

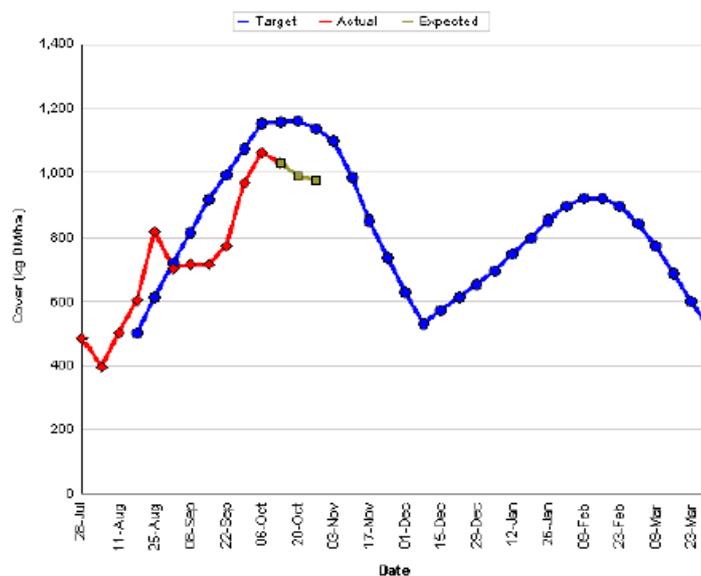
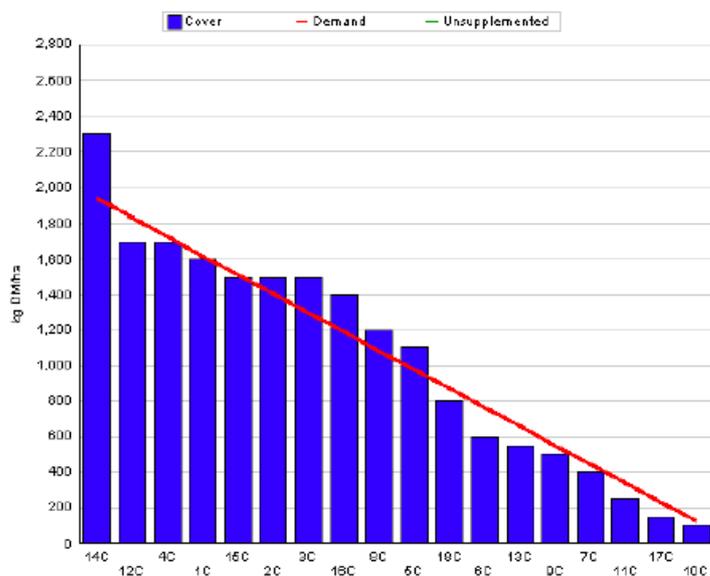
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 11-10-11

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 : 10-OCT-11	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 10-OCT-11		Treatment : Low SR	
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Rotation Length :	45	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	1029
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	409
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	2.5	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.52
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	39
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	40
Residual Height :	4.5	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1937
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	34 33



- Average farm cover for this week is 1029kg/ha (409kg/cow) which is a slight reduction on last weeks figure. Farm cover is below target for this group (1029kg actual versus 1170kg target). Average growth rate over the past 7 days on this farmlet was 39kg, (last week was 62kg).

- The reduction in growth has been greater than expected and has resulted in a reduction in farm cover at a time when it should have remained equal.
- Silage has been re-introduced to the cow's diet in an effort to reduce demand and hold average farm cover. One bale is being fed under the electric fence in the paddock. This is working extremely well with very little damage being caused and excellent silage utilisation. Intake is approximately 2.5kg/cow/day.
- If weather and ground conditions change we will not hesitate in switching to concentrates being fed in the parlour but until such time we will continue to feed outdoors.
- Pre-grazing yields are approximately 2000 and conditions are excellent. Paddocks are being halved with residency time per half at 36 hours (with the silage).
- Rotation length remains at 45 days.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 Cows/ha)

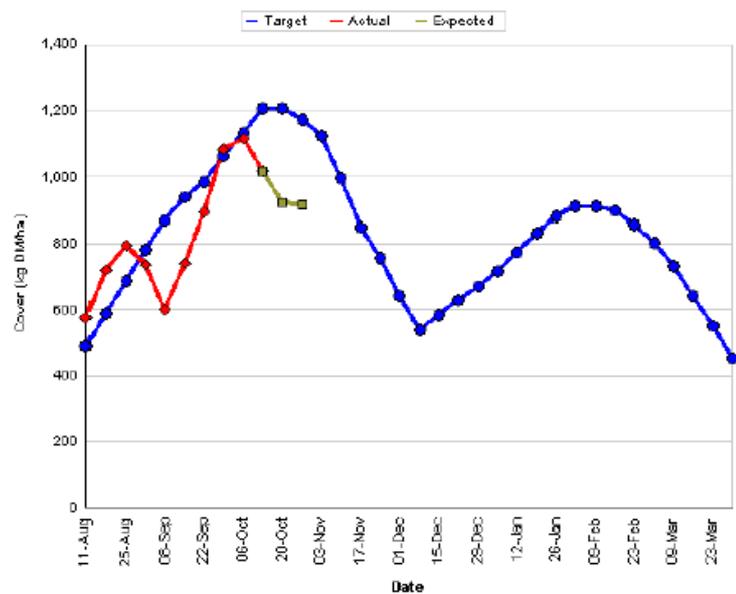
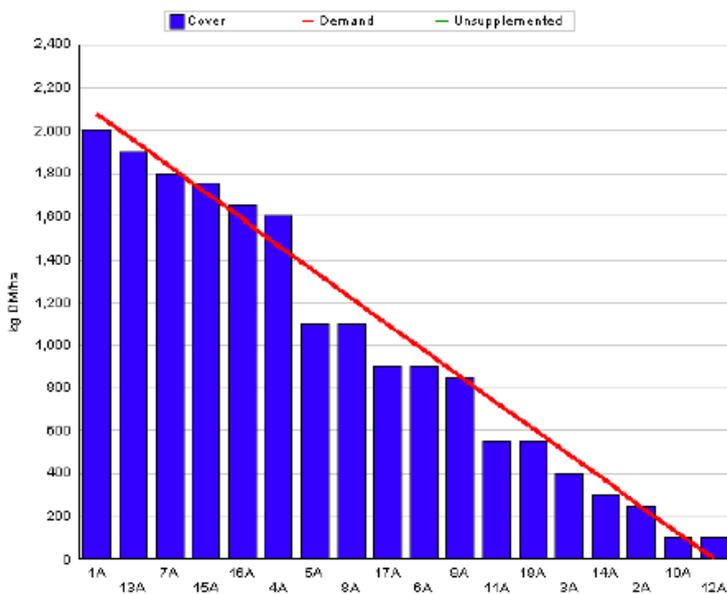
Situation

Figure 2. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group	TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS	Date Produced 10-OCT-11	
Farm	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date	10-OCT-11	Treatment : High SR	

Rotation Length :	45
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL	14
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	2.5
N Application Rate (units/acre) :	
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :	
Residual Height :	3.5
Total Livestock (LU) :	23

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	1017
Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	309
Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.30
Growth Rate :	37
Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	46
Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	2076
Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	33 31



- Average farm cover this week is 1017kg/ha (309/cow) which is a reduction on last weeks figure. We are now behind target. Growth rate for this week was 37kg/day (last week 62kg).
- Silage has been re-introduced to the cow's diet. It is being fed in a similar manner to the low stocking rate group, described above. Cows are getting approximately 2.5kg/day
- Rotation length is at 45 days.
- 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 39kg.
2. Fertiliser was blanket spread over the whole farm at a rate of 27units CAN/acre during the first week of September. That was the last application for the year and will bring total N spread this season to 250kgN/ha.
3. Soiled water is being spread after grazing at a rate of 4000gls/acre.
4. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 5.28%, Protein 4.09%, Lactose 4.71%, Sediment B, Thermoduric 0, SCC 192k, TBC 14k

