

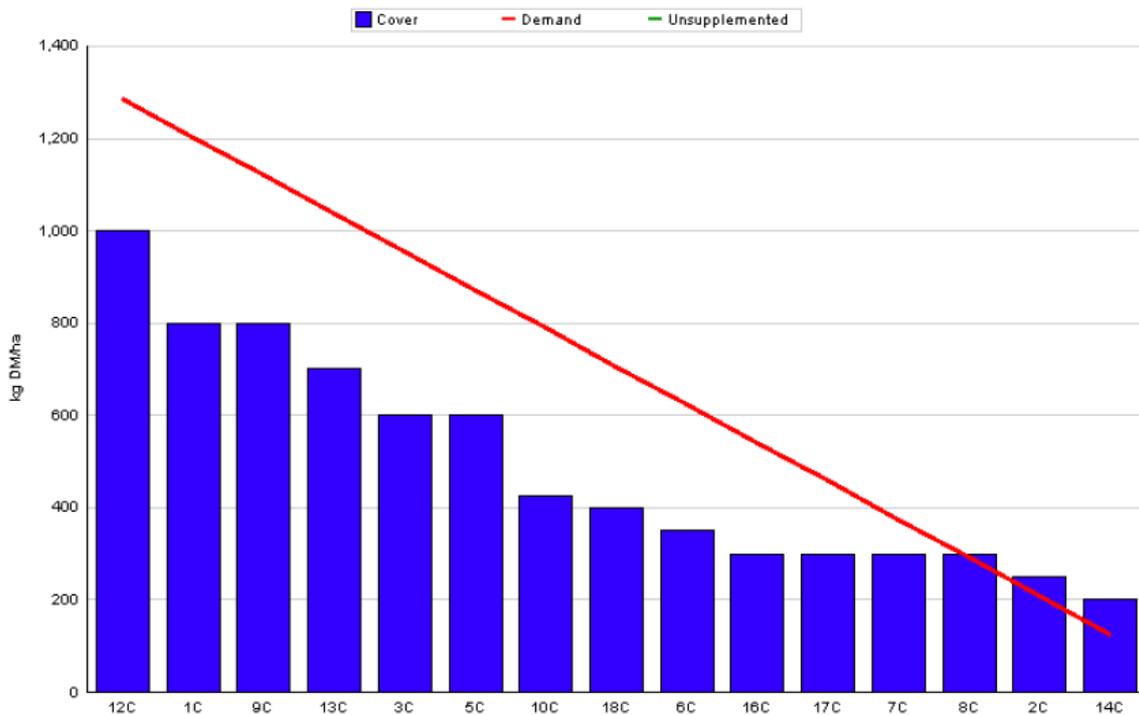
## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 26-07-11

### 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 26-JUL-11	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 25-JUL-11		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	488
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	159
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.07
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Growth Rate :	49
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	55
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1286
Residual Height :	4.5		
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



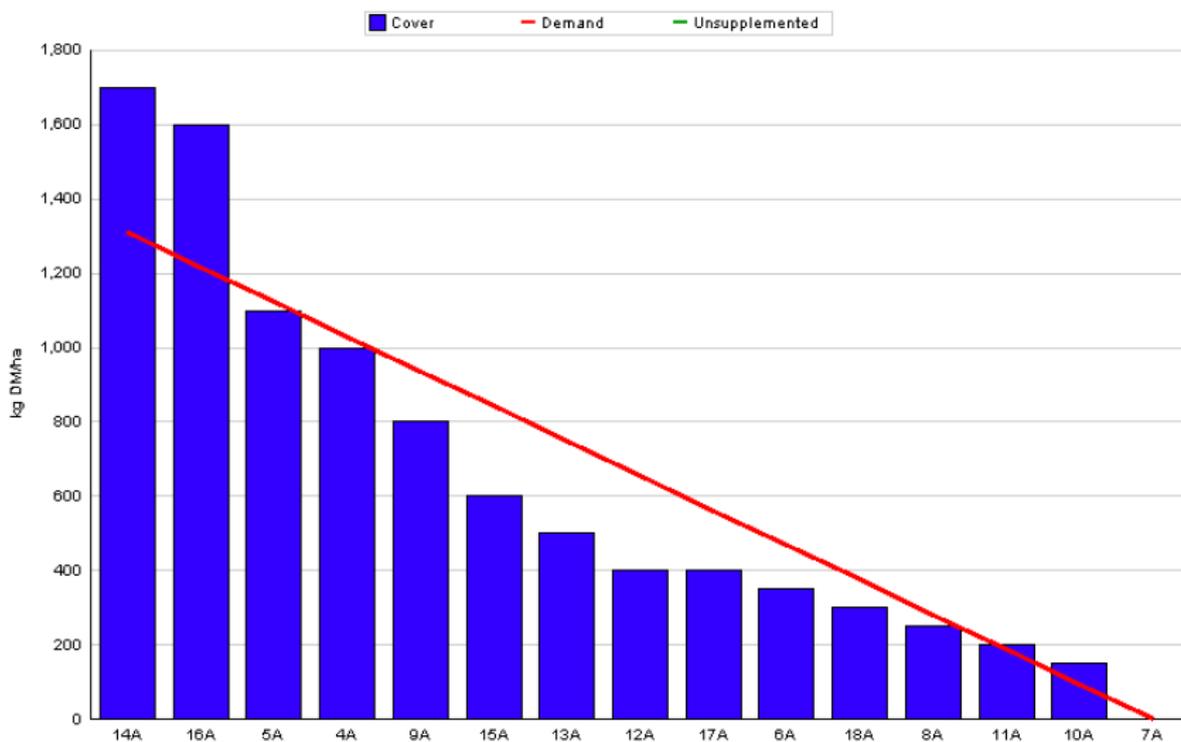
- Average farm cover for this week is 488kg/ha (159kg/cow) which is almost identical to last week. Average growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 49kg.
- As can be seen in Figure 1, there is a substantial deficit in the wedge with no paddock reaching the target line. As growth rates are dropping we have decided to cut the three paddocks that were closed for silage. This will help to lower demand over the next few weeks.
- We are concerned that pre-grazing yields will fall too low and that rotation length will shorten. We will walk the next four paddocks on Friday and decide then on whether or not we need to go in with some supplement. This supplement will be in the form of bale silage and will be fed out in the paddock.
- Stocking rate is currently 3.07cows/ha. Once the silage is cut stocking rate will drop to 2.52 cows/ha.
- Cows are currently grazing block 2, 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	26-JUL-11
Farm :	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date :	25-JUL-11	Treatment :	High SR
Rotation Length :	21	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	620
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	159
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 :	61
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 620kg/ha (159/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 61kg/day which is almost identical to demand.
- As can be seen in figure 2, we have an uneven shaped wedge with a surplus at the top and a deficit in the middle. No action was taken this week.
- The three paddocks that were closed for silage will be cut today (Tuesday).
- Cows are currently grazing block 8. 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 54kg.
2. The breeding season commenced on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April and will cease on the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> June.
3. Fertiliser was blanket spread over all grazing paddocks on week ending 1<sup>st</sup> 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 us up to 250kg N/ha and ensure consistency of application. Grass quality will be monitored closely. Another blanket spread of 30units/acre will take place towards the end of this week.
4. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.34%, Protein 3.63%, Lactose 4.79%, Sediment B, Thermoduric 150, SCC 119k, TBC 17k

