Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 21-03-12

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 Cows/ha)

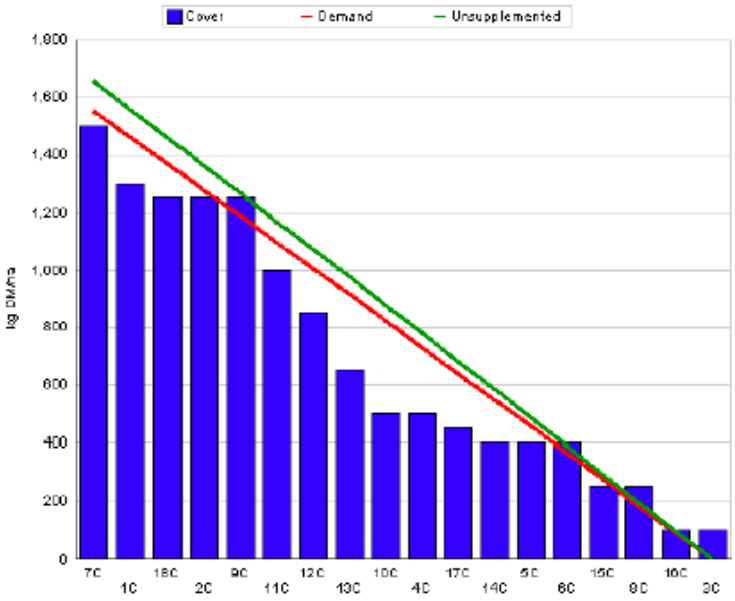
Situation

Figure 1. Low Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre — GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report

Group	TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		**Date Produced** 20-MAR-12
Farm :	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date :	20-MAR-12	**Treatment :**	Low SR

Rotation Length :	43	**Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :**	696
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LL	15	**Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :**	289
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	1	**Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :**	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	**Stock Rate (LU/ha) :**	2.41
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		**Growth Rate :**	26
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		**Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :**	36
Residual Height :	4	**Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :**	1553
Total Livestock (LU) :	22	**Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:**	30



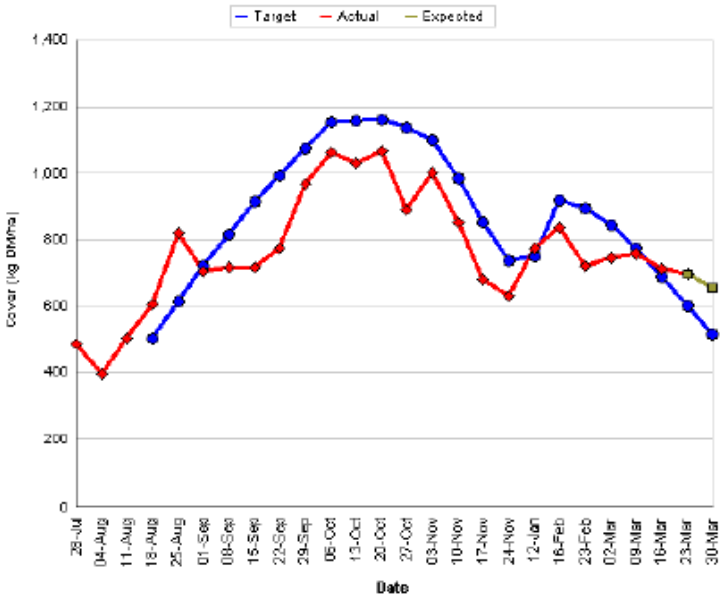
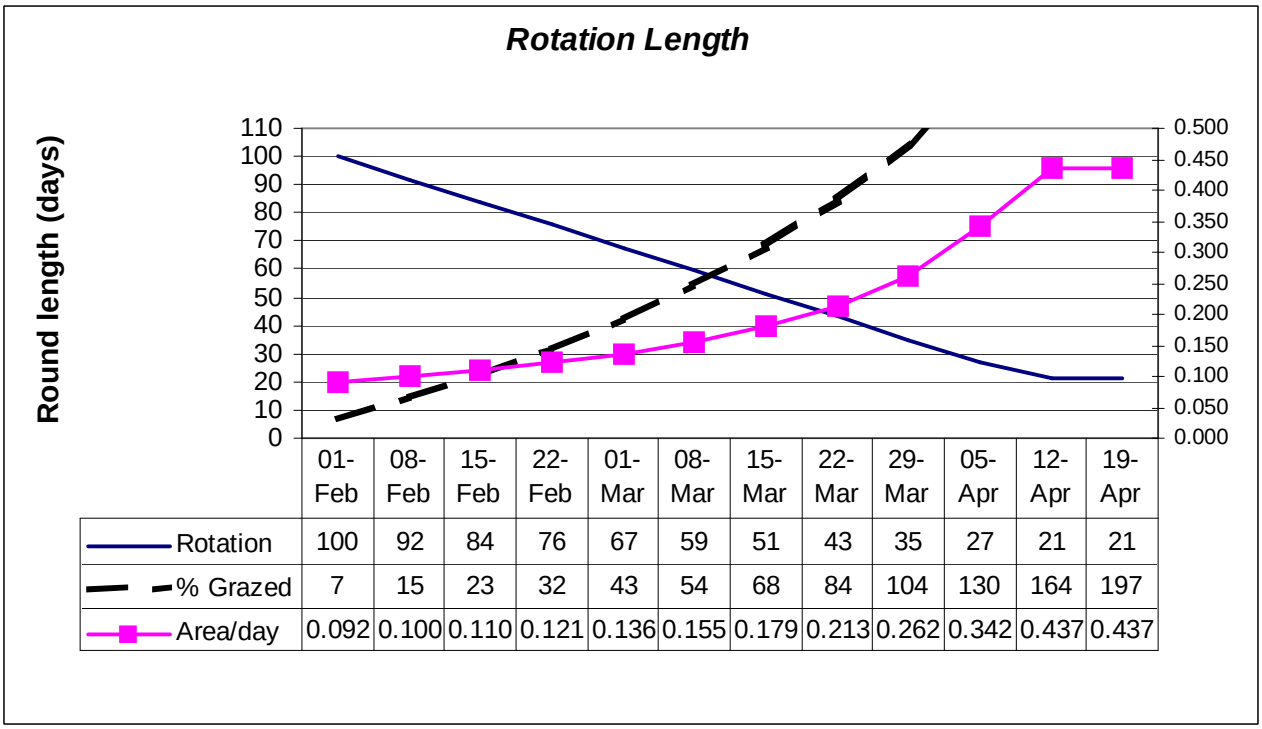


Figure 2. Low Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner



	01-Feb	08-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb	01-Mar	08-Mar	15-Mar	22-Mar	29-Mar	05-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr
Rotation	100	92	84	76	67	59	51	43	35	27	21	21
% Grazed	7	15	23	32	43	54	68	84	104	130	164	197
Area/day	0.092	0.100	0.110	0.121	0.136	0.155	0.179	0.213	0.262	0.342	0.437	0.437

- 96% 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.
- 74% of the farmlet has been grazed so far. According to the spring rotation planner we should have 65% grazed by today so we remain ahead of target. The planned start of the second round was the 4th of April. The fact that we have more area grazed than planned means that the second rotation will commence earlier on the 1st of April.
- The first paddock to be grazed in the second rotation is paddock 11 which currently has a cover of 1000kg. If we estimate an average growth rate of 30kg/day over the next 8 days there will be a cover of 1240kg at time of grazing.
- Grass intake is estimated to be 14.5kg/day. Cows are getting 1kg 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 26kg/day.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 Cows/ha)

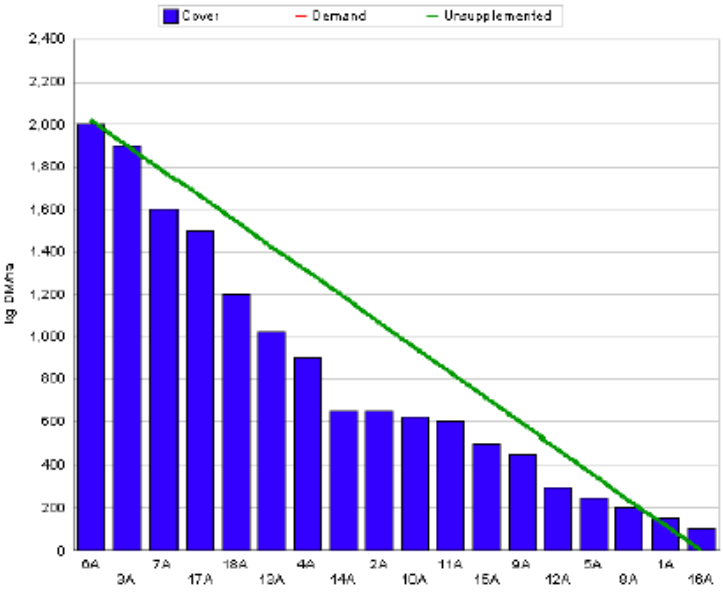
Situation

Figure 5. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre — GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report

Group	TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		**Date Produced** 20-MAR-12
Farm :	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date :	20-MAR-12	**Treatment :** High SR	

Rotation Length :	46	**Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :**	814
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LI	15.3	**Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :**	284
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	**Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :**	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	**Stock Rate (LU/ha) :**	2.87
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		**Growth Rate :**	32
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		**Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :**	44
Residual Height :	3	**Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :**	2017
Total Livestock (LU) :	20	**Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:**	37



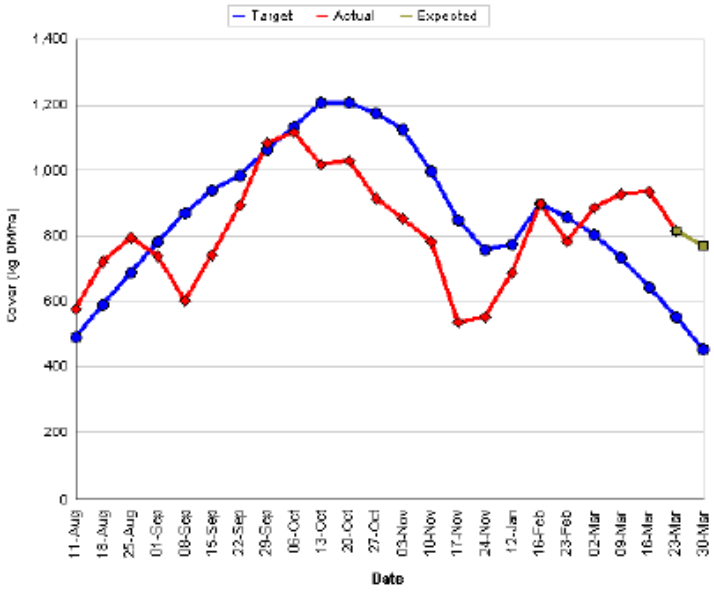
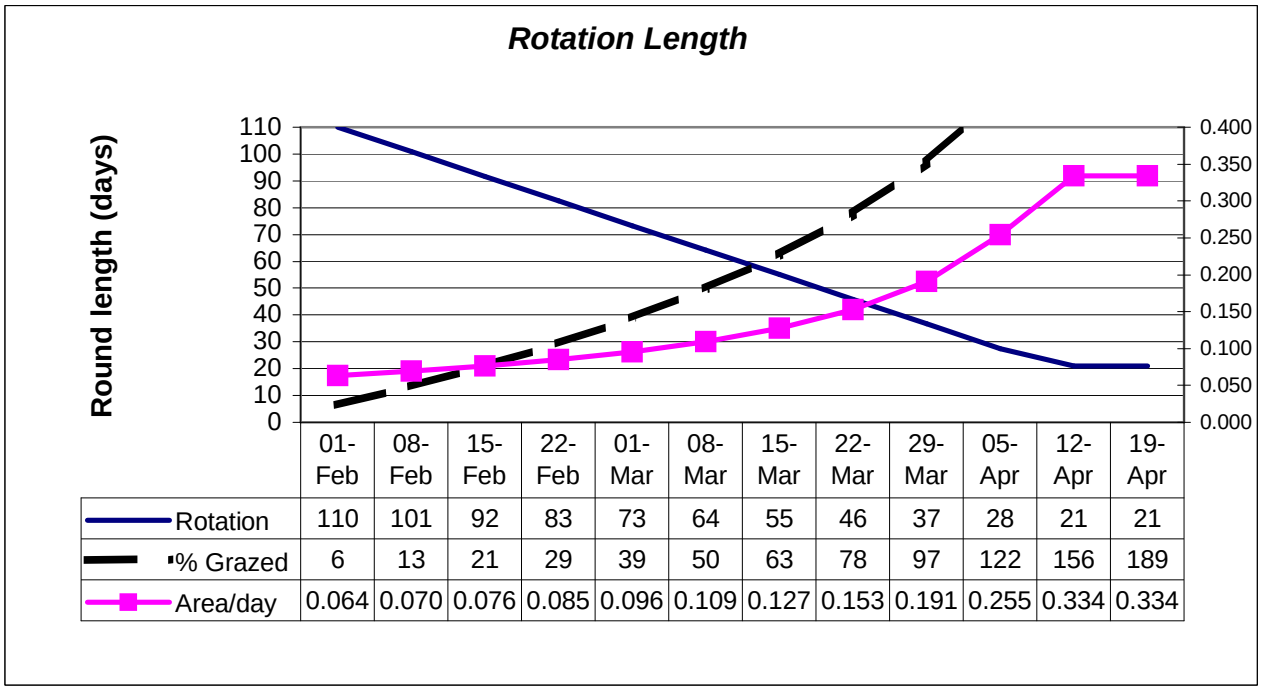


Figure 6. High Stocking Rate Spring Rotation Planner



	01-Feb	08-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb	01-Mar	08-Mar	15-Mar	22-Mar	29-Mar	05-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr
Rotation	110	101	92	83	73	64	55	46	37	28	21	21
% Grazed	6	13	21	29	39	50	63	78	97	122	156	189
Area/day	0.064	0.070	0.076	0.085	0.096	0.109	0.127	0.153	0.191	0.255	0.334	0.334

- 87% 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.
- 72% of the farmlet has been grazed, 12% more than planned for this time. Consequently, the second rotation will commence 4 days earlier than planned on the 2nd of April.
- The first paddock to be grazed in the second rotation is paddock 13 which currently has a cover of 1000kg. If we estimate an average growth rate of 30kg/day over the next 10 days there will be a cover of 1300kg at time of grazing.
- Cows are currently grazing paddock 3.
- Grass intake is estimated to be 14kg/day. Concentrate has been removed from the diet.
- Growth rate for this farmlet over the last 7 days was 32kg/day.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Between slurry and chemical fertiliser the whole farm has received approximately 63 units of nitrogen so far.
2. 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 to the remainder excluding some

of the highest covers. Paddocks grazed before the 18th of February received slurry after grazing. Urea was blanket spread on every paddock at a rate of 40 units/acre on the 29th February.

3. Cows are getting half paddocks. Residency time per segment is between 24 and 36 hours. Grazing conditions are excellent.
4. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.87%, Protein 3.38%, Lactose 4.92% and SCC 181k.
5. Magnesium, selenium, cobalt, copper, zinc and iodine are being supplemented daily through the water supply via a Dosatron pump.