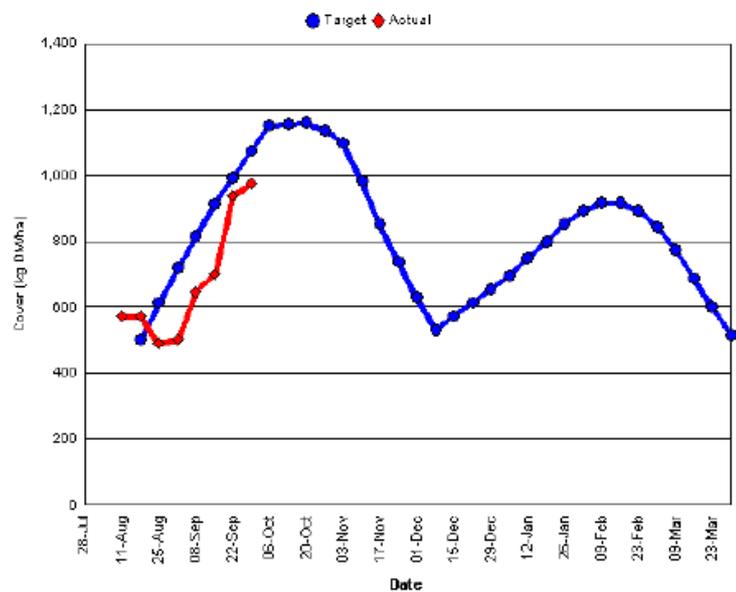
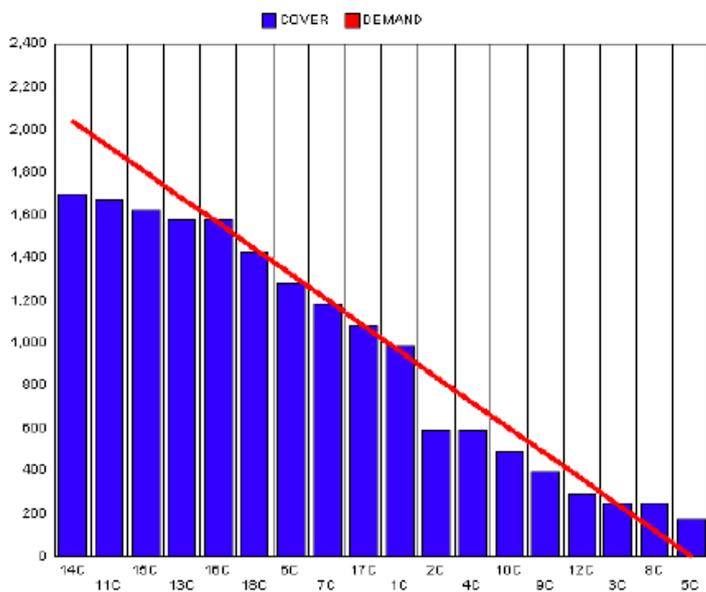
#### Critical Issues

- 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 : 28-SEP-10																														
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance																														
Date : 27-SEP-10	Treatment : Low SR																															
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Rotation Length :</td><td style="text-align: right;">45</td></tr> <tr><td>Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL</td><td style="text-align: right;">18</td></tr> <tr><td>Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :</td><td style="text-align: right;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :</td><td style="text-align: right;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>N Application Rate (units/acre) :</td><td style="text-align: right;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>N Application Rate (kg/ha) :</td><td style="text-align: right;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>Residual Height :</td><td style="text-align: right;">4</td></tr> <tr><td>Total Livestock :</td><td style="text-align: right;">23</td></tr> </table>	Rotation Length :	45	Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL	18	Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	N Application Rate (units/acre) :	0	N Application Rate (kg/ha) :	0	Residual Height :	4	Total Livestock :	23	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :</td><td style="text-align: right;">976</td></tr> <tr><td>Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :</td><td style="text-align: right;">388</td></tr> <tr><td>Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :</td><td style="text-align: right;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>Stock Rate (LU/ha) :</td><td style="text-align: right;">2.52</td></tr> <tr><td>Growth Rate :</td><td style="text-align: right;">49</td></tr> <tr><td>Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :</td><td style="text-align: right;">45</td></tr> <tr><td>Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :</td><td style="text-align: right;">2038</td></tr> </table>		Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	976	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	388	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.52	Growth Rate :	49	Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	45	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	2038
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- 1) Farm cover is 976kg/ha or 388kg/cow, which is an increase on last weeks figure but the rate of increase has slowed down and we are behind target in terms of average farm cover as can be seen in Figure 1, above.

- 2) Growth rate dropped from 79kg/day to 49kg/day over the past seven days while demand was at 45kg/day. Shortening daylight hours and colder nights are responsible for the reduction in growth.
- 3) Ordinarily, concentrates would be reintroduced now, but as we are currently recording grass intakes as part of the experimental protocol we are unable to introduce other supplements until Friday PM, at which time 2kg of concentrate will be fed per cow/day.
- 4) As pre-grazing yields have increased to greater than 1700kg we are dividing paddocks in half. Residency time per segment is approximately 24 hours.
- 5) Rotation length has increased to 45 days.
- 6) 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.

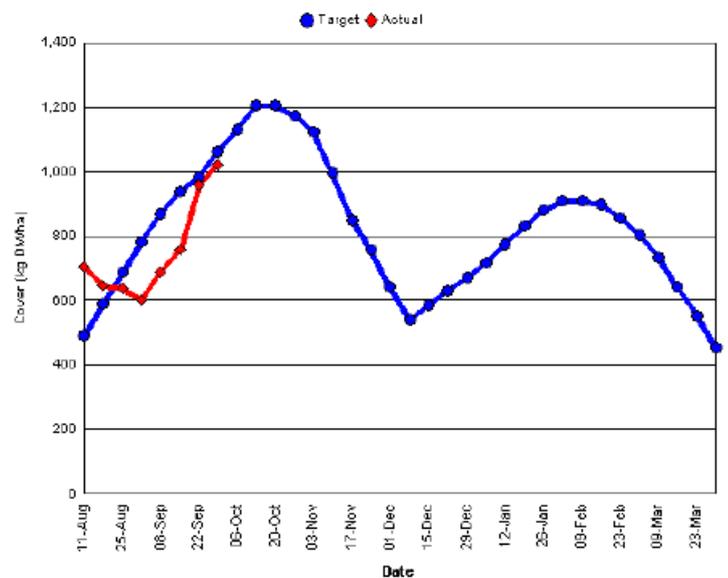
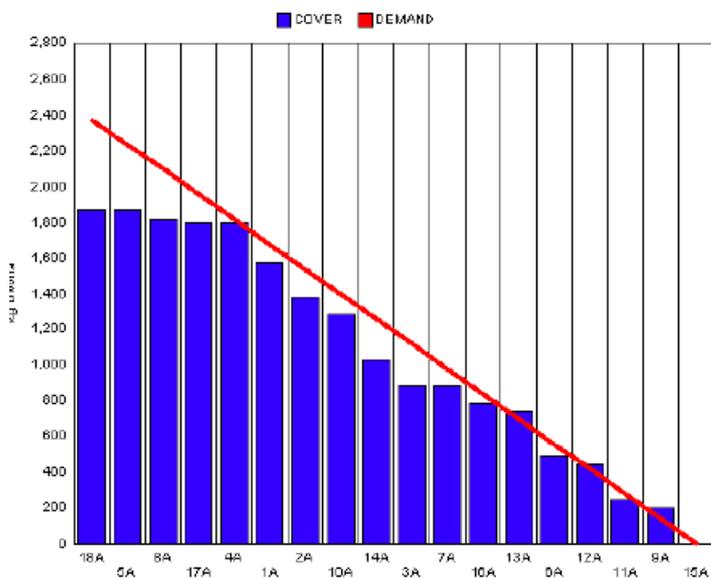
### Situation

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	28-SEP-10
Farm	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date	27-SEP-10	Treatment	High SR

Rotation Length :	45	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	1021
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	310
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 :	58
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	53
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	2372
Total Livestock :	23		



1. Farm cover is 1021kg/ha (310/cow), which is an increase on last weeks figure. As can be seen in Figure 2, we are almost on target in terms of average farm cover (1021 vs 1085kg).

2. Like the Low Stocking Rate, cows are currently on zero concentrates but the situation will be monitored closely and if necessary concentrates will be reintroduced by the weekend.
3. Growth rate for this group is at 58kg/day while demand for the coming week is 53kg/day.
4. Rotation length has extended to 45 days.
5. Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day

### **Whole Farm Situation**

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 49 and 58kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 14.6% on Monday morning.
3. Rotation lengths for all groups has been set at 45 days, which is peak rotation length.
4. Latest milk quality test results from the milk processor are; Fat 4.64%, Protein 3.88%, Lactose 4.6%, SCC 245k, TBC 14k, THD 0, Sediment B.
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