

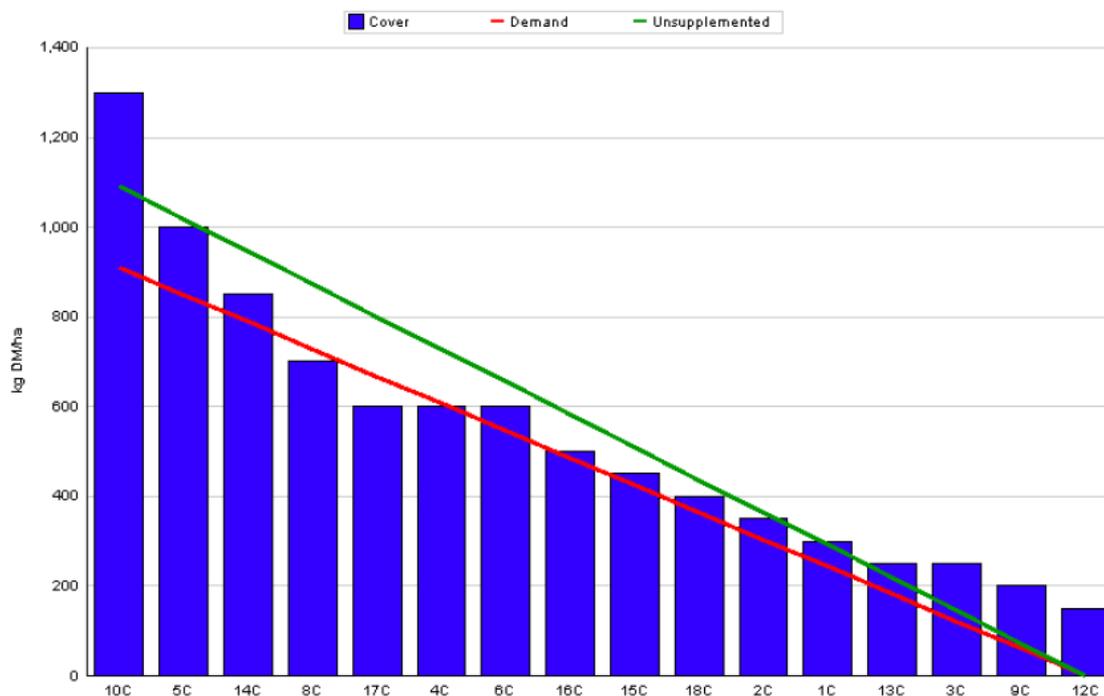
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 09-05-12

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 08-MAY-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 08-MAY-12		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	15
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	524
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	15	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	182
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	3		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	2.89
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	30
Residual Height :	4	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	43
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	909



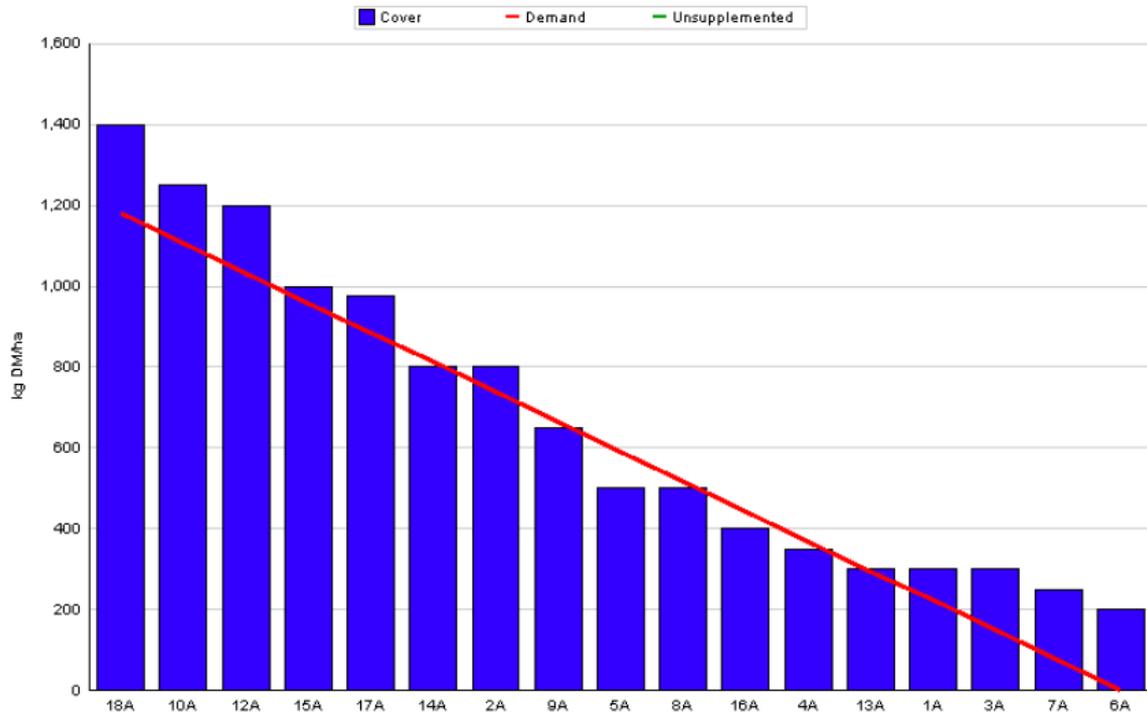
- Average Farm Cover for this week is 524kg/ha (182/cow). Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was estimated at 31kg/day. The green line in the feed wedge is our un-supplemented demand line while the red line is the demand line with 3kg of concentrates.
- Stocking rate is now 2.89cows/ha and demand is 43kg/day. While this is higher than growth rate we expect growth rates to rise this week to meet demand.
- Average pre-grazing yield is approx 1200kg and 3kg of concentrate is being fed. We will monitor pre-grazing yields closely and remove concentrates if they go over 1400kg.
- One paddock is closed for silage.

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	08-MAY-12
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 08-MAY-12	Treatment :	High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	16
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	652
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	186
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 :	54
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 652kg/ha (186/cow) which is a massive increase on last weeks figure. Growth rate over the past 7 days was 54kg/day but the real gain in cover was achieved through reducing the demand by feeding silage at night.
- Cows were on 6kg of silage (fed at night through round feeders on a sacrifice paddock) and 3kg of concentrate for all last week. This has now ceased and no supplement is being fed.
- 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 1400kg DM.

Whole Farm Situation

1. 26units of N/acre and 14units of S/acre (ASN) was blanket spread in April. 20 units SulCAN/acre is being spread after grazing during May.
2. Residency time per paddock is between 12 and 36 hours depending on grazing conditions which are 'sticky' at times.
3. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.61%, Protein 3.53%, Lactose 4.75% and SCC 177k.
4. Magnesium, selenium, cobalt, copper, zinc and iodine are being supplemented daily through the water supply via a Dosatron pump.
5. 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.
6. 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).

