

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 12-10-10

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

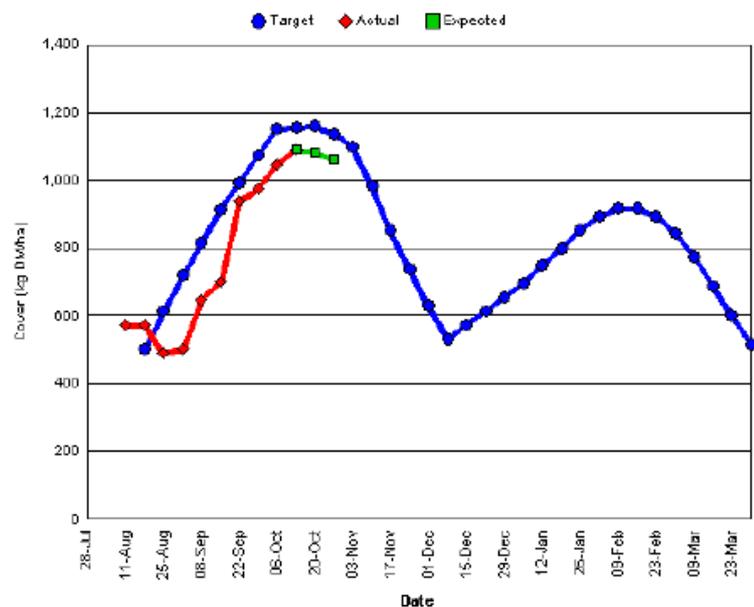
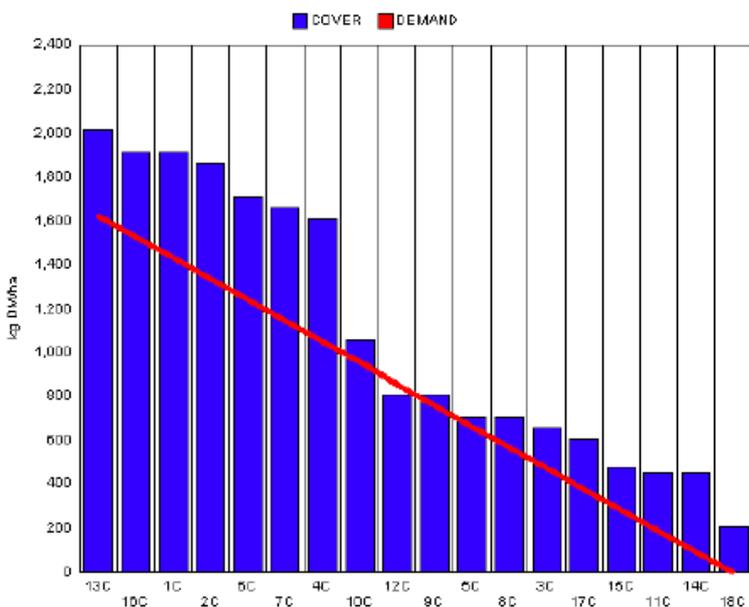
- 1) Maintain post-grazing height at between 4 – 5cm
- 2) Achieve target autumn average farm cover.

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 12-OCT-10
Farm	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance
Date	11-OCT-10	Treatment : Low SR

Rotation Length :	45	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	1093
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LI)	15	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	454
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.41
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	48
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	36
Residual Height :	4	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1625
Total Livestock :	22	Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	35 32



- 1) Farm cover is 1093kg/ha or 454kg/cow, which is an increase on last weeks figure but we are still behind target in terms of average farm cover as can be seen in Figure 1, above.

- 2) Growth rate has held constant over the past three weeks at an average of 48kg/day. As we are behind target in average farm cover we are feeding 3kg of concentrate per day which has lowered demand to 36kg/day.
- 3) One cow (4.3% of this farmlet's herd) has been dried off due to high cell count. This has lowered stocking rate to 2.41 cows/ha.
- 4) The predicted Average Farm Cover for the next two weeks based on a percentage reduction in growth rate is depicted in the green line with square dots.
- 5) As pre-grazing yields have increased to greater than 1800kg we are dividing paddocks in half. Residency time per segment is approximately 36 hours.
- 6) Rotation length is at 45 days, paddocks are being closed in sequence since the 10th of October
- 7) Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 HF Cows/ha)

Critical Issues

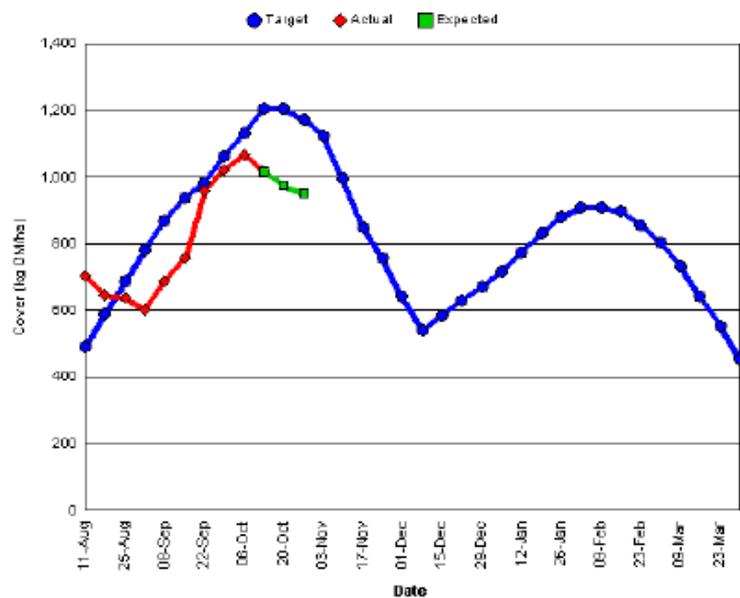
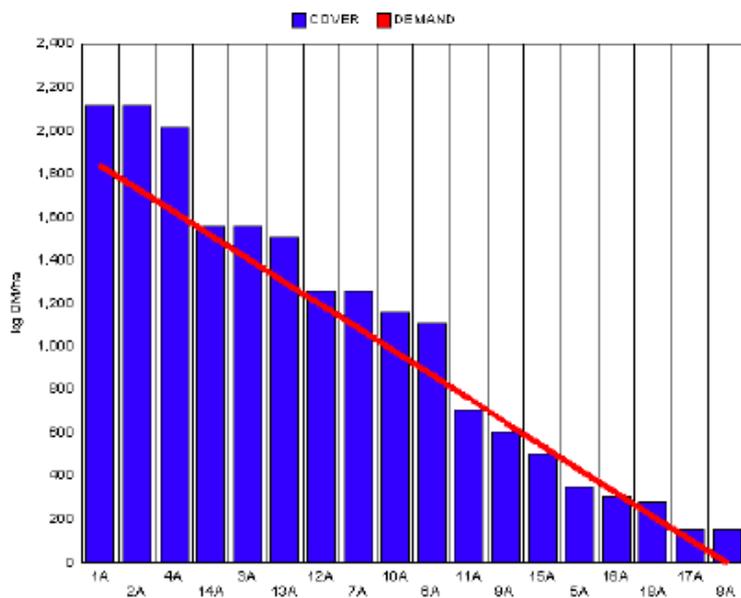
1. Maintain post-grazing height at 3.5cm
2. Achieve target autumn average farm cover.

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 12-OCT-10	
Farm	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date	11-OCT-10	Treatment : High SR	

Rotation Length :	45	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	1016
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL	13	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	322
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.15
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	35
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	41
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1844
Total Livestock :	22	Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	35 32



1. Farm cover is 1016kg/ha (322/cow), which is similar to last weeks figure. As can be seen in Figure 2, we are behind target in terms of average farm cover (1016 vs 1230kg) and the predicted average farm cover over the next two weeks is well below target.

2. For this reason, 3kg concentrates have been introduced and one cow (4.3% of this farmlet's herd) has been dried off. This cow was selected based on low milk yield.
3. Growth rate for this group is at 35kg/day while demand for the coming week is 41kg/day. It is likely that further supplement will be required.
4. Rotation length is at 45 days.
5. Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 16kg/day

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average weekly growth this week was between 33 and 48kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 13.6% 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 4.98%, Protein 4.03%, Lactose 4.56%, SCC 188k, TBC 14k, THD 17, Sediment A.
5. 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

