

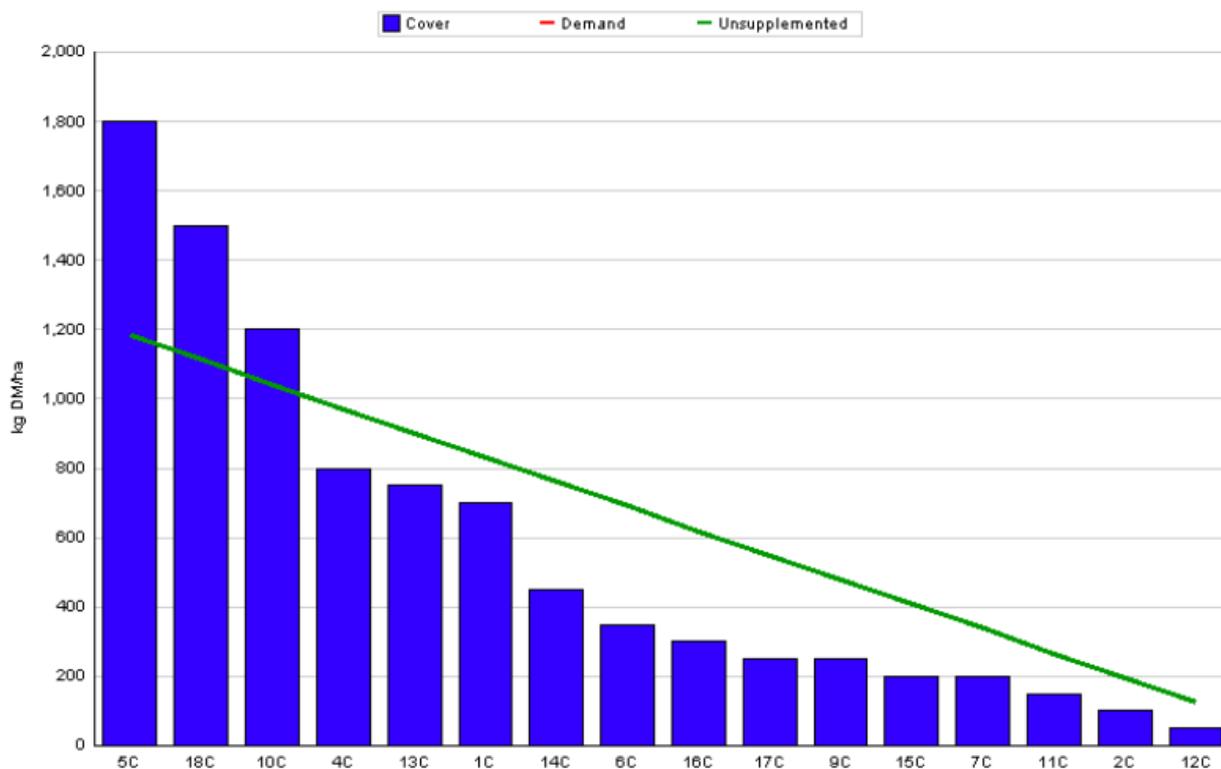
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 31-05-11

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 30-MAY-11	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 30-MAY-11		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	543
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	194
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.80
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	53
Residual Height :	4.5	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	50
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1183



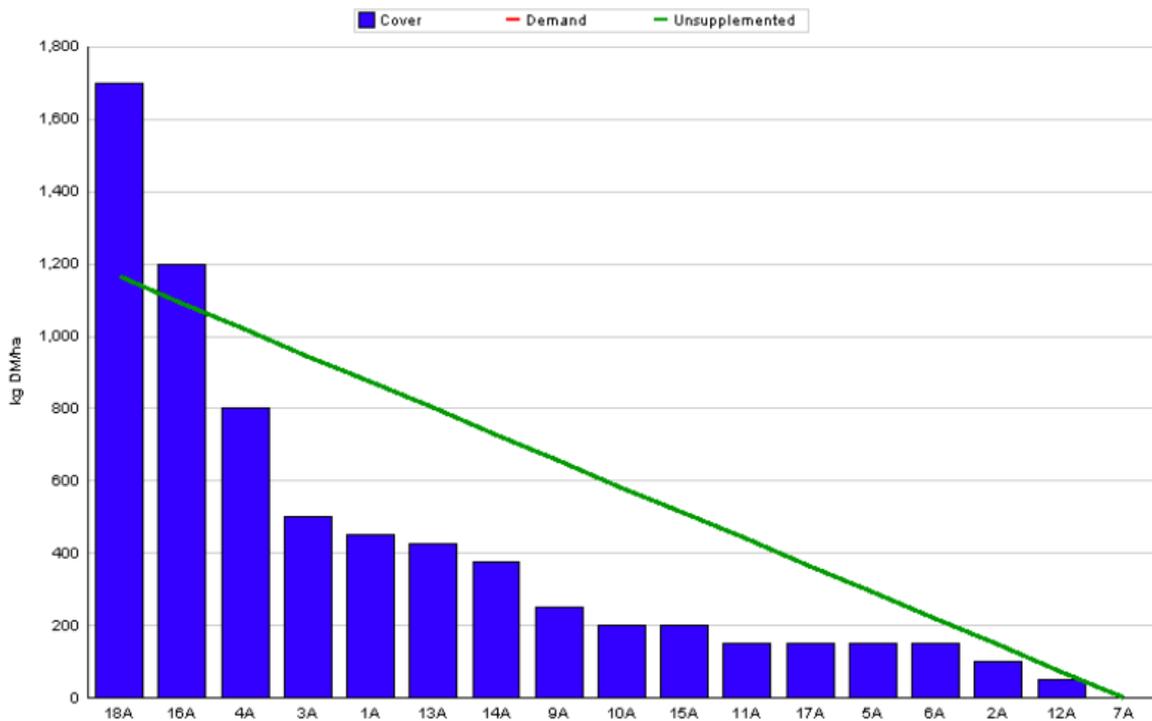
- Average farm cover for this week is 543kg/ha (194kg/cow). Average growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 53kg.
- As can be seen in Figure 1, we have an uneven feed wedge with surpluses in the first 3 paddocks but deficits thereafter. No paddocks have been skipped for silage this week.
- Pre-grazing yield is 1800kg on the next paddock which is higher than we would like but will help to slow down the rotation and allow the low paddocks to catch up to the target line.
- Cows are currently grazing block 18, 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	30-MAY-11
Farm :	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date :	30-MAY-11	Treatment :	High SR
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	398
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) :	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	115
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.46
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	51
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	55
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1164
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



- Average farm cover this week is 398kg/ha (115/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 51kg/day.

- As can be seen in Figure 2., there is a considerable deficit in the feed wedge. The first two paddocks are on target in terms of pre-grazing yields but the remaining paddocks are well below the line. The first of these paddocks is due to be grazed on Friday morning. The plan is to do a quick walk of the next 5 paddocks on Thursday and if they are below the target line we will introduce supplement as a means of maintaining rotation length. The supplement will be in the form of bale silage and will be fed out in the paddock.
- Cows are currently grazing block 18. 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 56kg.
2. Two paddocks have been selected for reseeded;
 - 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.
3. Cows are on 0kg concentrate and are getting cal mag through paddock dusting.
4. 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.
5. 24 day submission rate for the full herd (138 cows, including late calving treatments) was 86%
6. All cows have been vaccinated for Leptospirosis and BVD.
7. 96% of the heifer calves have been weaned. Weaning weight is 90kg for purebred Holstein Friesian and 75kg for crossbreds.
8. 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.
9. Fertiliser is being spread at a rate of 27units of Sulphur CAN/acre.
10. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.14%, Protein 3.47%, Lactose 4.78%, Sediment A, Thermoduric 35, SCC 137k, TBC 18k

