

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 11-01-11

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 Cows/ha)

Situation

Figure 1. Low Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced 10-JAN-11	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 10-JAN-11		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :		Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : 588	
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)		Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : 234	
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :		Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :		Stock Rate (LU/ha) : 2.52	
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) : 233	
Residual Height :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	
Total Livestock : 23			

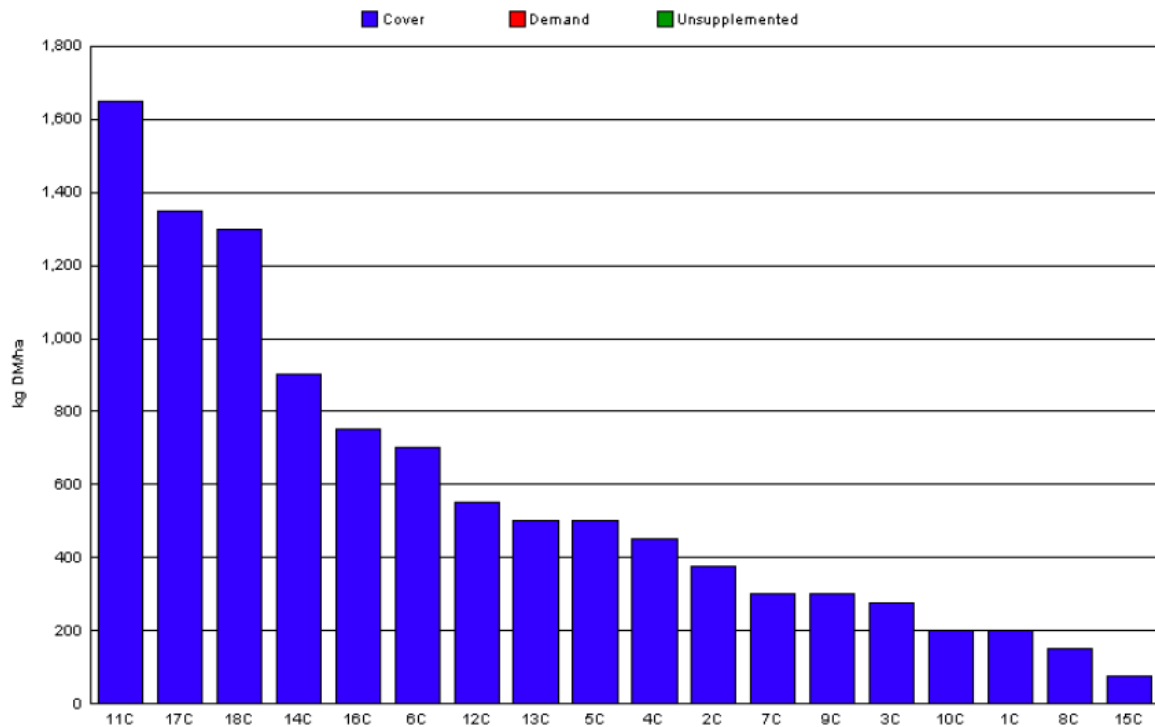


Figure 2. Low Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner

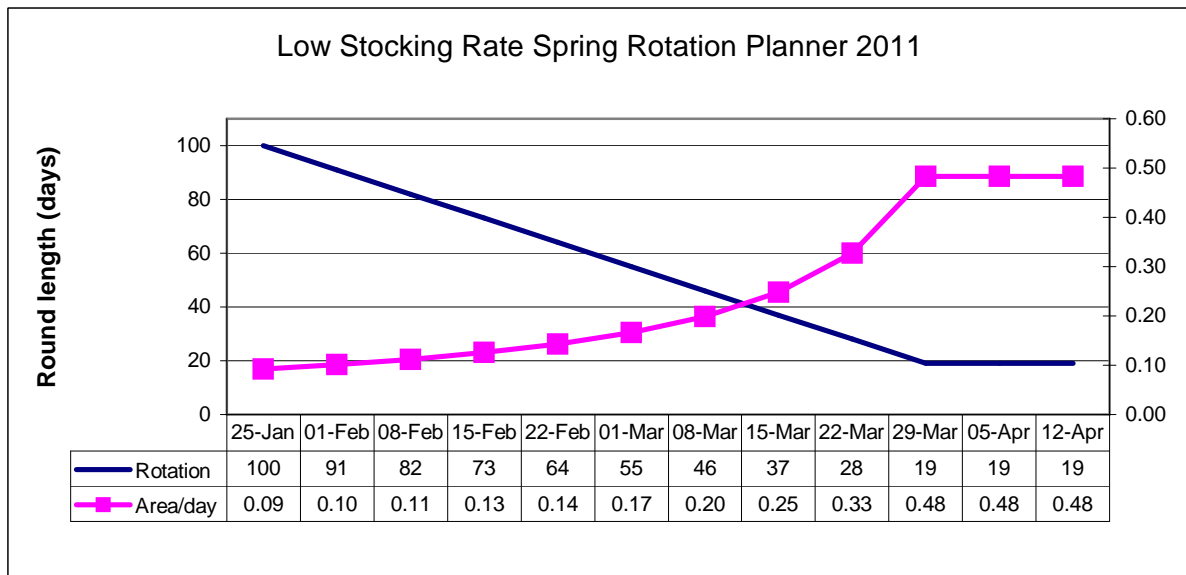


Figure 3. Low Stocking Rate Spring Grass Budget

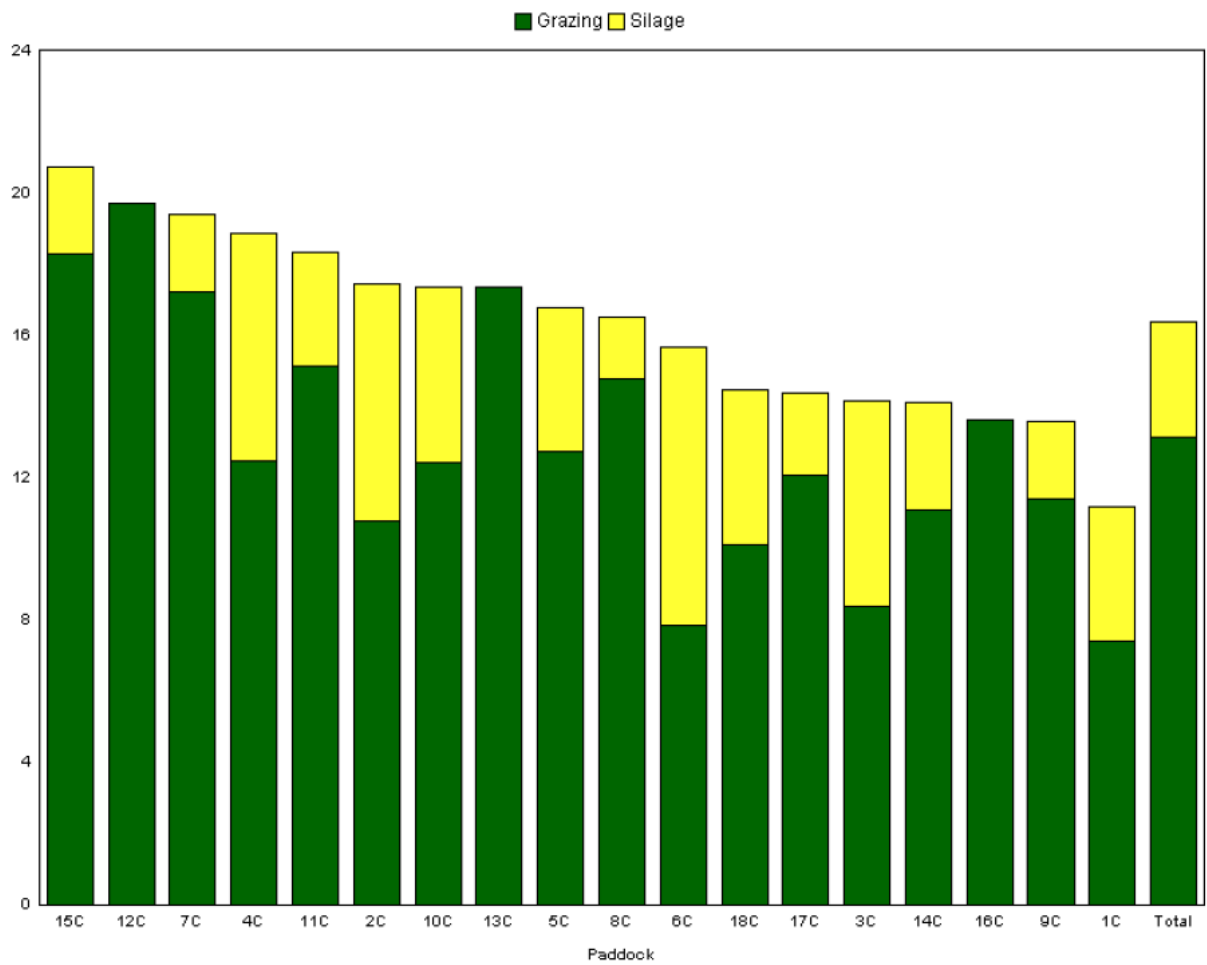
Week	Grass Cover (kg dm/ha)	Cover per LU	Growth (kg dm/day)	No. of Cows	Cow diet kg DM			Predicted cover close (kg dm/ha)
					Grass	Bale	Concentrate	
09/02/11	647	259	6	10	7	0	4	636
16/02/11	636	254	12	15	8	0	4	626
23/02/11	626	250	14	18	9	0	4	599
02/03/11	599	240	15	21	10	0	4	545
09/03/11	545	218	17	21	11	0	4	486
16/03/11	486	194	21	21	12	0	4	438
23/03/11	438	175	23	22	13	0	4	378
30/03/11	378	151	27	22	14	0	4	328

Table 1. Low Stocking Rate Performance Review 2010

Low Stocking Rate 2010	
Milk Solids per Cow (kg)	477
Milk Solids per Hectare (kg)	1202
Concentrates fed per cow (kg)	712
Silage Conserved per cow (kg)	958
Grass grown per hectare (tonnes)	16.376
Nitrogen Fertiliser Use (kg/ha)	257
13 week incalf rate (%)	83

Figure 4. Cumulative Grass Growth per paddock for 2010

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Cumulative Paddock Yield	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS	Date Produced 11-JAN-11		
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Cumulative Paddock Yield to : 31-DEC-10	Treatment : Low SR		



High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 Cows/ha)

Situation

Figure 5. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced	10-JAN-11
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 10-JAN-11	Treatment : High SR		
Rotation Length :		Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	554
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)		Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	168
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :		Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :		Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.30
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	233
Residual Height :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	
Total Livestock :	23		

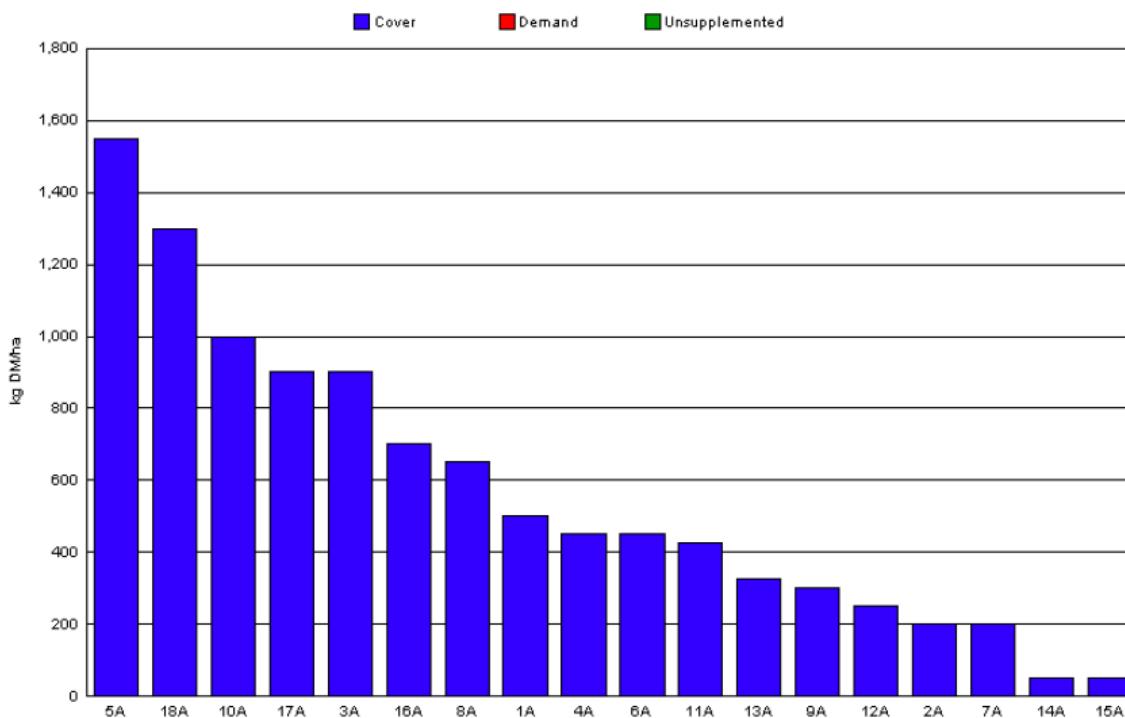


Figure 6. High Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner

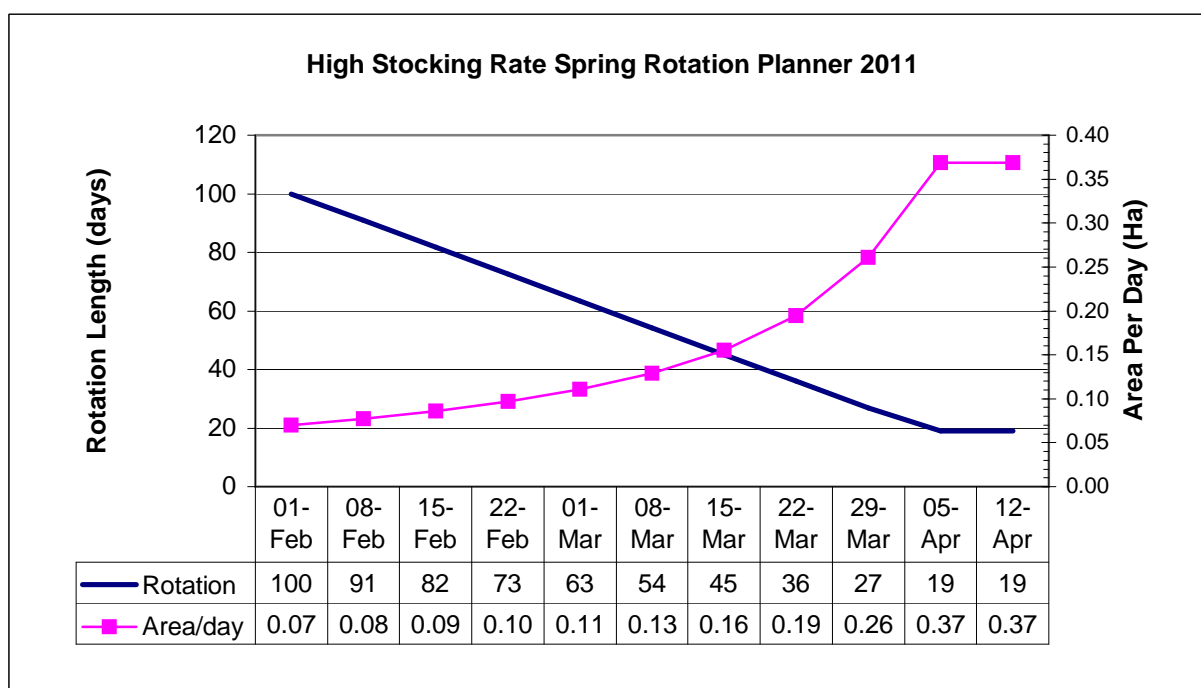


Figure 7. High Stocking Rate Spring Grass Budget

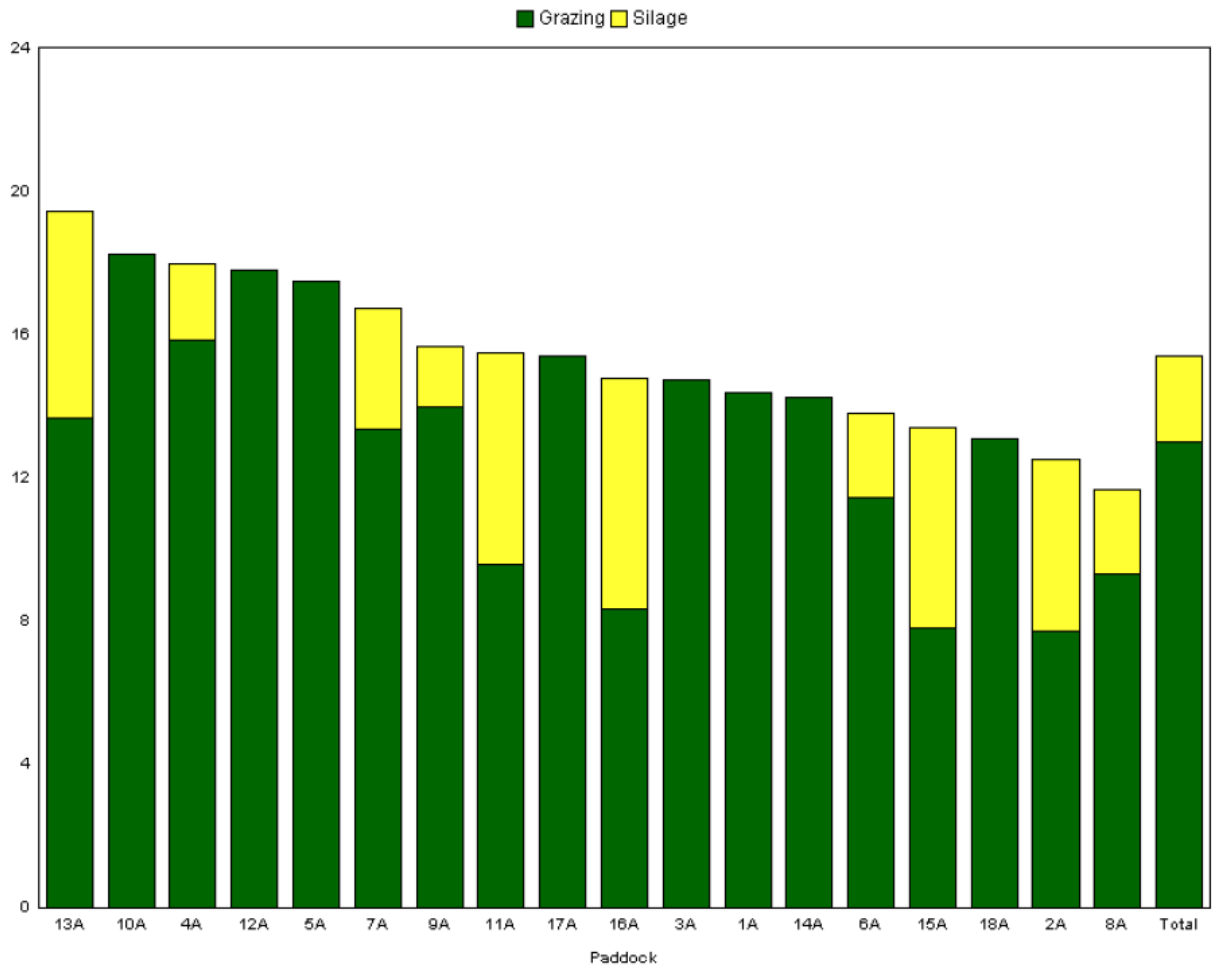
Week	Grass Cover (kg dm/ha)	Cover per LU	Growth (kg dm/day)	No. of Cows	Cow diet kg DM			Predicted cover close (kg dm/ha)
					Grass	Bale	Concentrate	
09/02/11	610	186	6.0	10	5	0	4	602
16/02/11	602	184	13.0	15	6	0	4	603
23/02/11	547	167	15.4	18	7	0	4	529
02/03/11	529	161	16.8	21	8	0	4	479
09/03/11	479	146	18.7	21	9	0	4	421
16/03/11	421	128	23.0	21	10	0	4	372
23/03/11	372	113	25.0	22	11	0	4	305
30/03/11	305	93	29.5	22	12	0	4	248

Table 2. High Stocking Rate Performance Review 2010

High Stocking Rate 2010	
Milk Solids per Cow (kg)	443.2
Milk Solids per Hectare (kg)	1454
Concentrates fed per cow (kg)	687
Silage Conserved per cow (kg)	575
Grass grown per hectare (tonnes)	15.391
Nitrogen Fertiliser Use (kg/ha)	254
13 week incalf rate (%)	83

Figure 8. Cumulative Grass Growth per paddock for 2010

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Cumulative Paddock Yield	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		Date Produced 11-JAN-11
Farm : Curtins Farm	Treatment : High SR		
Cumulative Paddock Yield to : 31-DEC-10			



Whole Farm Situation

1. All cows were dried off by the 19th of December. First cow is due to calve on the 27th of January. Cows were dosed for lice, worms and fluke at drying off and received a second fluke and lice dose in early January. Cows have been vaccinated against salmonella and rotavirus.
2. Dry cows are on ad lib silage. February calving cows in condition score less than 3.25 are on good quality baled silage along with the incalf heifers. All other animals are on average quality silage. No concentrates are being fed.

3. 144 animals are on farm, comprising of 106 dairy cows and 38 incalf heifers. Cows will be reassigned to their groups at calving, heifers will be randomly assigned to their group prior to calving.
4. 3000gls/acre of watery slurry will be spread in late January on 30% of the farm. The remaining 70% will receive 23 units of urea per acre at the same time.

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