

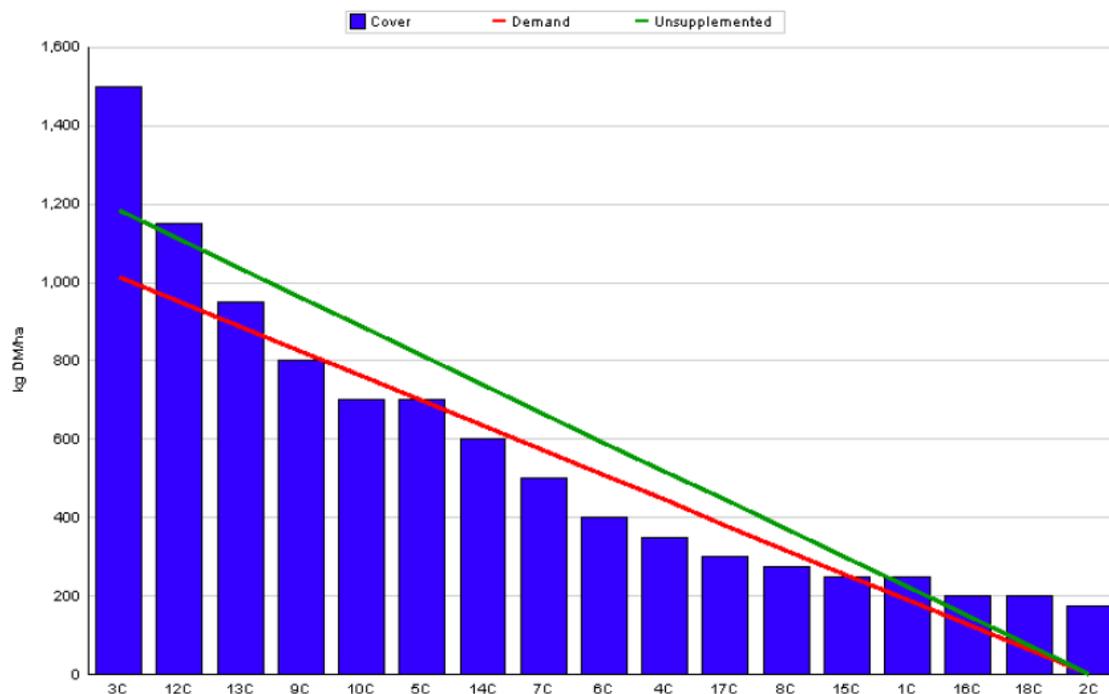
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 01-05-12

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 30-APR-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 30-APR-12		Treatment : Low SR	
Number of Cows : 23 Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU) : 15 Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : 3 Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) : 0 N Application Rate (units/acre) : N Application Rate (kg/ha) : Residual Height : 4 Total Livestock (LU) : 23		Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) : 18 Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : 541 Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : 202 Stocking Rate (LU/ha) : 2.68 Growth Rate : 31 Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) : 40 Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : 1014	



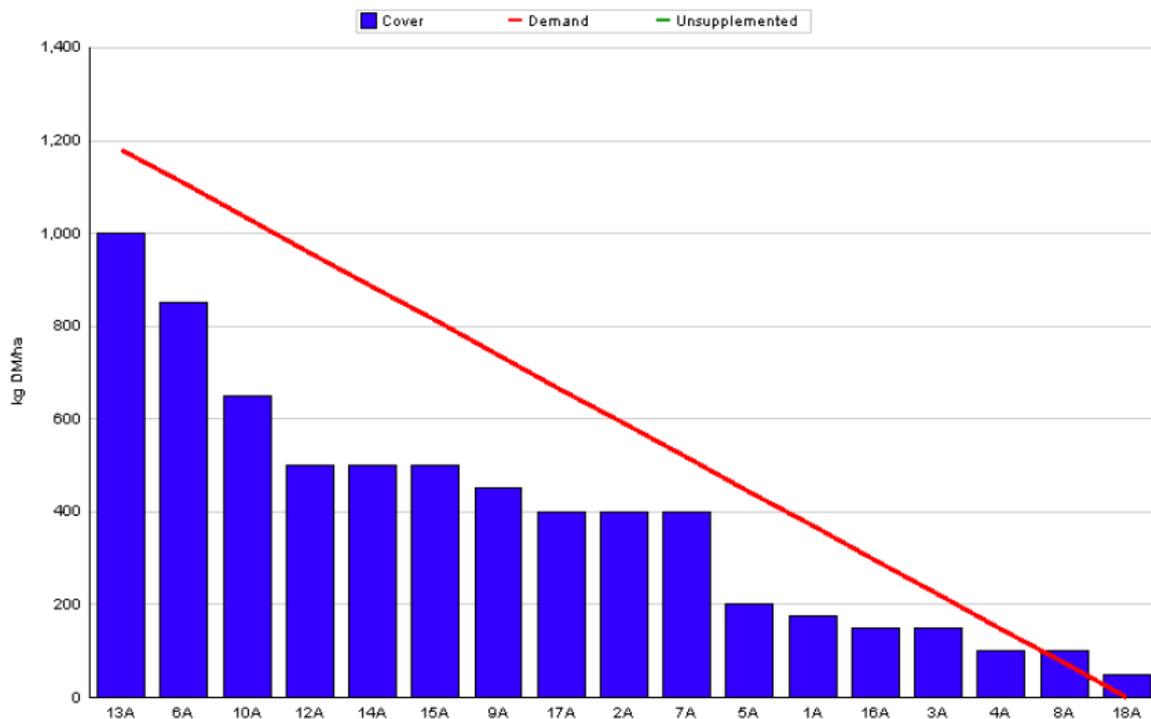
- Average Farm Cover for this week is 541kg/ha (202/cow). This is after bringing back paddock 3 into the grazing rotation that was previously closed for silage. Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was estimated at 31kg/day.
- No paddocks are closed for silage.
- Stocking rate is now 2.68cows/ha and demand is 55kg/day.
- Pre-grazing yield is 1500kg DM/ha on the paddock that was closed for silage.
- 3kg of concentrate is being fed per cow since last Friday.

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	30-APR-12
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 30-APR-12	Treatment :	High SR	
Number of Cows :	23	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	16
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	7	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	393
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	112
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	6	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.51
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	22
Residual Height :	3	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	25
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1180



- Average farm cover this week is 393kg/ha (112/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days was 22kg/day, which is a massive drop, and as a result farm cover has declined to a very low level.
- While we have been fortunate in being able to withstand the need to supplement up to now, we are now at the stage where heavy supplementation is required. 3kg of concentrate is being fed per cow/day since Friday and 6kg of silage is being fed at night in a sacrifice paddock since Tuesday.
- No paddocks have been closed for silage in this group.
- Stocking rate is 3.51cows/ha and demand is 25kg/day. Pre-grazing yield is 1000kg DM and declining.
- We will walk the farm again on Friday and if there is an improvement in growth some of the supplement will be removed. Cows will continue to receive some form of supplement until pre-grazing yield reaches 1200kg DM/ha.

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. 20 units SulCAN/acre will be spread after grazing during May.
3. Residency time per paddock is between 12 and 36 hours depending on grazing conditions which are sticky at times.
4. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.58%, Protein 3.68%, Lactose 4.85% and SCC 123k.
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 was reseeded using a 'one-pass' machine on Friday 20th 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. Mating started on the 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).

