

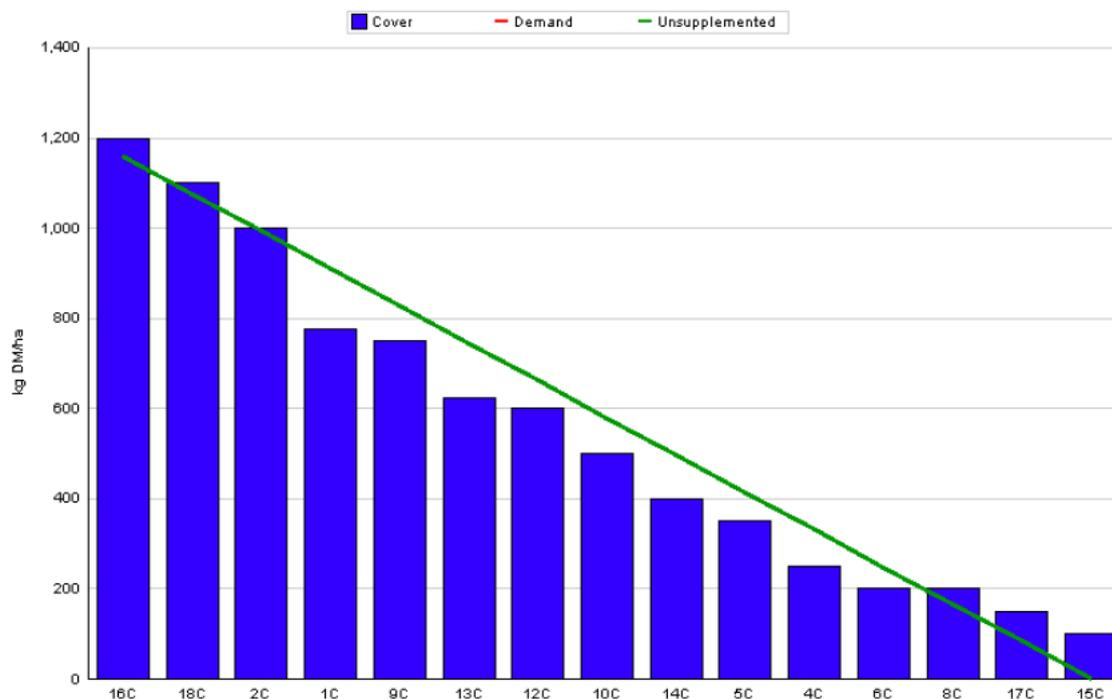
## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 24-04-12

### 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 23-APR-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 23-APR-12		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	18
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	553
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	180
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.07
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Growth Rate :	39
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	55
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1159
Residual Height :	4		
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



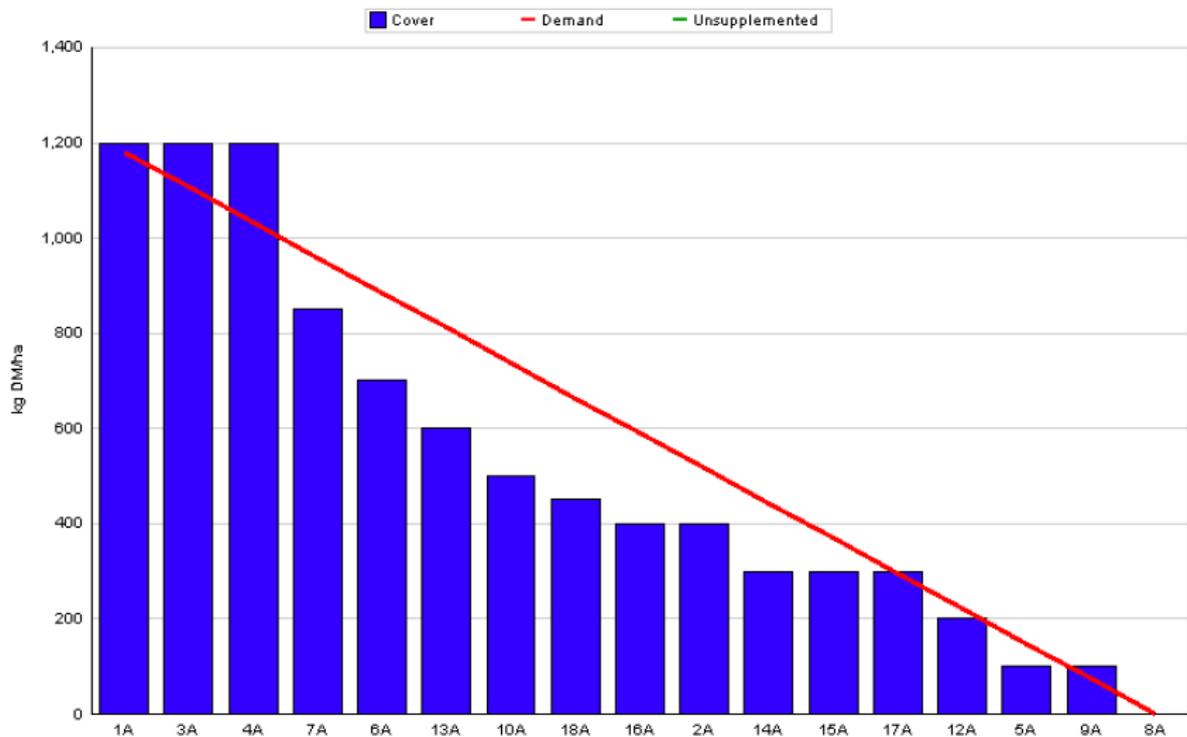
- Average Farm Cover for this week is 553kg/ha (180/cow). Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was estimated at 39kg/day. Two paddocks were closed for silage this week.
- Stocking rate is now 3.07cows/ha and demand is 55kg/day.
- The paddocks that were skipped for silage have covers of between 1300 and 1400kg DM. We have decided not to top these up with fertiliser just yet as growth rates are unpredictable and we may need to come back and graze these later.
- Pre-grazing yield is 1200kg DM/ha and no supplements are 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	23-APR-12
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 23-APR-12	Treatment :	High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	16
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	515
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	147
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 :	37
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 515kg/ha (147/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days 37kg/day which was lower than demand so farm cover has dropped
- We have an unusual feed wedge with a plateau at the top and a deficit in the middle. No paddocks have been closed for silage in this group.
- Stocking rate is 3.51cows/ha and demand is 56kg/day. Pre-grazing yield is 1200kg DM.
- No supplement is being fed.

## Whole Farm Situation

1. Between slurry and chemical fertiliser the whole farm has received approximately 89 units of nitrogen so far.
2. 26units of N/acre and 14units of S/acre (ASN) was spread in April.
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 4.51%, Protein 3.62%, Lactose 4.89% and SCC 191k.
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 31<sup>st</sup> March. This was grazed 7 days later and was reseeded using a 'one-pass' machine on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of April. 3t/acre of lime and 2.7 bags/acre of 10:10:20 was applied at time of sowing. A monoculture of the tetraploid *Aston Energy* was sown with *Chieftan* clover.
7. Planned start of mating is 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

