

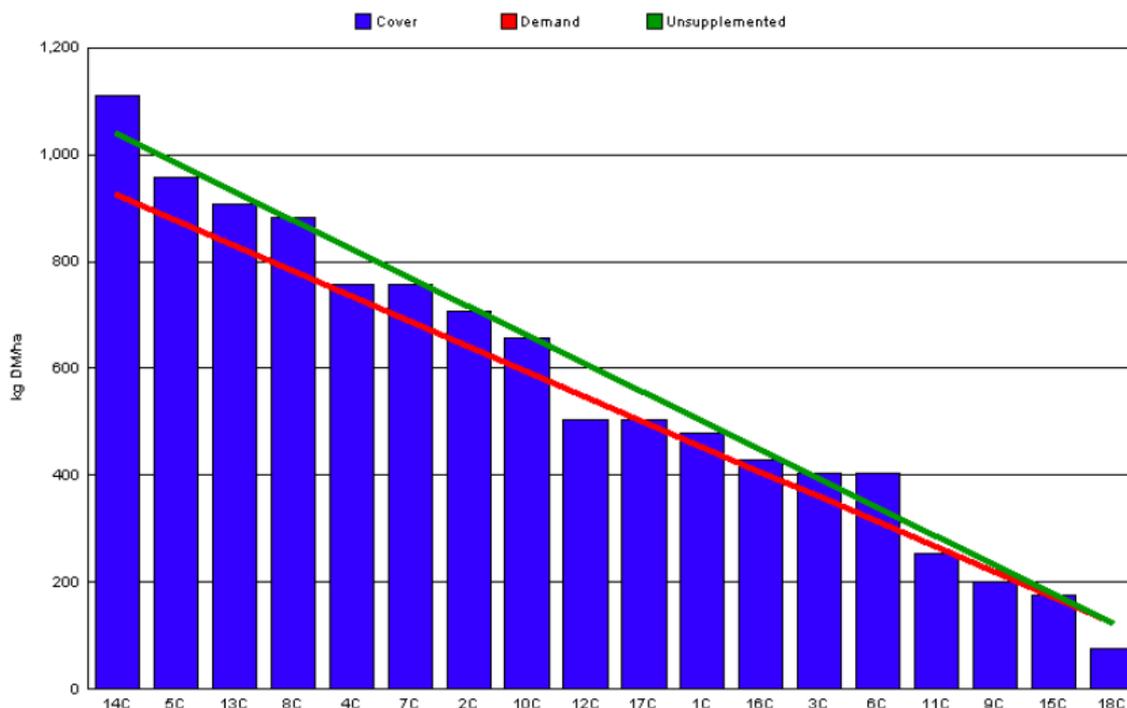
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 05-04-11

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 05-APR-11	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 04-APR-11		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	555
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	221
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	2		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.52
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	54
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	40
Residual Height :	4.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	926
Total Livestock :	23		



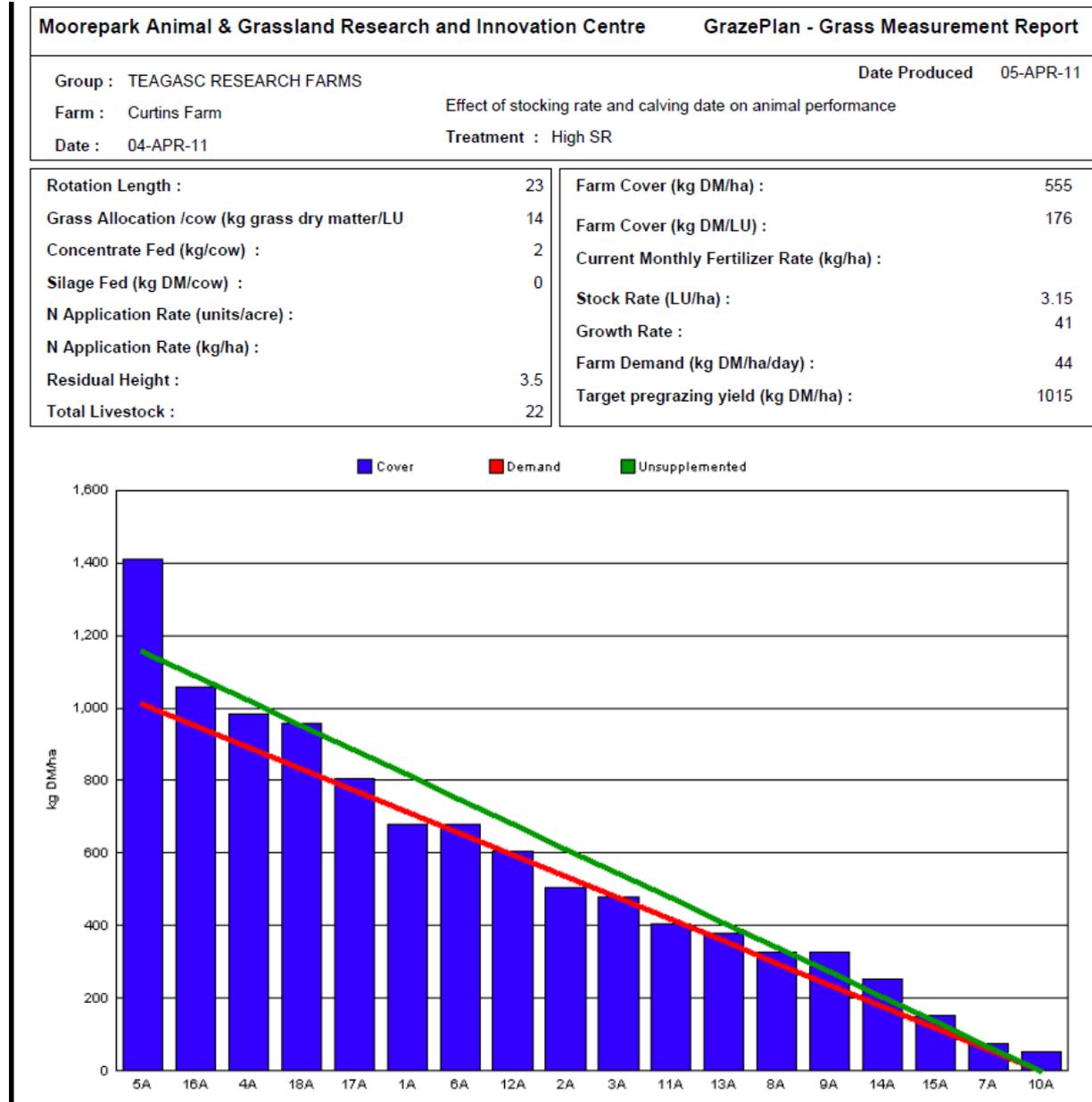
- There was an increase in growth this week to 54kg DM/day, which resulted in an increase in average farm cover to 555kg.

- As can be seen in Figure 1, we have a very even feed wedge. Concentrate has been reduced to 2kg/day with a view to removing it fully by the weekend. With further mild weather forecasted for the week ahead it is likely that average farm cover will rise again by this time next week as demand is 40kg and current growth is 54kg. Demand without concentrate is 45kg.
- Pre-grazing yields are 1100kg. In a change to previous management policy we are now going to target pre-grazing yields of between 1300 and 1500kg from now until August.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 Cows/ha)

Situation

Figure 5. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge



- Growth rate for the past 6 days was 41kg/day, an increase on last weeks figure. As a result, farm cover has risen to 555kg/ha, which has allowed us to reduce concentrate feeding levels to 2kg/day.
- Cows are currently grazing block 5, which has a pre-grazing yield of 1400kg. A decision will be made on Friday whether to fully remove concentrate from the diet based on the pre-grazing yields of the next 3 paddocks.

- In a change to previous management policy we are now going to target pre-grazing yields of between 1300 and 1500kg from now until August.

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 8 days was 49kg.
3. In anticipation of surplus paddocks over the coming weeks we have decided to reseed two paddocks. These will be sprayed over the coming days.
 - Paddock 12 is a bealy and clover paddock, which suffered extensive frost damage over the winter. A majority of the grass plants died with the result that the clover is now dominating the sward. This will be sprayed with CMPP and Aston Energy grass seed over-sown in with the remaining bealy.
 - Paddock 8 was the worst performing paddock in 2010 (11.6t grown). This will be sprayed with glyphosate and reseeded with Aston Energy and Tyrella (60:40)
4. Cows have been on 12 hour allocations for the past 5 days due to rain but have now resumed 24 hour grazings.
5. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.12%, Protein 3.29%, Lactose 4.82%, Sediment B, Thermoduric 0 and SCC 228k.

