

## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 26-10-10

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

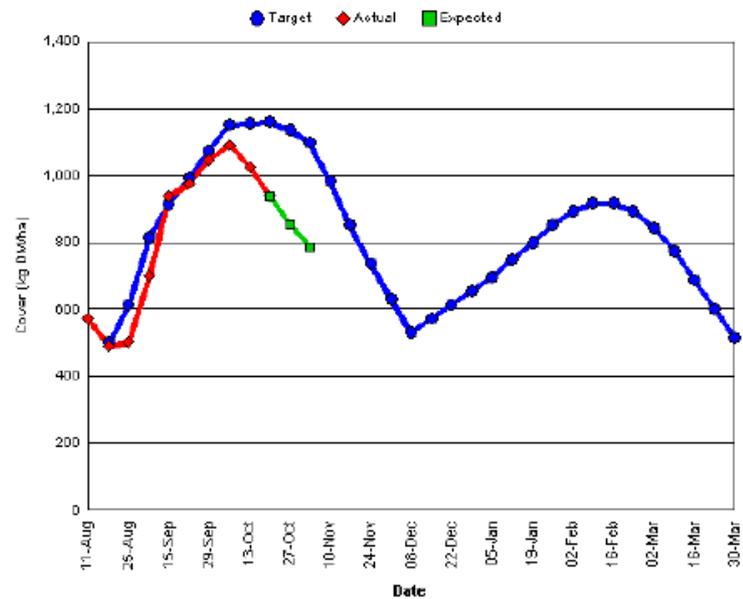
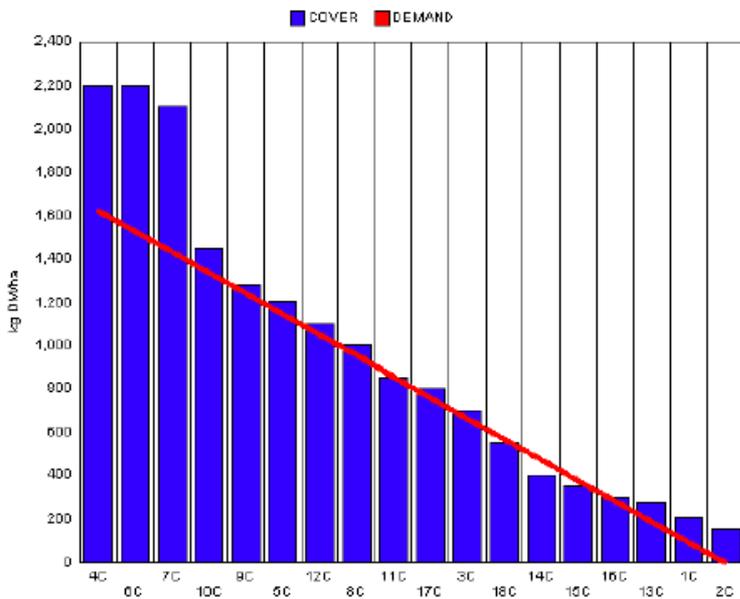
#### Critical Issues

- 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 : 26-OCT-10	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 26-OCT-10		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length : 45 Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL) : 15 Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : 3 Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) : 0 N Application Rate (units/acre) : N Application Rate (kg/ha) : Residual Height : 4 Total Livestock : 22		Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : 941 Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : 391 Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) : Stock Rate (LU/ha) : 2.41 Growth Rate : 25 Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) : 36 Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : 1625 Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2: 23      14	



- 1) Farm cover is 941kg/ha or 391kg/cow, which is a reduction on last weeks figure and we are still behind target in terms of average farm cover as can be seen in Figure 1, above.

- 2) Growth rate has dropped this week to 25kg/day while demand is at 36kg/day so a further decline in average farm cover is expected (as per graph).
- 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) 3kg of 16% protein dairy nut is being fed per day.
- 5) Cows are currently getting 24 hours in each paddock, as weather and ground conditions are deteriorating this will be shortened to 12 hours shorthy. On/off grazing will be used if necessary.
- 6) Rotation length is at 45 days, paddocks are being closed in sequence since the 10<sup>th</sup> of October
- 7) Total dry matter intakes are estimated to be 18kg/day.

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

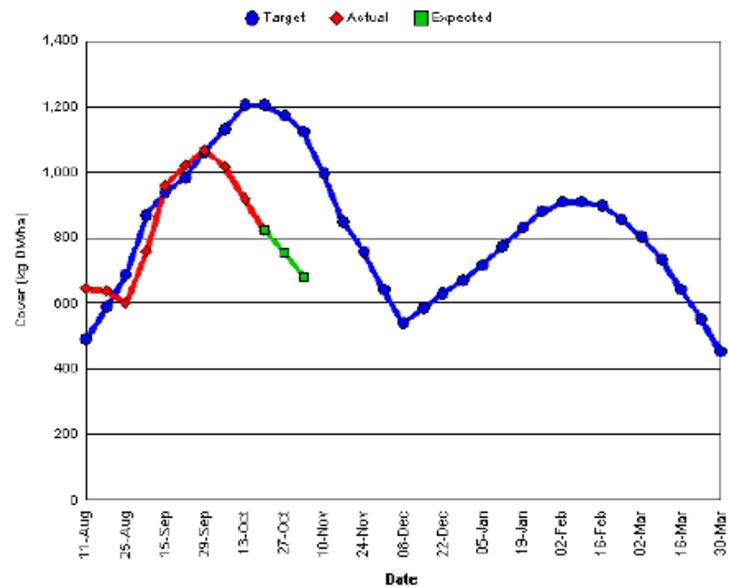
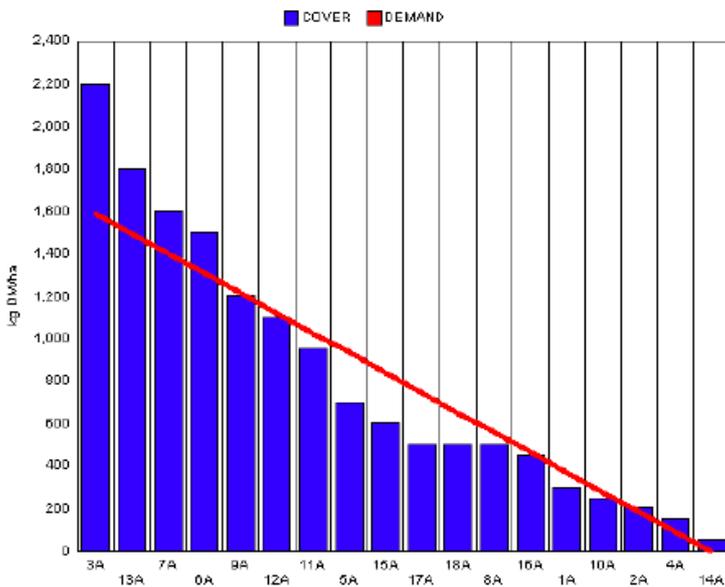
### Critical Issues

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	26-OCT-10
Farm	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date	26-OCT-10	Treatment	High SR
Rotation Length :	45	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	824
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL	13	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	303
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.72
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	26
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	35
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1592
Total Livestock :	19	Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	25      15



1. Farm cover is 824kg/ha (303/cow), which is a considerable reduction on last weeks figure as growth rate (at 26kg/day) was lower than demand (at 35kg/day). As can be seen in Figure 2, we are well behind target in terms of average farm cover.

2. In order to reduce demand 3kg concentrates are being fed and four cows (17% of this farmlet's herd) have been dried off. These cows have been selected based on low milk yield.
3. Growth rate for this group is at 26kg/day while demand for the coming week is 35kg/day. Predicted average farm cover over the next two weeks is based on a percentage reduction in growth with demand remaining the same.
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 25 and 26kg/day.
2. Dry matters were 16.1% 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 4.84%, Protein 4.15%, Lactose 4.6%, SCC 205k, TBC 18k, 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.
  - b. Avoid poaching
  - c. Achieve high levels of utilisation

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