

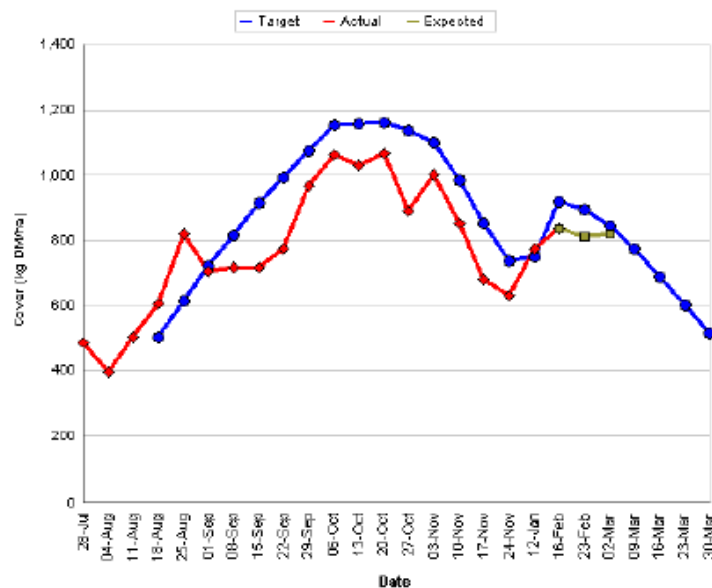
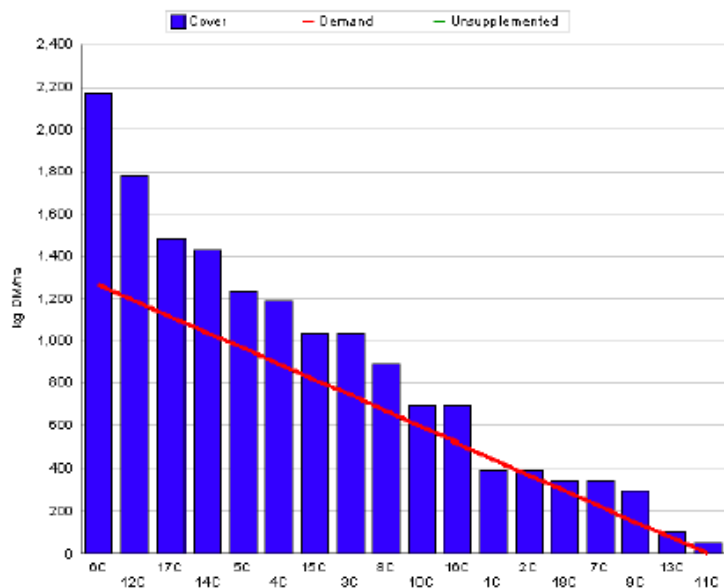
# Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 14-02-12

## Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 Cows/ha)

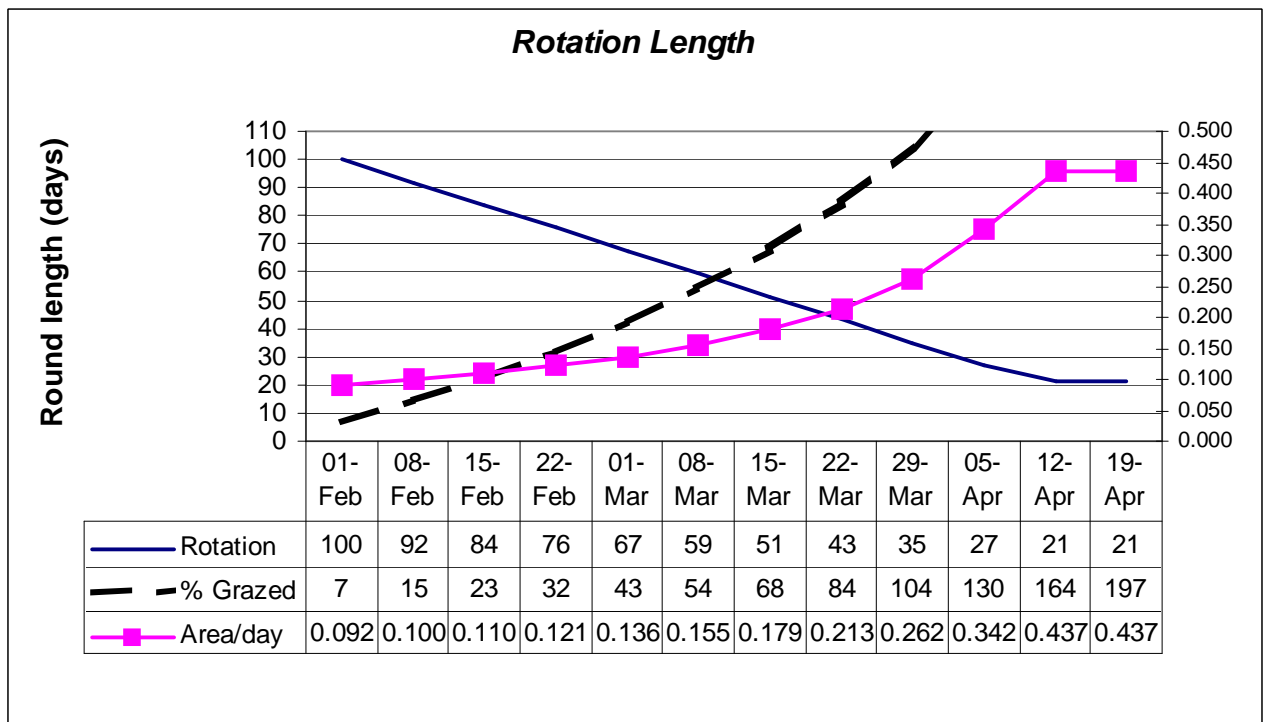
### Situation

**Figure 1. Low Stocking Rate Feed Wedge**

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced : 14-FEB-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 13-FEB-12		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	80	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	838
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL)	12	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	638
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	1.31
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	1.31
N Application Rate (units/acre) :	0	Growth Rate :	10
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :	0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	16
Residual Height :	4	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1260
Total Livestock (LU) :	12	Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	12      13



**Figure 2. Low Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner**



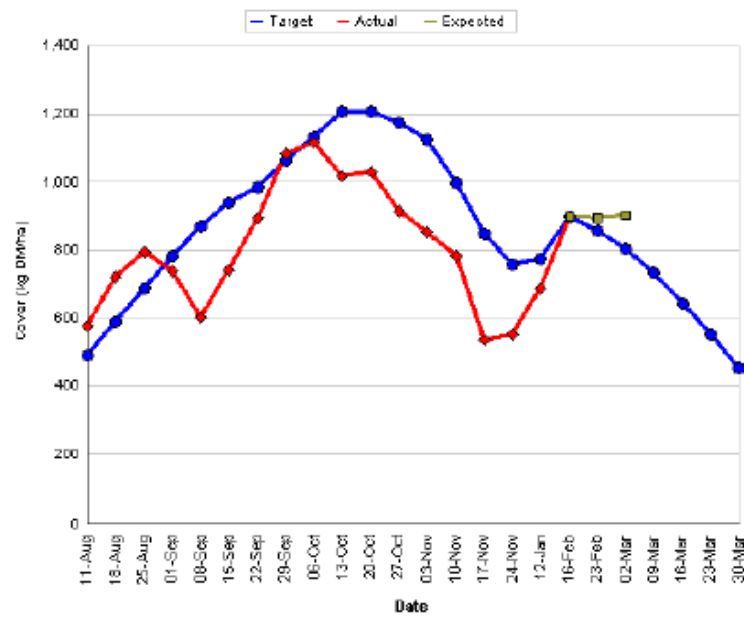
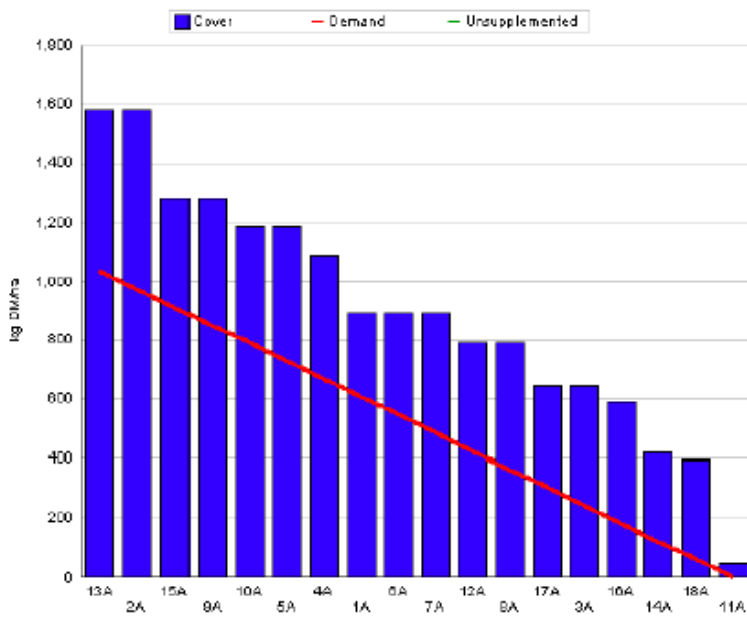
- 61% of the Low Stocking Rate group are calved. The first cow calved on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January and grazing commenced on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January.
- 17% of the farmlet has been grazed so far. According to the spring rotation planner we should have 15% grazed by today so we are slightly ahead of target.
- Cows are currently grazing paddock 10. Pre-grazing yield is 1800 and grass allowance per cow is approximately 12kg. We are not allocating the full area available under the spring rotation plan as the cows would be unable to consume all that pasture in one day.
- Cows are getting 3kg of concentrate per day. We could remove concentrate from the diet and fully feed this group of cows with grass only but it is highly likely that we will need to feed concentrate in the next few weeks as grass demand will be increasing and pre-grazing yields will be falling so we have decided to keep the level of concentrate consistent.
- Growth rate for the past 38 days was 10kg/day.

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

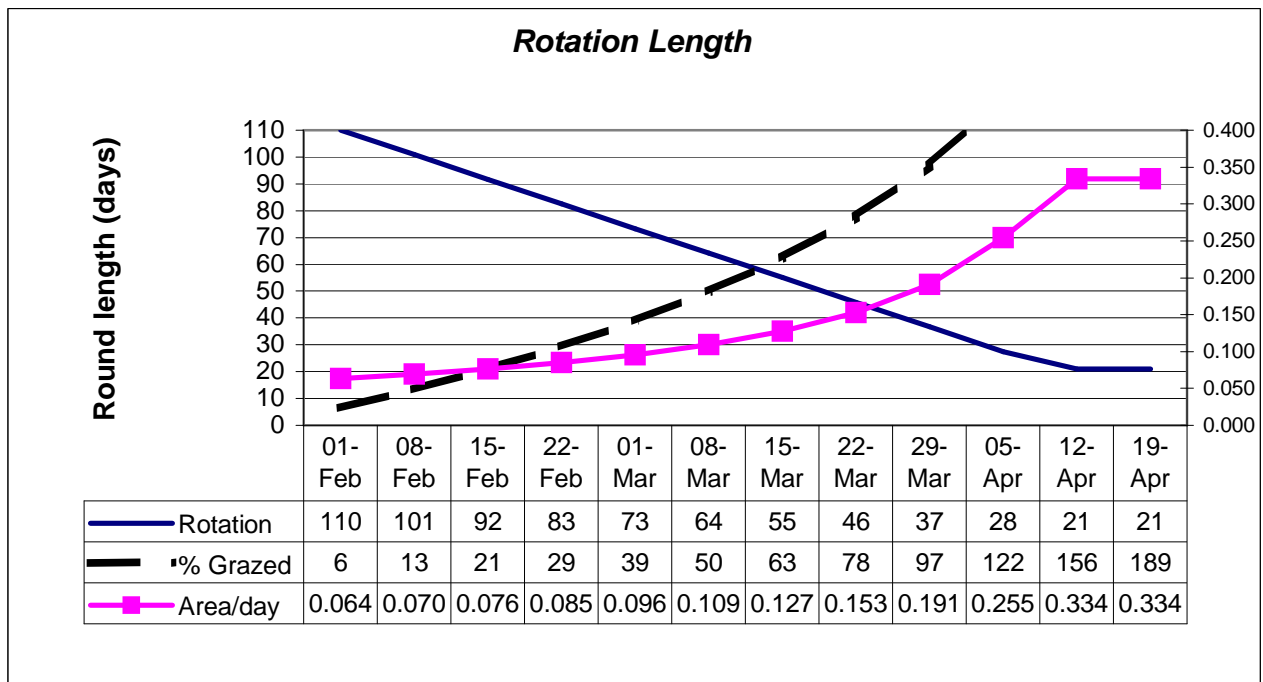
### Situation

Figure 5. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced : 14-FEB-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 13-FEB-12		Treatment : High SR	
Rotation Length :	80	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	898
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	10	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	696
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	1.29
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	11
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	13
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1032
Total Livestock (LU) :	9	Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	13      14



**Figure 6. High Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner**



- 47% of the High Stocking Rate group are calved. The first cow calved on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January and grazing commenced on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, four days later than planned.
- 11% of the farmlet has been grazed, the target for today was to have 13% grazed so we are slightly behind target. The 2% shortfall will be allocated on top of the standard allocation to bring us back to target over the next few weeks.
- Cows are moving into paddock 2. According to the spring rotation planner, we should be grazing 760m<sup>2</sup> for this week. As can be seen in the feed wedge, pre grazing yield is 1600 so grass allowance is 11kg/day (1600kg \* 0.076ha / 11cows).
- Post grazing residuals will be monitored closely, if the cows are not fully eating this allocation the area per day will be reduced. Concentrate is being fed at 3kg/day. Like with the low stocking rate we will try and keep concentrate levels consistent as much as possible.
- Growth rate for this farmlet was over the last 38 days was 11kg/day.

## **Whole Farm Situation**

1. Between slurry and chemical nitrogen the whole farm has received approximately 23 units of nitrogen so far. Slurry was spread on 33% of the farm on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January at a rate of 2500gls/acre while urea was applied on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February at 23 units/acre on the remainder excluding some of the highest covers.
2. Cows are on 12-hour allocations with a back-fence. Grazing conditions have been very difficult and some poaching did occur. On/Off grazing was employed for the last 10 days or so. The current dry weather should allow us to keep cows out and spread slurry on the grazed paddocks
3. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 5.78%, Protein 3.79%, Lactose 4.69% and SCC 344k.

