

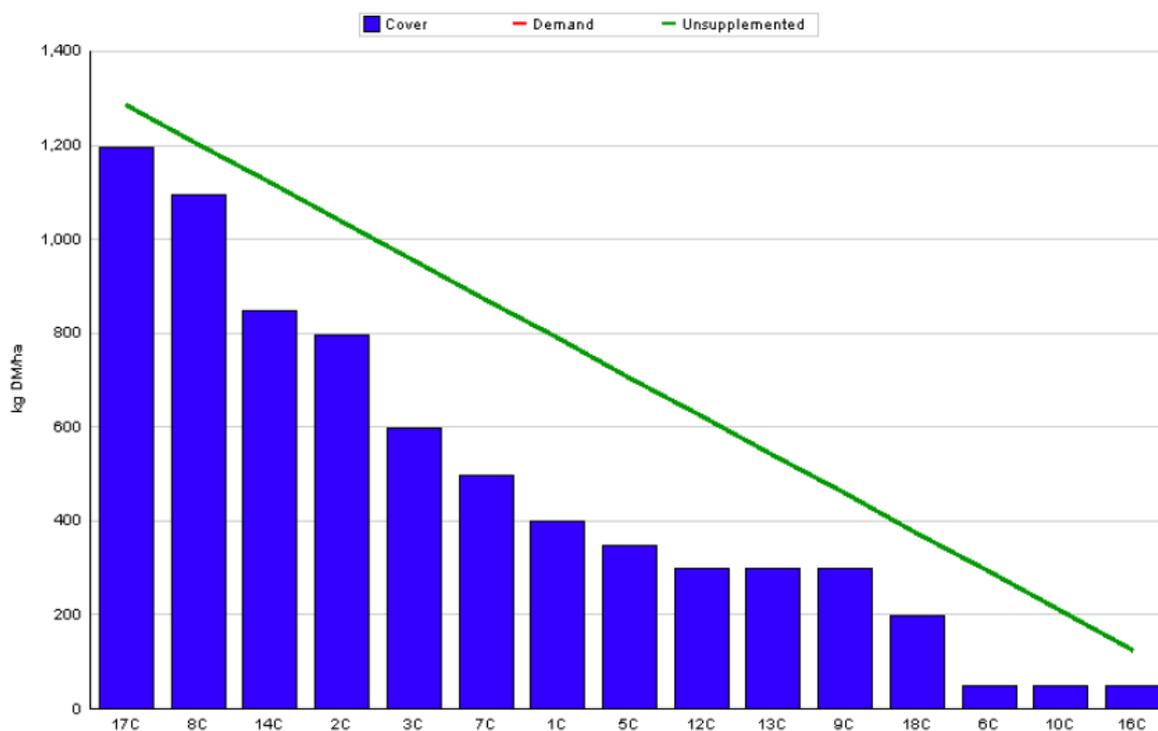
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 19-07-11

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-JUL-11
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 18-JUL-11		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	463
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	151
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.07
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	62
Residual Height :	4.5	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	55
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1286



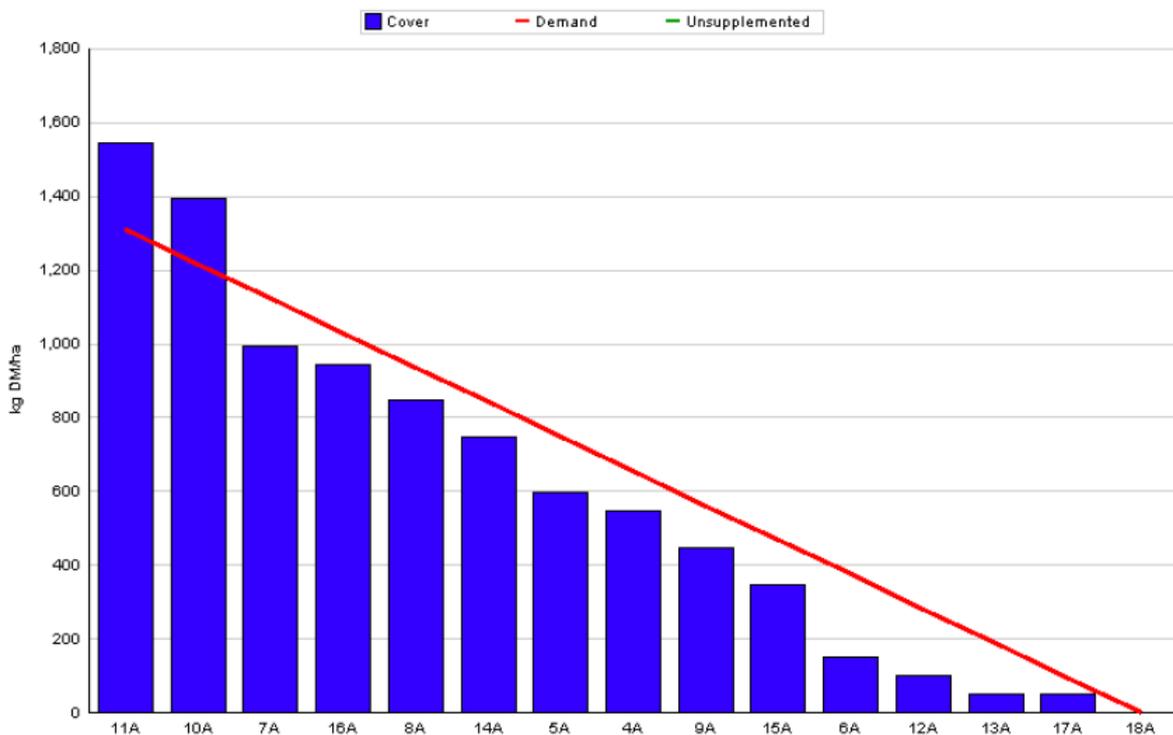
- Average farm cover for this week is 463kg/ha (151kg/cow). Average growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 62kg.
- As can be seen in Figure 1, there is a deficit in the wedge with no paddock reaching the target line. We are slightly uneasy about this but are comforted by the knowledge that average cover per cow is acceptable at 150kg/cow and that growth is still above demand. However, the outlook for growth over the next seven days is un-certain as the weather forecast is very variable. We did consider bringing back a paddock that was closed for silage but in the end adopted a 'wait and see' approach.
- Stocking rate is 3.07cows/ha. Two paddocks were cut for silage last week while one paddock was skipped for silage. At present, three paddocks are closed. These will be cut in two weeks.
- Cows are currently grazing block 17, residency time per paddock is 36 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	19-JUL-11
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 18-JUL-11		Treatment :	High SR
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	593
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	152
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.90
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	65
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	62
Residual Height :	3.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1310
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



- Average farm cover this week is 593kg/ha (152/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 65kg/day.

- Two paddocks were cut for silage last week and one paddock was closed for silage. At present, three paddocks are closed. These will be cut in two weeks.
- Cows are currently grazing block 11. Residency time per paddock is 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 65kg.
2. The breeding season commenced on the 27th of April and will cease on the 26th of July for the early calving treatment (two weeks later for the late calving treatment). 70% of the herd are getting Jersey AI while the remainder getting Friesian AI. Bulls being used are ABT, HWY, PKU, KJW, HZS, MWH, WGM, CBH, TKY, BHQ & CWJ. Angus AI sires are being used since 26th June.
3. Fertiliser was blanket spread over all grazing paddocks on week ending 1st of July at a rate of 30units/acre of Sulphur CAN. The plan is to apply two more blanket spreads before the closed period in mid September. This will bring is up to 250kg N/ha and ensure consistency of application. Grass quality will be monitored closely.
4. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.31%, Protein 3.62%, Lactose 4.77%, Sediment B, Thermoduric 150, SCC 167k, TBC 36k

