Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 16-08-11

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 Cows/ha)

Situation

Figure 1. Low Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

- Average farm cover for this week is 607kg/ha (241kg/cow). Average growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 56kg, which is almost the same as last week.
• As can be seen in Figure 1, there is still a slight deficit in the feed wedge. However, we are ahead of target in terms of average farm cover for this time (above, right) so no action will be taken.

• Stocking rate is currently 2.52 cows/ha. Cows are grazing block 9, residency time per paddock is 36 hours. Cows are grazing to between 4.5 and 5 cm.

• Rotation length has increased to 26 days. This will be increased incrementally to 30 days by the 1st of September and 50 days by the end of September.

• Soiled water is being spread at a rate of 3000 gls/acre after grazing.
High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 Cows/ha)

Situation

Figure 2. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

- Average farm cover this week is 722kg/ha (219/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 65kg/day.
- As can be seen in figure 2, we have an even shaped wedge and are on target in terms of average farm cover. No action was taken this week.
- Rotation length has increased to 26 days. This will be increased incrementally to 30 days by the 1st of September and 50 days by the end of September.
• Stocking rate is 3.3 cows/ha. Cows are currently grazing paddock 11 and residency time per paddock is 36 hours. Cows in this farmlet must graze to the target residual of between 3 and 3.5 cm.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Average growth rate over the last 7 days was 61 kg.
2. The breeding season commenced on the 27th of April and ceased on the 28th of July for the early calving treatment. 70% of the herd were inseminated to Jersey AI while the remainder got Friesian AI. Bulls used were 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 paddocks on week ending 6th of August at a rate of 30 units/acre of Sulphur CAN. The plan is to apply one more blanket spread before the closed period in mid September. This will bring us up to 250 kg N/ha and ensure consistency of application.
4. Approximately 3000 gls/acre of soiled water is being spread after grazing.
5. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.30%, Protein 3.61%, Lactose 4.69%, Sediment A, Thermoduric 0, SCC 159k, TBC 14k