

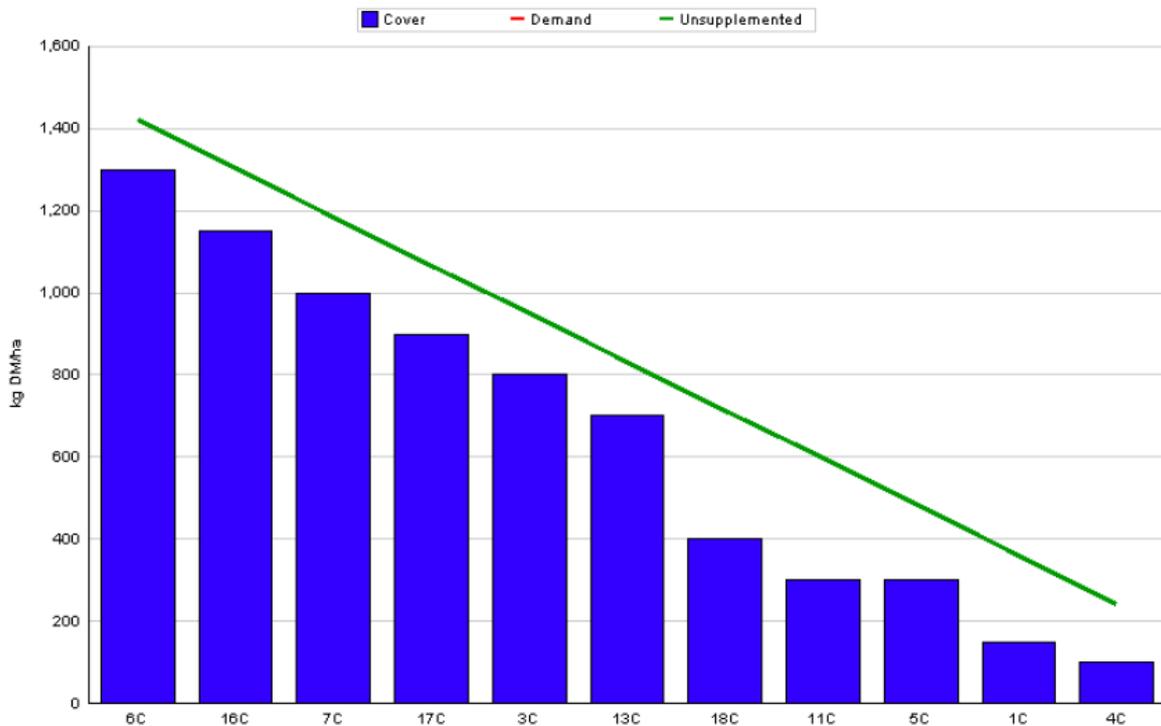
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Wednesday 17-05-11

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 16-MAY-11	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 16-MAY-11		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	604
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	161
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.76
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Growth Rate :	27
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	68
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1421
Residual Height :	4.5		
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



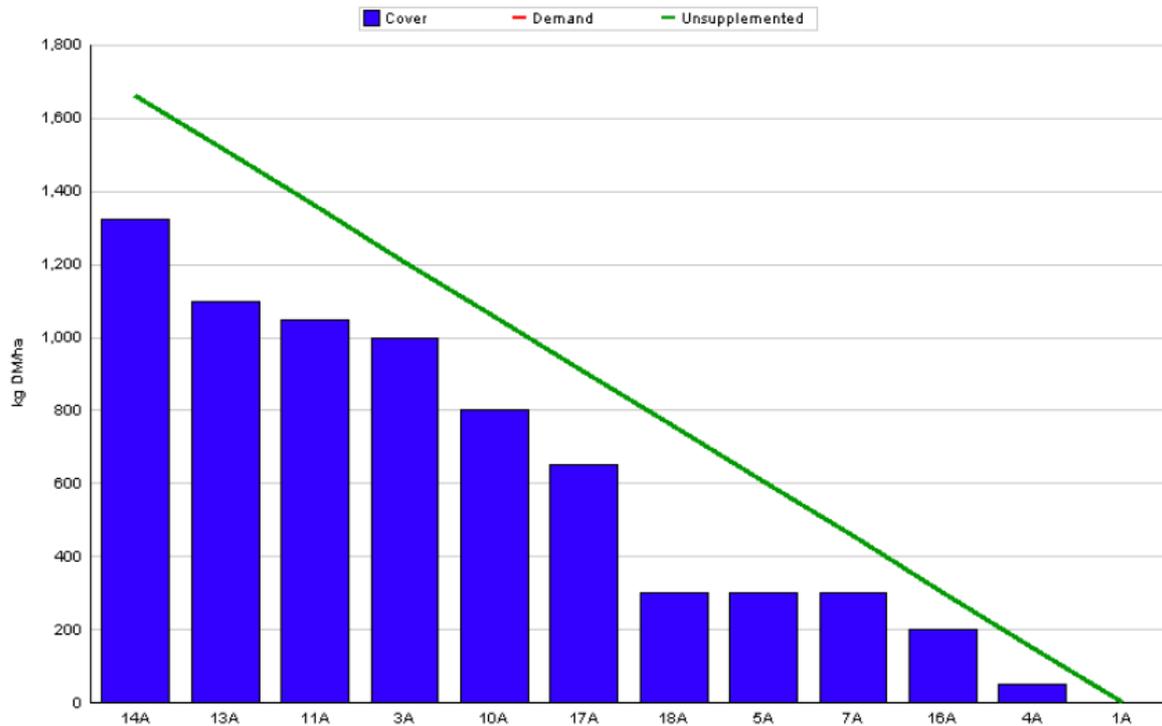
- Average farm cover for this week is 604kg/ha (161kg/cow). Growth rate for the week on this farmlet averaged 27kg/day which is back substantially on last weeks figure of 70kg and is a reflection of the poorer growing conditions with colder nights and northerly winds.
- Stocking rate is 3.76 cows/ha and demand is 68kg. In order to reduce demand we have decided to cut the silage and bring more area back into grazing. 28% of this farmlet was cut for silage on Monday night and will be baled on Wednesday morning. This is one week earlier than planned but is a compromise between slightly lower silage yields and ensuring that we have sufficient grass for the cows.
- When the silage ground is returned to the grazing area stocking rate will be 2.64 cows/ha and demand will be 45kg.
- Pre-grazing yields are 1300kg and residency time per paddock is approximately 48 hours. This is likely to get shorter as pre-grazing yields are dropping.

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	16-MAY-11
Farm :	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date :	16-MAY-11	Treatment :	High SR
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	587
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	119
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	4.95
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	43
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	79
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1662
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



- Average farm cover this week is 587kg/ha (119/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 43kg/day. Average farm cover dropped considerably in the past 7 days due to a lower than anticipated growth rate coupled with a high demand (79kg/day).
- As can be seen in Figure 2., there is a deficit in the feed wedge with no paddock hitting the target line. Pre-grazing yields are at 1300kg which is at the lower end of our target threshold of 1300 – 1500kg. There is a more pronounced deficit in the bottom of the wedge which suggests re-growths have slowed considerably.
- In order to address this, we have decided to cut the silage area (28% of this farmlet) so this area will be returned to grazing sooner than planned which will help to reduce demand.
- Cows are currently grazing block 3. Pre-grazing yields are 1300kg. 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 39kg. This figure is based on the average growth of the paddocks included in the feed wedge.
2. There was 3.8mm of rain over the past 7 days.
3. Two paddocks have been selected for reseeding;
 - 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 was dominating the sward. This has been sprayed with CMPP and dicamba and was cut for silage on Monday. Aston Energy grass seed will be oversown on Thursday.
 - Paddock 8 was the worst performing paddock in 2010 (11.6t grown). This paddock was reseeded with Aston Energy and Tyrella (60:40) on the 21st of April.
4. Cows are on 0kg concentrate and are getting cal mag through paddock dusting.
5. The breeding season commenced on the 27th of April. 70% of the herd are getting Jersey AI while the remainder are getting Friesian AI. Bulls being used are ABT, HWY, PKU, KJW, HZS, MWH, WGM, CBH, TKY, BHQ & CWJ.
6. All cows have been vaccinated for Leptospirosis and BVD.
7. 81% of the heifer calves have been weaned. Weaning weight is 90kg for purebred Friesian and 75kg for crossbreds.

8. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.04%, Protein 3.31%, Lactose 4.9%, Sediment A, Thermoduric 57, SCC 138k and TBC is 49k – we are having issues with milk cooling.

