Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 23-08-11

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 Cows/ha)

Situation

Figure 1. Low Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

- Average farm cover for this week is 820kg/ha (326kg/cow). Average growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 71kg, which is an increase from last week.
- As can be seen in Figure 1, we have a slight surplus in the feed wedge and we are well ahead of target in terms of average farm cover. No action has been taken this week.
- Stocking rate is 2.52 cows/ha. Cows are grazing block 13, residency time per paddock is 48 hours. Cows are grazing to between 4.5 and 5cm.
- Rotation length has increased to 28 days. This will be increased incrementally to 30 days by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and 50 days by the end of September.

**High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 Cows/ha)**

**Situation**

**Figure 2. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge**

- Average farm cover this week is 795kg/ha (241/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 65kg/day which is exactly the same as last week.
- As can be seen in figure 2, we have a surplus in the feed wedge and we are ahead of target in terms of average farm cover for this time. No action was taken this week.
- Rotation length has increased to 28 days. This will be increased incrementally to 30 days by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and 50 days by the end of September.
Stocking rate is 3.3 cows/ha. Cows are currently grazing paddock 14 and residency time per paddock is 48 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 66 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. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.60%, Protein 3.64%, Lactose 4.62%, Sediment A, Thermoduric 13, SCC 160k, TBC 14k