

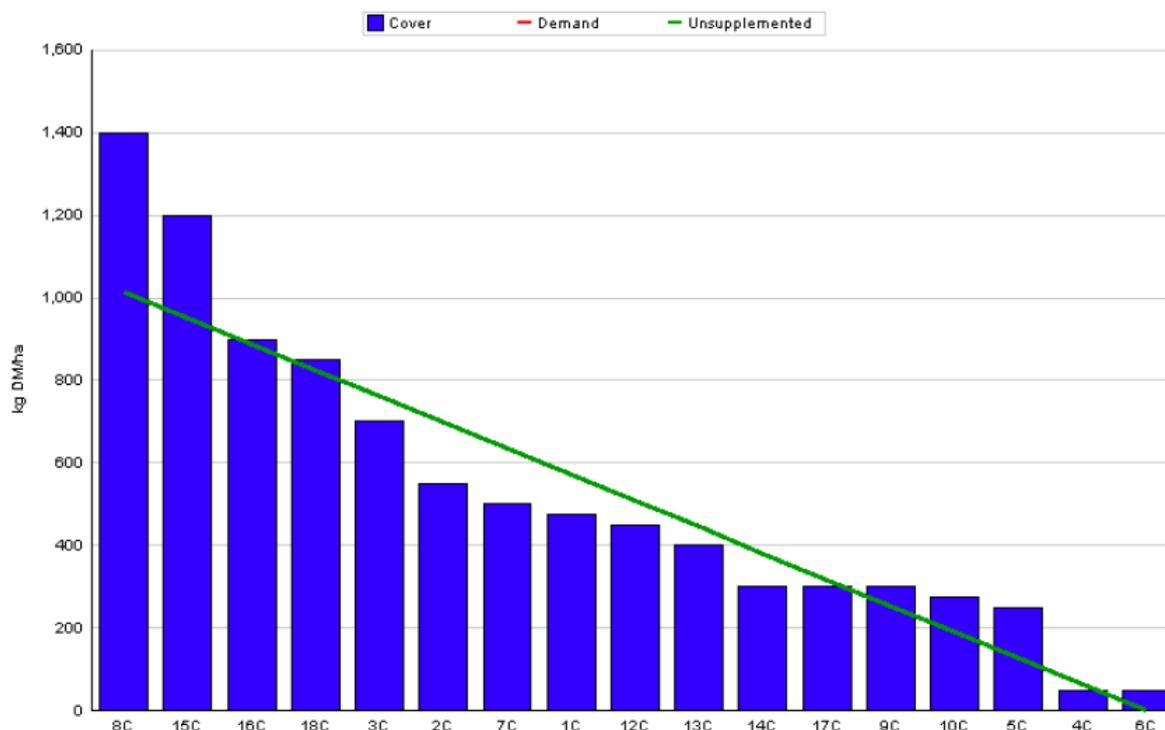
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 17-04-12

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 17-APR-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 16-APR-12		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	18
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	537
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	200
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	2.68
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	53
Residual Height :	4	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	48
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1014



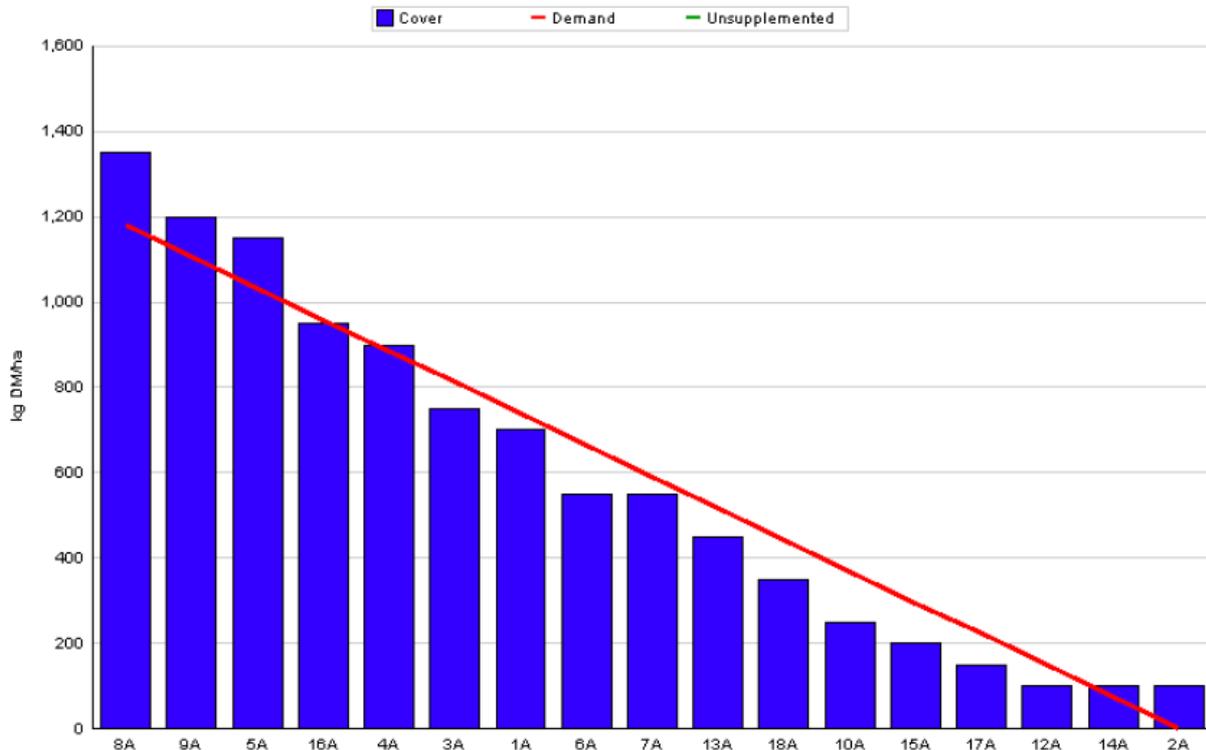
- Average Farm Cover for this week is 537kg/ha (200/cow). Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was estimated at 53kg/day which is a lot higher than we imagined as the weather has been exceptionally harsh with strong north easterly winds and night frosts burning the tips off re-growths.
- Pre-grazing yield is satisfactory at ~ 1300kg DM/ha and the wedge looks fairly even. However, no paddocks have been closed for silage. We will not close ground until surpluses occur as the number one priority is to feed the cows well (grass).
- Paddock 11 has been sprayed with glyphosate and will be reseeded early next week.
- Growth rate for the past 7 days was 53kg/day while demand is 48kg/day with no supplements being fed.

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	17-APR-12
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 16-APR-12	Treatment :	High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	16
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	576
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	164
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.51
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	51
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	56
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1180
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



- Average farm cover this week is 576kg/ha (164/cow). Growth rates over the past 7 days were on average 51kg/day.
- We have a very even feed wedge with pre-grazing yields approximately 1300kgDM/ha. However, like the Low Stocking Rate no paddocks have been closed for silage yet.
- Paddock 11 has been sprayed with glyphosate and will be reseeded early next week.
- Growth rate for this farmlet over the last 7 days was 51kg/day while demand is 56kg/day with no supplements being fed.

Whole Farm Situation

1. Between slurry and chemical fertiliser the whole farm has received approximately 89 units of nitrogen so far.
2. We are currently spreading 26units of N/acre and 14units of S/acre (ASN).
3. Cows are getting full paddocks. Residency time per paddock is between 36 and 48 hours. Grazing conditions are excellent.
4. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.47%, Protein 3.61%, Lactose 4.94% and SCC 149k.
5. Magnesium, selenium, cobalt, copper, zinc and iodine are being supplemented daily through the water supply via a Dosatron pump.
6. Block 11 was sprayed with *Roundup Biactive* at a rate of 5l/ha on Saturday 31st March. This was grazed 7 days later and is currently being grazed out with dry cows. 3t/acre of lime will be spread tomorrow and it will be reseeded using a minimum tillage technique early next week. The grass variety will be Aston Energy with Chieftan clover.
7. Planned start of mating is 26th of April. 36% of the bulls used will be Norwegian Red (BSJ & EKE), 35% will be Friesian (MWH, KNW, MJD, MOK, TJF) and 29% will be Jersey (HWY, ASV, WTL, TIO). Pre-breeding heats have not been observed and no pre-breeding scan is planned.

