

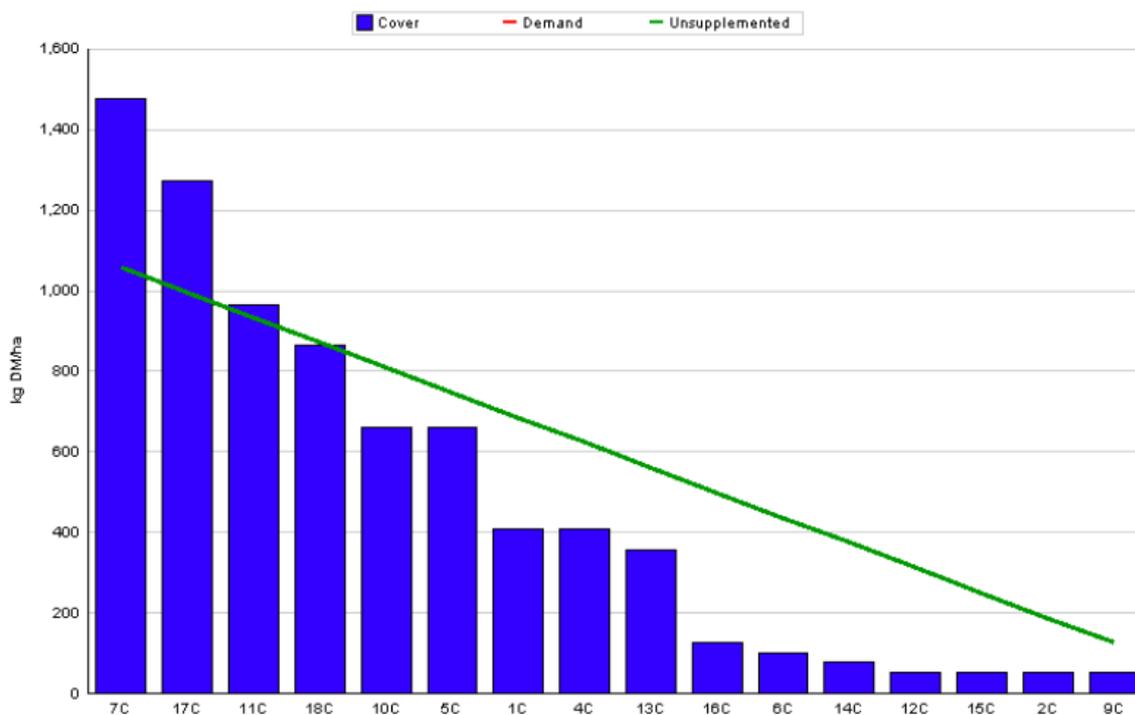
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 24-05-11

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 24-MAY-11	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 23-MAY-11		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	486
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	174
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.80
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Growth Rate :	64
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	50
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1058
Residual Height :	4.5		
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



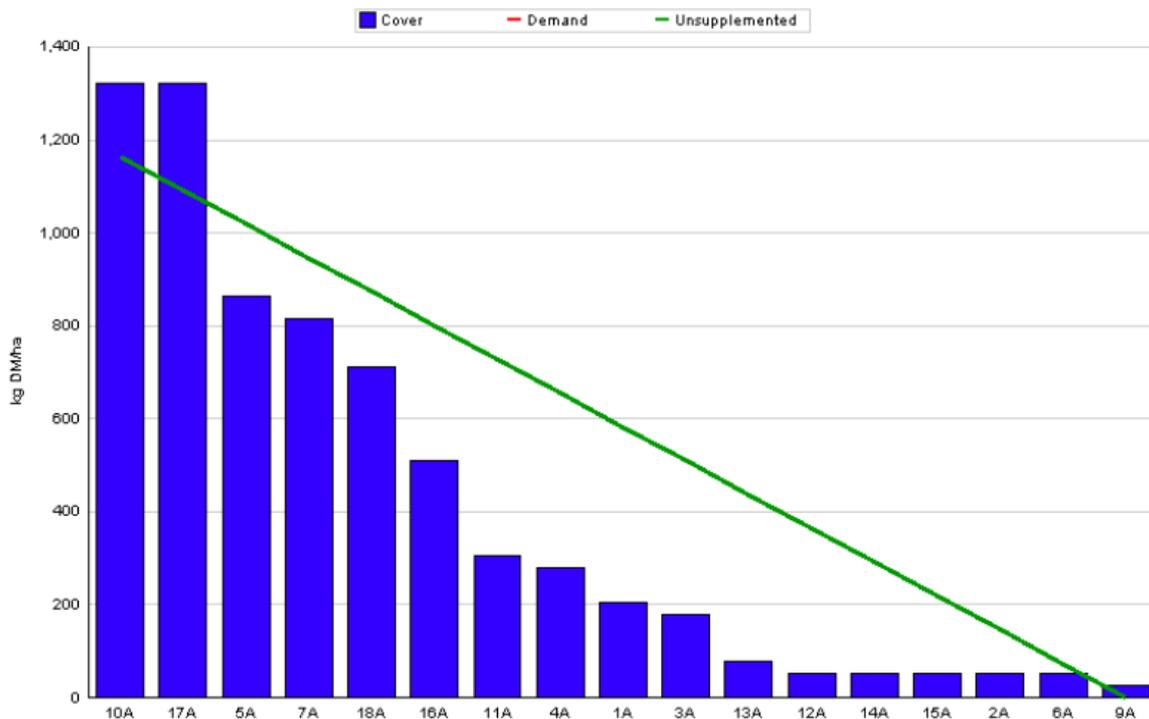
- Average farm cover for this week is 486kg/ha (174kg/cow). Average growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 64kg, which is a substantial increase on last weeks figure of 27kg.
- As can be seen in Figure 1, we have an uneven feed wedge with surpluses at the top and deficits at the bottom. The last 5 paddocks in the wedge were all cut for silage last Monday.
- Paddock 3 was skipped for silage this week (cover of 1500kg). This brings stocking rate to 2.8 cows/ha or herd demand to 50kg/ha/day. It is likely that more paddocks will be skipped over the coming weeks. Paddock 3 was topped up with 27 units of Sulphur CAN.
- Pre-grazing yields are 1450kg and residency time per paddock is approximately 48 hours. Cows are grazing to between 4.5 and 5cm.

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	24-MAY-11
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 23-MAY-11		Treatment :	High SR
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	405
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	117
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.46
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	62
Residual Height :	3.5	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	55
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1164



- Average farm cover this week is 405kg/ha (117/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 62kg/day.

- As can be seen in Figure 2., there is a deficit in the feed wedge with only the first two paddocks hitting the target line. Pre-grazing yields are at 1300kg which is at the lower end of our target threshold of 1300 – 1500kg.
- Cows are currently grazing block 10. Pre-grazing yields are 1300kg. Since pre-grazing yields have dropped cows are getting full paddocks. Residency time per paddock is between 36 and 48 hours. Cows in this farmlet must graze to the target residual of between 3 and 3.5cm.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average growth rate over the last 7 days was 58kg.
2. There was 3.8mm of rain over the past 7 days.
3. Two paddocks have been selected for reseeding;
 - Paddock 12 was 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 16th May. Aston Energy grass seed was oversown on Monday 23rd May at 10kg/acre.
 - 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. 24 day submission rate for the full herd (138 cows) was 86%
7. All cows have been vaccinated for Leptospirosis and BVD.
8. 88% of the heifer calves have been weaned. Weaning weight is 90kg for purebred Friesian and 75kg for crossbreds.
9. Silage was cut on the 16th of May average yield was 7 bales/acre. 2500gls of slurry was applied to 60% of the area that was cut.
10. Fertiliser is being spread at a rate of 27units of Sulphur CAN/acre.
11. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.24%, Protein 3.41%, Lactose 4.75%, Sediment A, Thermoduric 57, SCC 127k

