

Curtins Farm Walk Notes Wednesday 29-02-12

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 : 28-FEB-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 27-FEB-12		Treatment : Low SR	
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Rotation Length :	67	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	746
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL	11	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	379
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	5	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	33
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	1.97
N Application Rate (units/acre) :	4	Growth Rate :	22
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :	4	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	1451
Residual Height :	18	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	37
Total Livestock (LU) :	46	Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	37 46

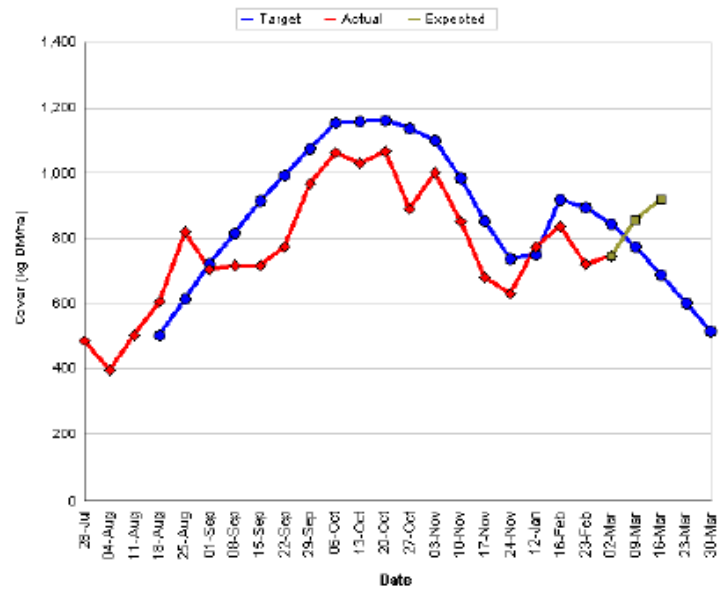
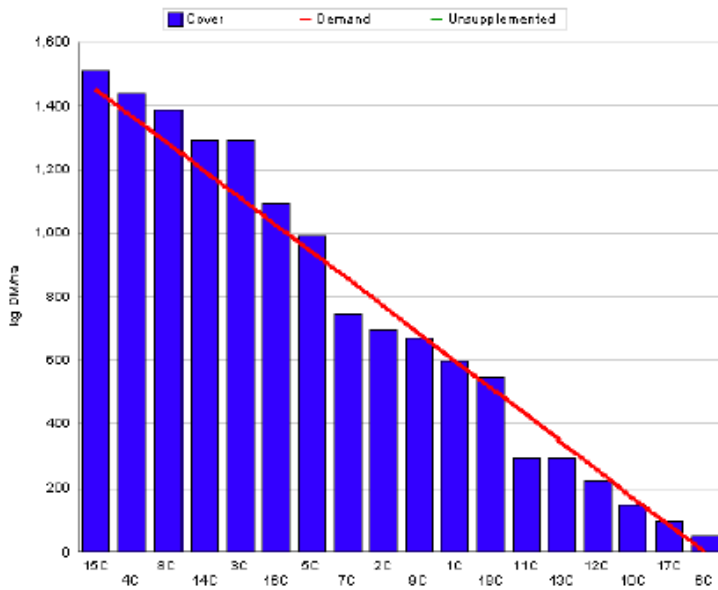
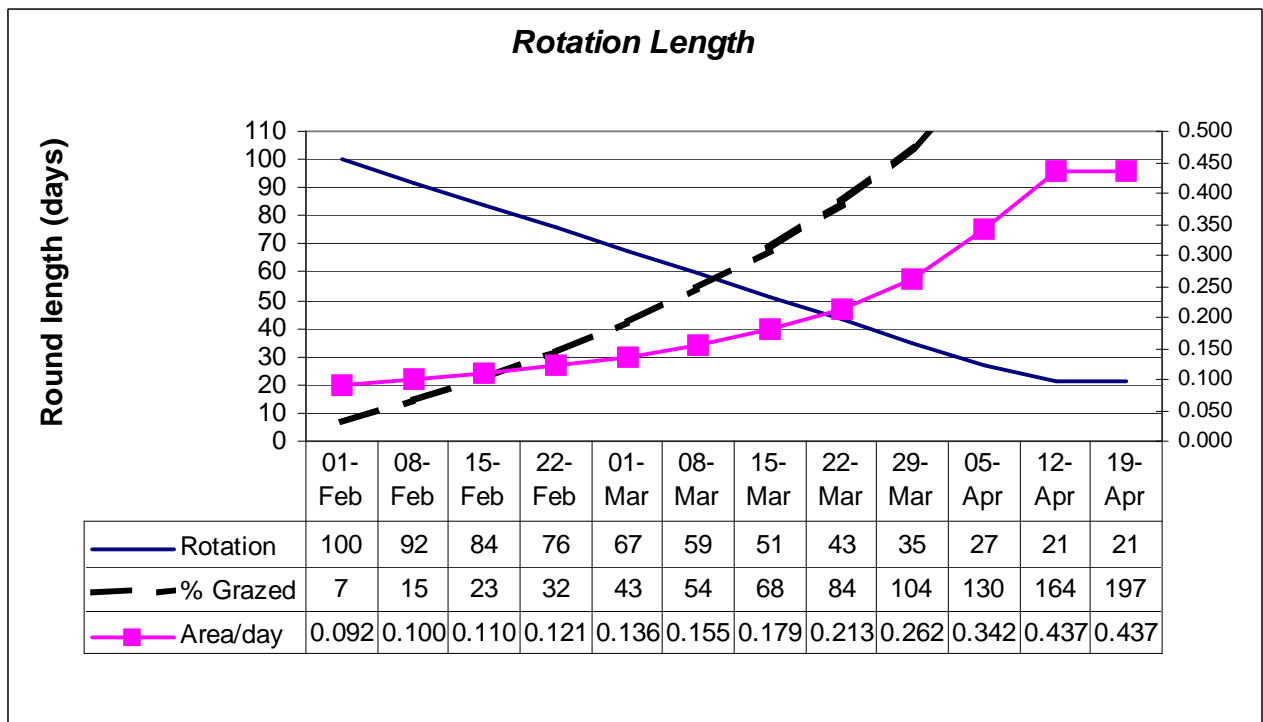


Figure 2. Low Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner



- 83% of the Low Stocking Rate group have calved. The first cow calved on the 22nd of January and grazing commenced on the 30th of January.
- 37% of the farmlet has been grazed so far. According to the spring rotation planner we should have 32% grazed by today so we remain ahead of target.
- Cows are currently grazing paddock 5 and are moving to paddock 15 this evening which has a cover of 1500kgDM/ha. Based on the spring rotation planner, we should be allocating 0.136ha/day for the coming seven days. This would provide an allocation of 11.3kg grass/day (1500kg * 0.136ha / 18cows).
- Cows are getting 5kg of concentrate per day. This is a citrus pulp/soya hulls/distillers blend with a ufl value of 0.95
- Growth rate for the past 7 days was 33kg/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	28-FEB-12
Farm	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date	27-FEB-12	Treatment	High SR

Rotation Length :	73	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	886
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL	9	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	386
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	5	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.29
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	37
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	21
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1506
Total Livestock (LU) :	16	Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	42 52

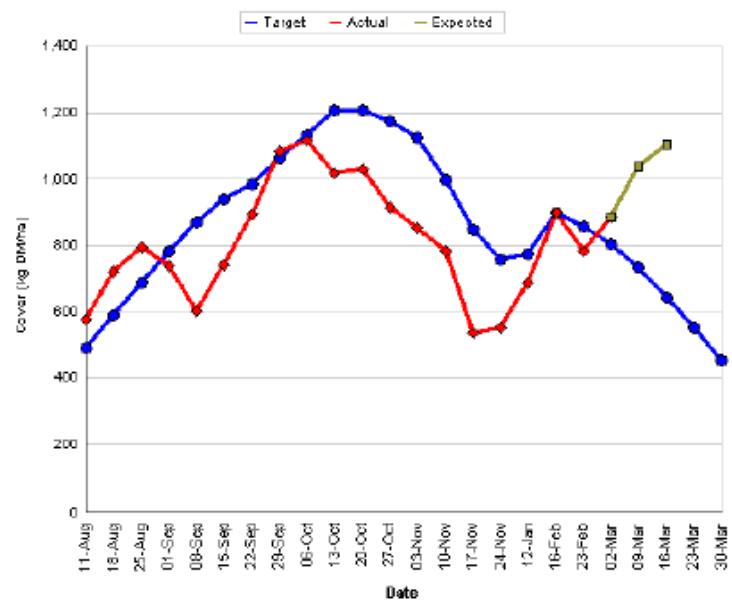
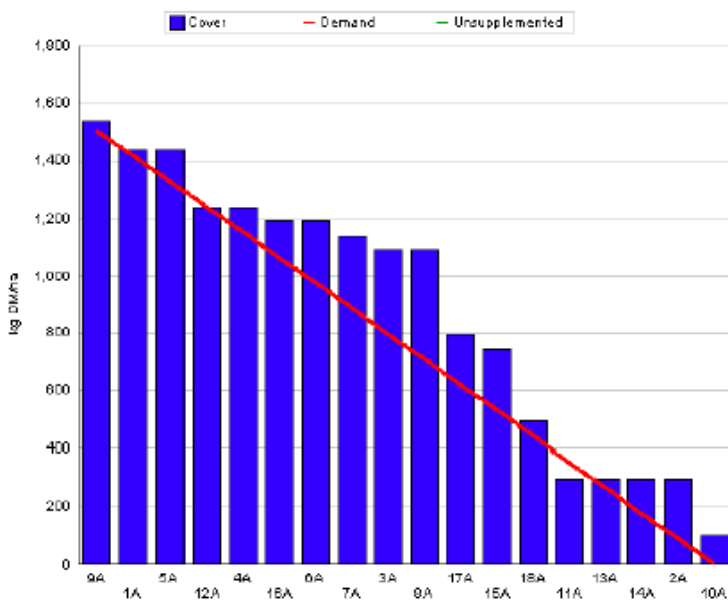
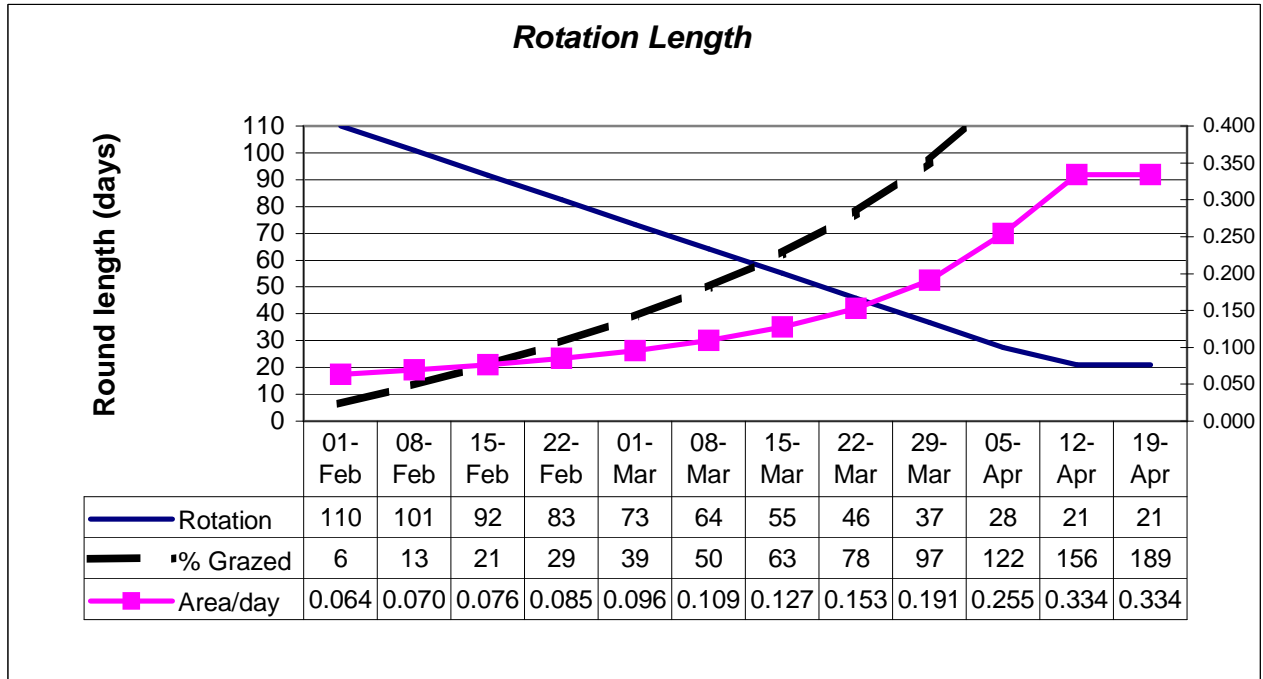


Figure 6. High Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner



- 74% of the High Stocking Rate group have calved. The first cow calved on the 22nd of January and grazing commenced on the 4th of February, four days later than planned.
- 32% of the farmlet has been grazed, almost 3% more than planned for this time.
- Cows are currently grazing paddock 15 and are moving to paddock 9 this evening which has a cover of 1500kgDM/ha. Based on the spring rotation planner, we should be allocating 0.096ha/day for the coming seven days. This would provide an allocation of 8.5kg grass/day (1500kg * 0.096ha / 17cows).
- Concentrate is being fed at 5kg/day. This is a citrus pulp/soya hulls/distillers blend with a ufl value of 0.95
- Growth rate for this farmlet over the last 7 days was 37kg/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 13th of January at a rate of 2500gls/acre while urea was applied on the 10th of February at 23 units/acre on the

remainder excluding some of the highest covers. Paddocks grazed before the 18th of February received slurry after grazing.

2. As conditions for growth are superb at present, we have decided to bring forward our next nitrogen application by two weeks in order to optimise the utilisation of this fertiliser. 40 units of urea per acre is being spread on all paddocks today. No more nitrogen will be spread until after grazing in the second rotation.
3. No more slurry will be spread on the grazing area for the moment.
4. Cows are on 12-hour allocations with a back-fence. Grazing conditions could not be better. The back fence is used to prevent the re-growth from being grazed.
5. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 5.18%, Protein 3.56%, Lactose 4.83% and SCC 310k.
6. SCC is stubbornly high despite 7 cows being treated in the last 10 days. All cows were milk sampled on Monday with the high SCC cows (7 in total) being quarter sampled and treated based on the California Mastitis Test. These will be treated with 'Terrexine' intramammary antibiotics and 'Tylan 200' intramuscular antibiotics. While there is a significant cost in doing this it should hopefully rectify the problem. Clusters from all high or previously high cows will be dipped in paracetic acid post milking to prevent cross contamination.
7. No other health issues this week. All cows were given a routine treatment for lice on Wednesday morning.

