

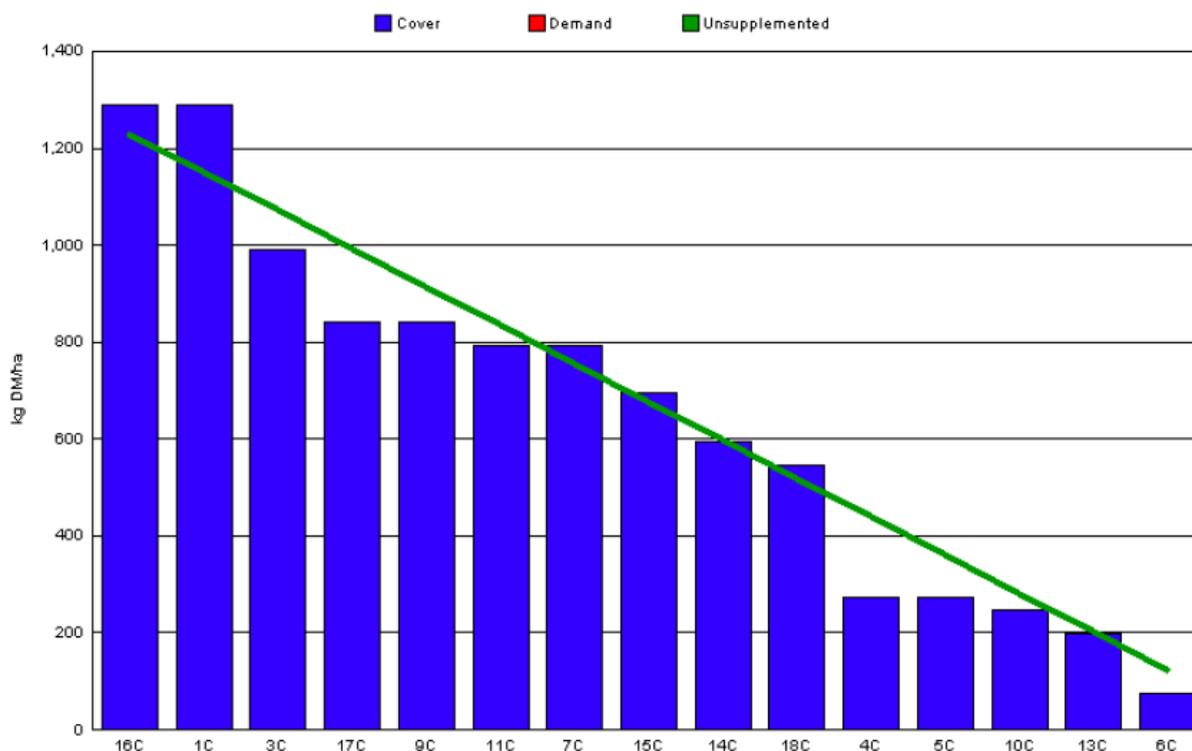
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 19-04-11

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 19-APR-11	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 18-APR-11		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	668
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	224
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.98
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Growth Rate :	38
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	54
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1232
Residual Height :	4.5		
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



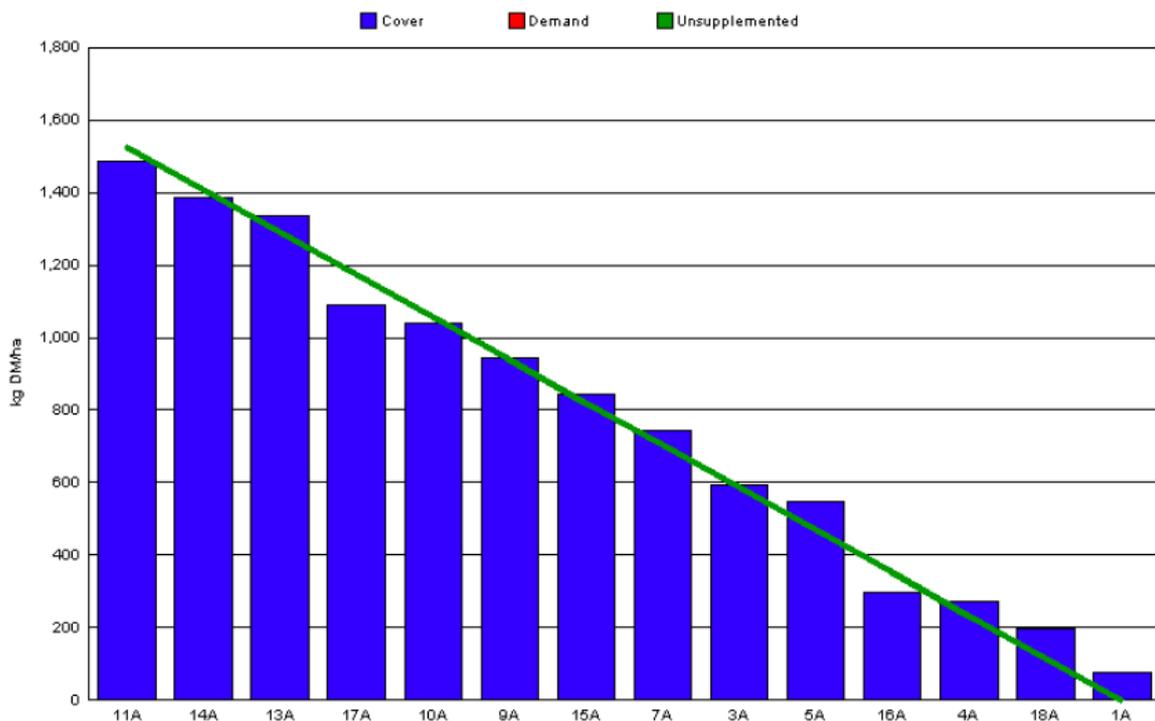
- Average farm cover for this week is 668kg/ha (224kg/cow). Growth rate for the week on this farmlet averaged 38kg/day, which is surprisingly low given the excellent conditions.
- Paddock 8, which was sprayed with glyphosate on the 8th of April was grazed over the weekend and will be reseeded over the coming days.
- Paddock 12 (which was sprayed with CMPP & Dicamba) was due to be grazed and over-sown this week. There is a grass cover of >1200kg on this paddock and the clover is still dying back so we have decided to close this block for silage and oversow after harvest in three to four weeks time.
- Stocking rate is now 2.98 cows/ha and demand is 54kg. Pre-grazing yields are 1300kg. Cows are getting full paddocks and residency time per paddock is between 36 and 48 hours, slightly longer than desired. Cows are leaving a residual of approximately 100kg.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 Cows/ha)

Situation

Figure 2. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced	19-APR-11
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 18-APR-11		Treatment :	High SR
Rotation Length :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	785
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	189
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	4.16
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	59
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	67
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1531
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



- Average farm cover this week is 785kg/ha (189/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 59kg/day.
- As can be seen in Figure 2., we have an exceptionally even feed wedge with no surpluses or deficits. This is after removing Paddocks 2 & 12 (silage) & 8 (reseed).

- Cows are currently grazing block 3. Pre-grazing yields are 1500kg. Cows are getting half paddocks and residency time per segment is 24 hours. This is to ensure that cows graze to their target residual of between 3 and 3.5cm.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average growth rate over the last 7 days was 50kg.
2. Two paddocks have been selected for reseeded;
 - 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 has been sprayed with CMPP and dicamba and will be cut for silage in 3 to 4 weeks time. Aston Energy grass seed will then be oversown after harvest. This paddock will receive no additional nitrogen prior to cutting.
 - Paddock 8 was the worst performing paddock in 2010 (11.6t grown). This has been sprayed with glyphosate and will be reseeded with Aston Energy and Tyrella (60:40) over the coming days.
3. Cows are on 0kg concentrate and are getting cal mag through paddock dusting.
4. Planned start of mating is 26th of April. Cows have been tail painted since April 4th and are checked for signs of oestrus twice weekly.
5. All cows have been vaccinated for Leptospirosis and BVD.
6. 21% of the heifer calves have been weaned. Weaning weight is 90kg for purebred Friesian and 75kg for crossbreds.
7. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.02%, Protein 3.37%, Lactose 4.85%, Sediment A, Thermoduric 19 and SCC 191k.

