

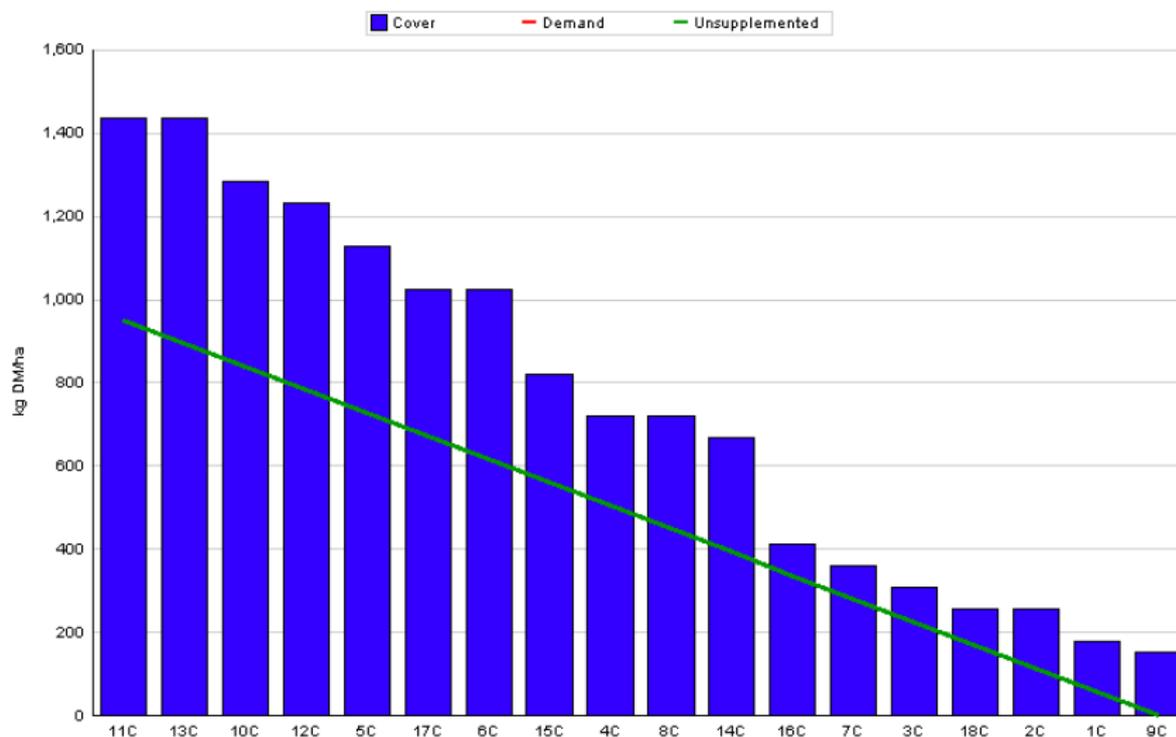
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 03-04-12

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 03-APR-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 02-APR-12		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	18
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	744
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	296
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	2.52
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	39
Residual Height :	4	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	45
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	951



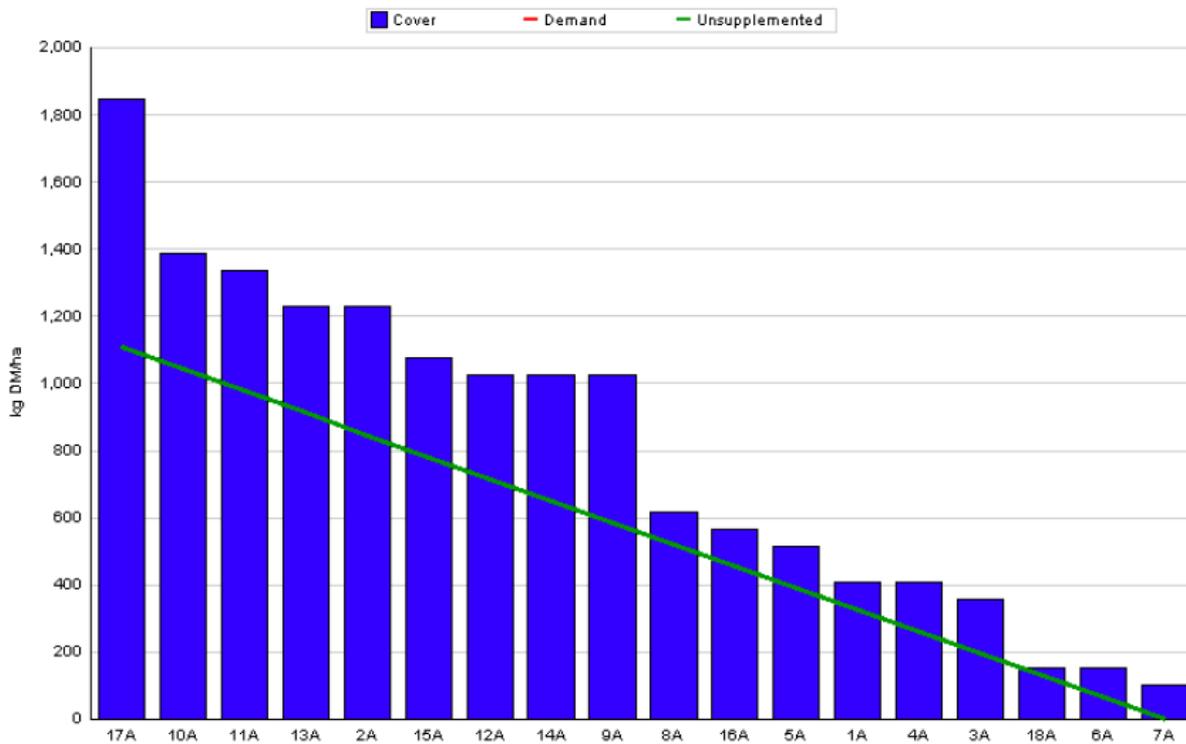
- 100% of the Low Stocking Rate group have calved. The first cow calved on the 22nd of January and grazing commenced on the 30th of January.
- The second rotation commenced on Sunday evening 1st April.
- Cows are currently grazing paddock 12 and will be moving to paddock 13 this evening (pre-grazing yield 1400kgDM/ha).
- As can be seen in figure 1 there is a surplus in the wedge. However, we have decided not to skip over any paddocks just yet as growth rates are still less than demand and pre-grazing yields are not excessive.
- Paddock 13 was sprayed with glyphosate on Saturday and will be grazed on Thursday evening.
- Growth rate for the past 7 days was 39kg/day while demand is 45kg/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	03-APR-12
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 02-APR-12		Treatment :	High SR
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	16
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	810
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	246
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.30
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	52
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	53
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1107
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



- 96% 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.
- The second rotation commenced on the 1st of April.
- Cows are currently grazing paddock 13. Paddock 10 will be grazed next which has a pre-grazing yield of 1400kgDM/ha
- No paddock has been closed for silage yet. Paddock 17 is being grazed by dry cows. Paddock 11 was sprayed on Saturday and will be grazed on Thursday PM.
- Growth rate for this farmlet over the last 7 days was 52kg/day while demand is 53kg/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. We plan to blanket spread the whole farm with 26units of N/acre and 14units of S/acre (ASN) early next week.
4. Cows are getting full paddocks. Residency time per segment is between 36 and 48 hours. Grazing conditions are excellent.
5. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.08%, Protein 3.46%, Lactose 4.88% and SCC 196k.
6. Magnesium, selenium, cobalt, copper, zinc and iodine are being supplemented daily through the water supply via a Dosatron pump.
7. Block 11 was sprayed with *Roundup Biactive* at a rate of 5l/ha on Saturday evening. The plan is to graze this with milking cows on Thursday PM and clean off with the remaining dry cows over the weekend.
8. There are 11 cows left to calve in total. These are strip grazing paddock 17 high.

