

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 15-03-11

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 15-MAR-11	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 14-MAR-11		Treatment : Low SR	
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) : 9.5 Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : 4 Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) : 6 N Application Rate (units/acre) : N Application Rate (kg/ha) : Residual Height : Total Livestock : 21		Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : 391 Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : 170 Stock Rate (LU/ha) : 2.30 Growth Rate : 18 Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) : 22 Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : 873	

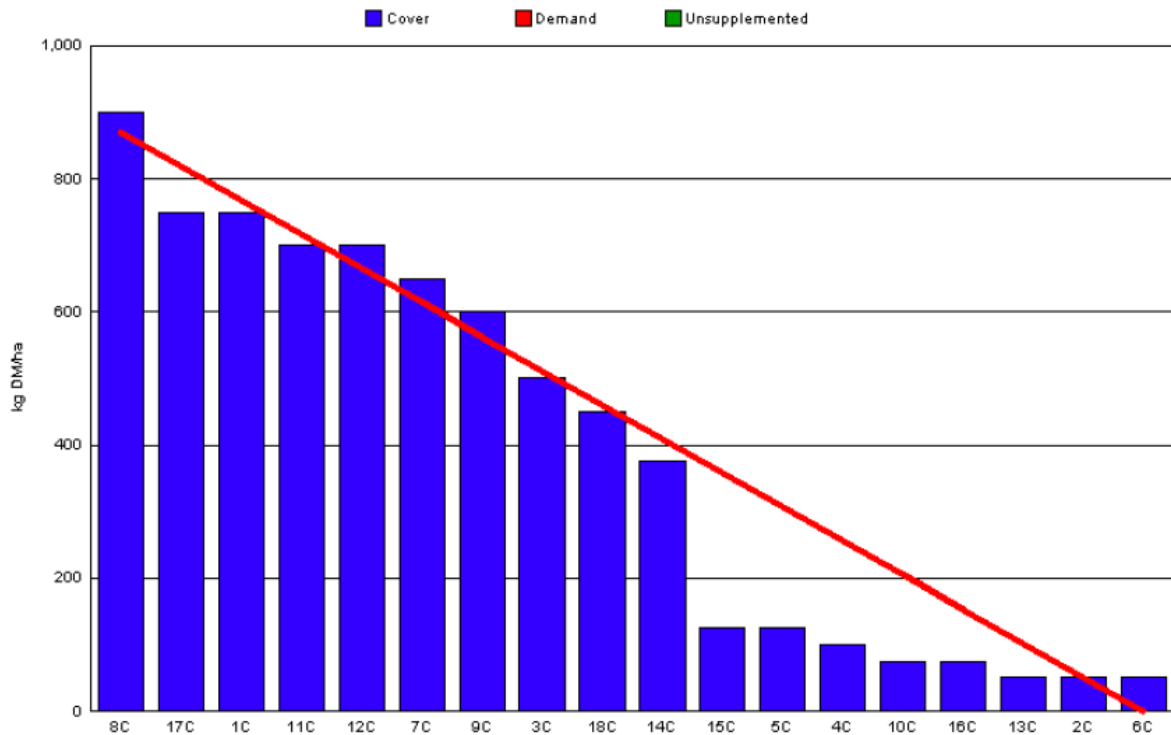
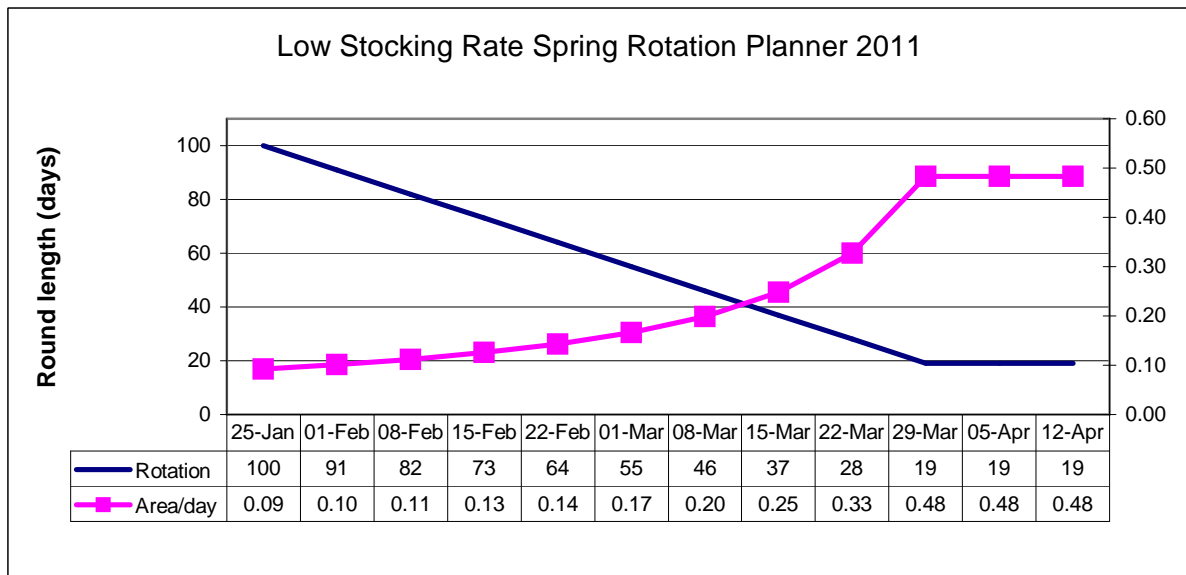


Figure 2. Low Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner



- 100% of the Low Stocking Rate group are now calved. The first cow calved on the 20th of January and grazing commenced on the 1st of February, one week later than planned.
- 60% of the farmlet has been grazed which is slightly behind target but is not a concern.
- According to the planner, we should be grazing 0.25ha/day for this week. As can be seen in the feed wedge pre grazing yields are low with average pre grazing yields for the coming week of 800kg. There are currently 21 cows in the group so grass allowance for this week is 9.5kg (800kg * 0.25ha / 21cows).
- As cows are eating this allowance in one grazing they are getting silage ad lib during the day, intakes are estimated to be 6kg. They are also getting 4kg of concentrates.
- Growth rate for the past 7 days was 18kg/day.

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 14-MAR-11	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 14-MAR-11		Treatment : High SR	
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	6	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	435
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	4	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	152
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	6	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.87
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	21
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	17
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1032
Total Livestock :	20		

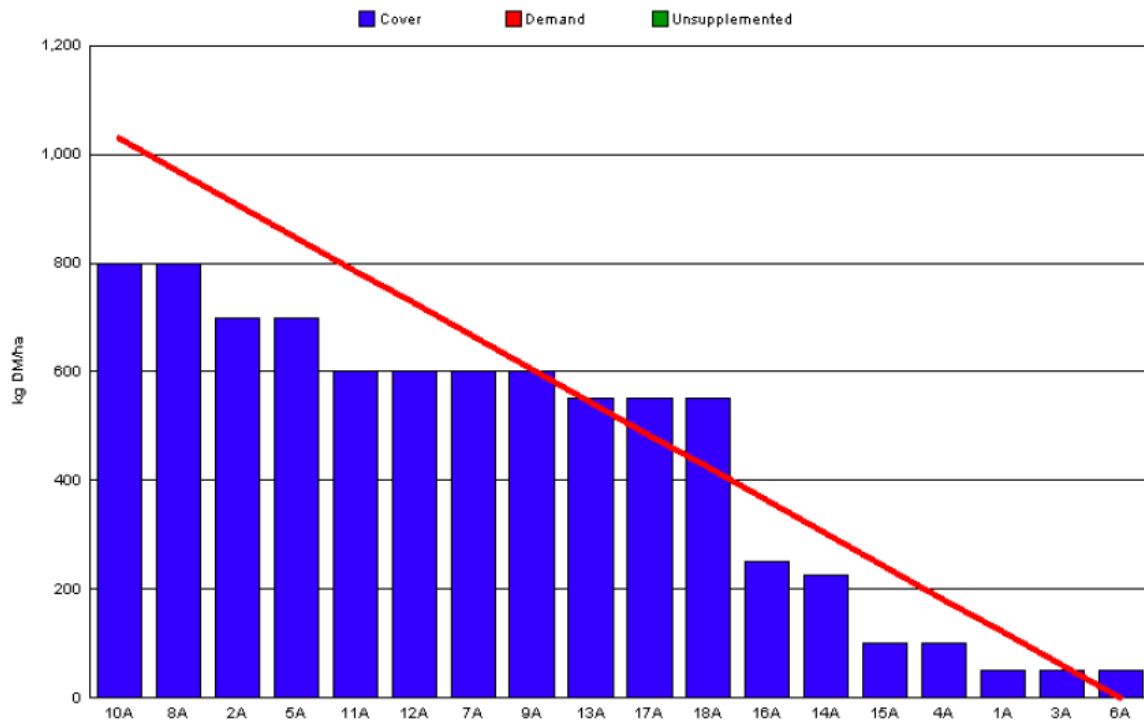
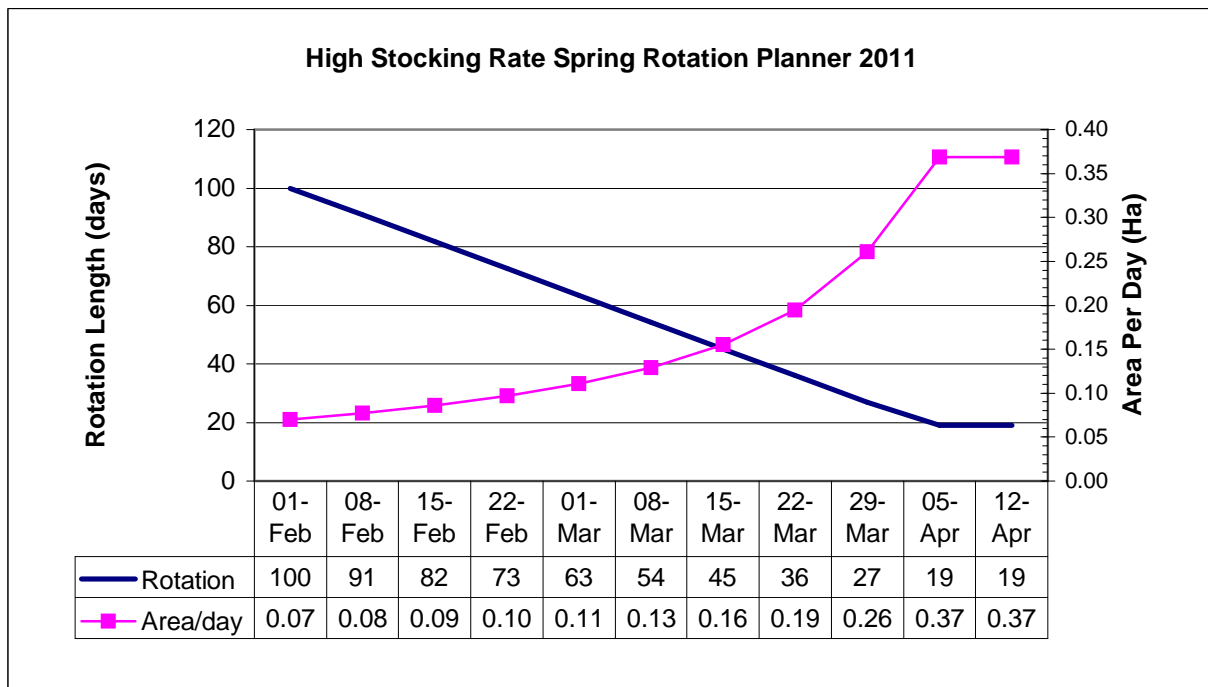


Figure 6. High Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner



- 87% of the High Stocking Rate group are calved. The first cow calved on the 25th of January and grazing commenced on the 7th of February, one week later than planned.
- 56% of the farmlet has been grazed which is exactly on target according to the Spring Rotation Planner.
- According to the planner, we should be grazing 0.16ha/day for this week. As can be seen in the feed wedge, pre grazing yields have dropped to 800kg. There are 20 cows currently in this group so grass allowance is 6.4kg/day (800kg * 0.16ha / 20cows).
- As cows are eating this allowance in one grazing they are getting silage ad lib during the day, intakes are estimated to be 6kg. They are also getting 4kg of concentrates.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Between slurry and chemical nitrogen the whole farm has received approximately 63 units of nitrogen so far.
2. Average growth rate over the last 7 days was 18kg.
3. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.59%, Protein 3.44%, Lactose 4.74%, Thermiduric 1600, Sediment B and SCC 159k.

