

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 22-03-11

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 22-MAR-11	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 21-MAR-11		Treatment : Low SR	
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) : 7 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 : 23		Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : 369 Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : 147 Stock Rate (LU/ha) : 2.52 Growth Rate : 20 Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) : 18 Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : 705	

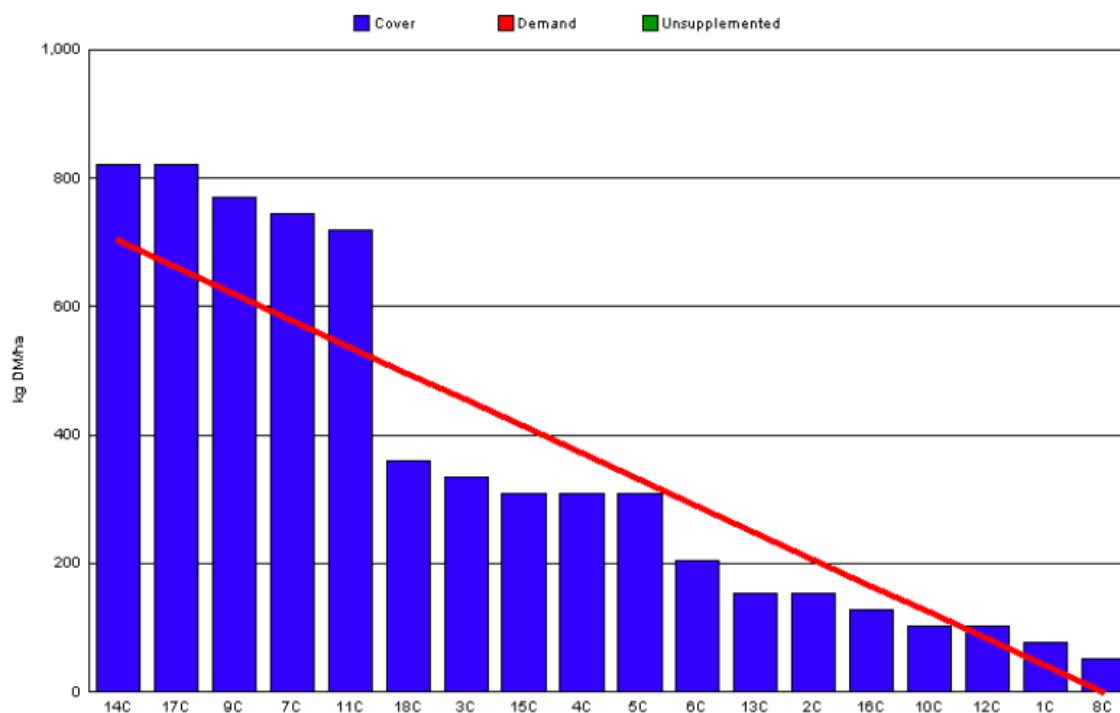
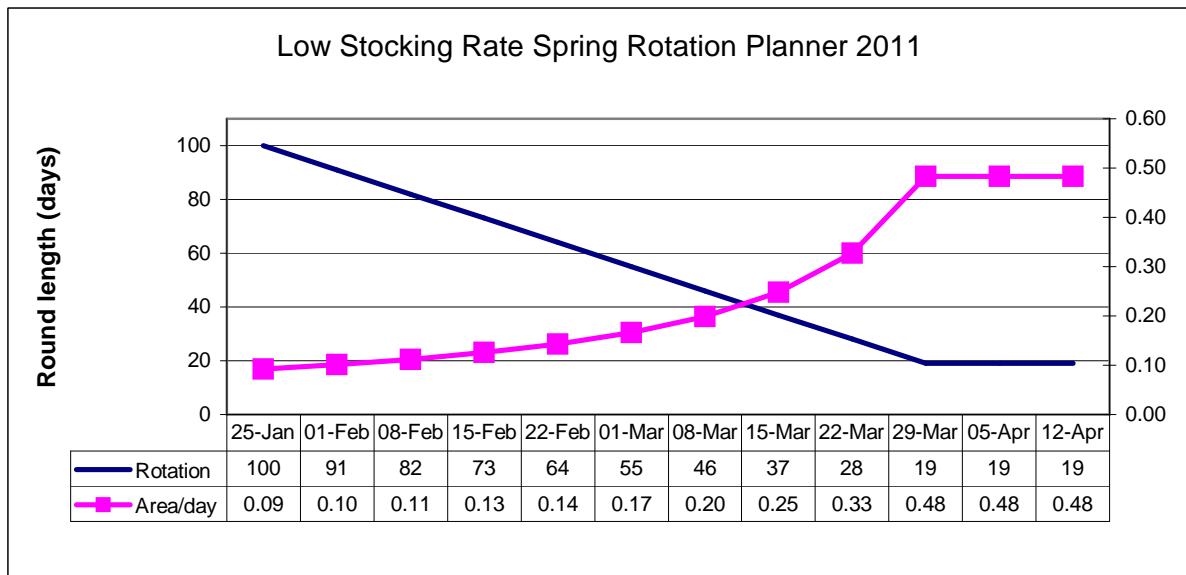


Figure 2. Low Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner



- 100% of the Low Stocking Rate group are calved. The first cow calved on the 20th of January and grazing commenced on the 1st of February, one week later than planned.
- 78% of the farmlet has been grazed.
- Cows are currently grazing paddock 3, with paddocks 9 and 7 the last paddocks to be grazed in the first rotation.
- According to the planner, we should be grazing 0.33ha/day for this week. As can be seen in the feed wedge pre grazing yields are low with covers of 800kg on the first paddocks to be grazed in the second rotation. In order to delay the start of the second round, we are going to reduce the area grazed per day this week to 0.2ha/day which will give an allowance of 7kg of grass. Cows will be brought indoors at night on good quality bale silage and 4kg concentrates.
- Growth rate for the past 7 days was 20kg/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	22-MAR-11
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 21-MAR-11	Treatment : High SR		

Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	7	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	391
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	4	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	130
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	5	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.01
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	19
Residual Height :	3	Farm Demand (kg DM/LU/day) :	21
Total Livestock :	21	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1264

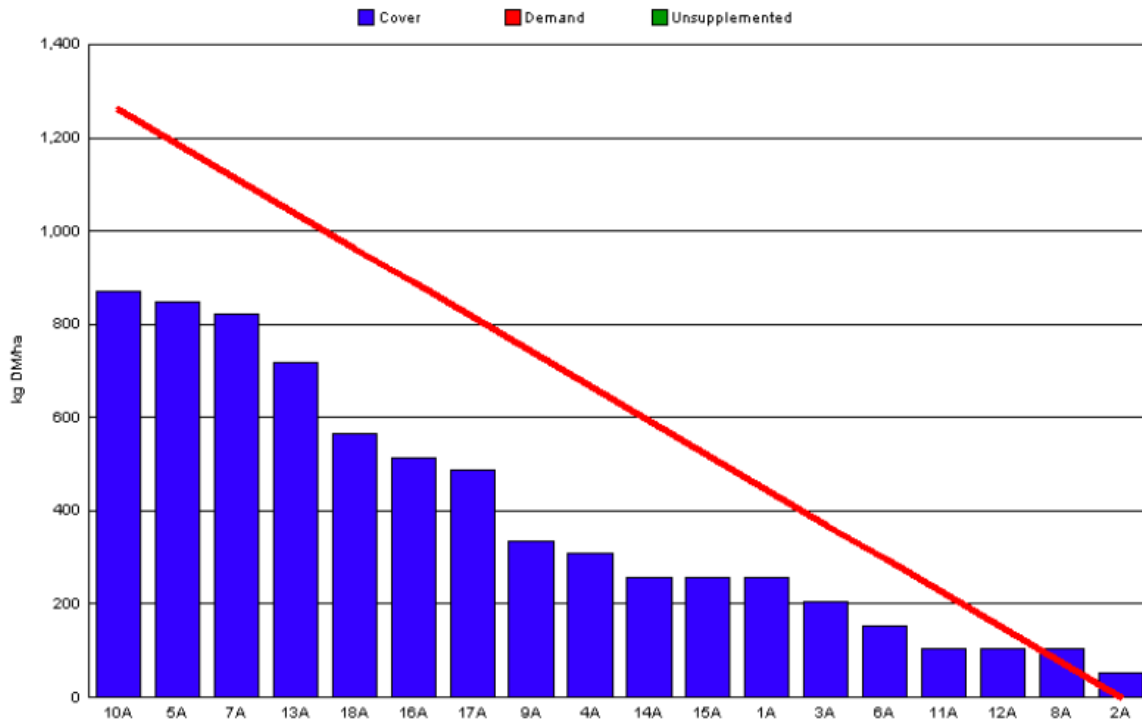
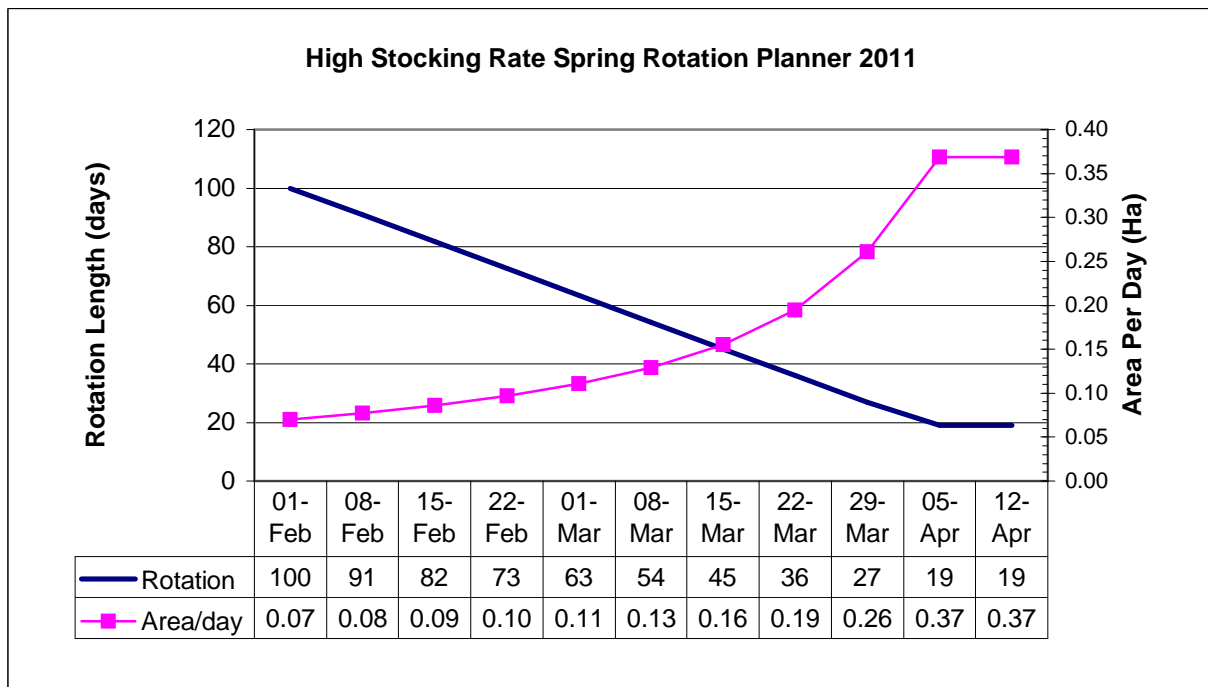


Figure 6. High Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner



- 91% 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.
- 74% of the farmlet has been grazed.
- According to the spring rotation planner, we should be grazing 0.19ha/day for this week. As can be seen in the feed wedge, pre grazing yields have dropped to below 700kg on the next paddock to be grazed (paddock 13). There are 21 cows currently in this group so grass allowance is 6.3kg/day (700kg * 0.19ha / 21cows).
- As cows are eating this allowance in one grazing they are getting silage ad lib at night, intakes are estimated to be 6kg. They are also getting 4kg of concentrates.
- Growth rate for this farmlet was 19kg/day

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 4.22%, Protein 3.32%, Lactose 4.9% and SCC 195k.