

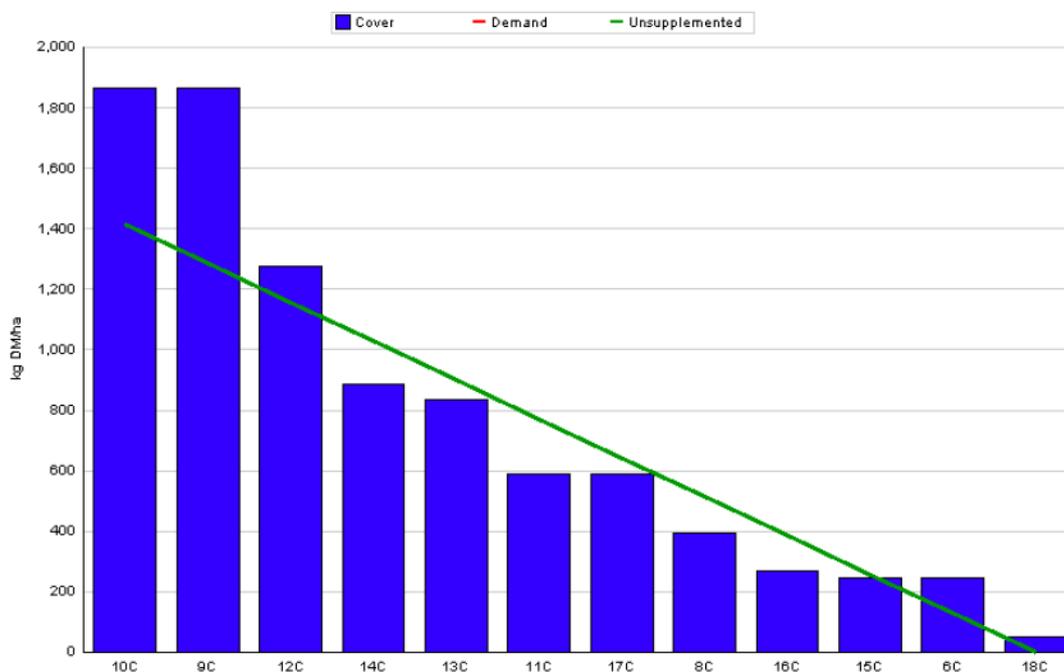
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 19-06-12

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	19-JUN-12
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 18-JUN-12	Treatment :	Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	18
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	756
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	202
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.74
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Growth Rate :	66
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	67
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1414
Residual Height :	4		
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



- Average Farm Cover for this week is 756kg/ha (202/cow). Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was 66kg/day.

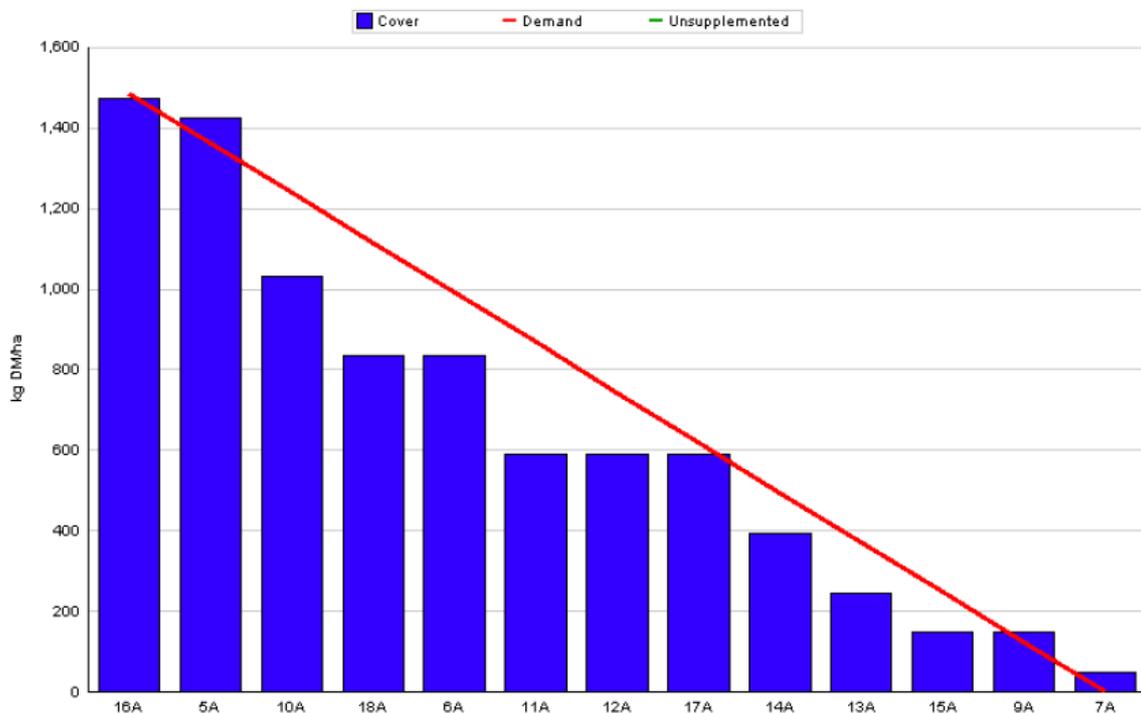
- As can be seen in Figure 1., there is a surplus at the top of the wedge but we have decided not to skip any paddocks this week as growth rates are equal to demand and there is a slight deficit further down the wedge.
- All the silage area in this farmlet was cut on Sunday but will not be included in the grazing area until at least next week.
- Stocking rate remains at 3.74 cows/ha and demand is 67kg/day.
- Average pre-grazing yield is high at 1850kg and average residency time per paddock is 48 hours. Strip wires are used during wet weather.

High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 Cows/ha)

Situation

Figure 2. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced	19-JUN-12
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 18-JUN-12	Treatment :	High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	16
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	630
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	142
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	4.42
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	64
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	71
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1486
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



- Average farm cover this week is 630kg/ha (142/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days was 64kg per day.

- As can be seen in Figure 2., there is a deficit in middle of the wedge so no paddocks have been skipped this week. This deficit is a concern and we will be relying on increased growth rates this week to avoid supplementing in the coming weeks.
- All the silage area in this farmlet was cut on Sunday but will not be included in the grazing area until at least next week.
- Stocking rate remains at 4.42cows/ha and demand is 71kg/day.
- Average pre-grazing yield has dropped to 1400kg DM which is far easier to manage. For a period last week we were grazing covers of close to 2000kg, which were extremely difficult to graze out in the wet weather and cow performance dropped. Re-growths from this area are also much slower. These paddocks that were poorly grazed out (i.e. post grazing height >3.5cm) will be selected for silage at the next or subsequent rotations.
- Paddocks are being subdivided and residency time per segment is 24 hours.

Whole Farm Situation

1. 20 units of SulCAN/acre is being spread after grazing/silage.
2. All the silage area was cut on Sunday morning. Approximately one third of this was raked and baled by midday on Monday until heavy rain ceased operations. The remaining grass will be baled on Tuesday evening.
3. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.56%, Protein 3.64%, Lactose 4.82% and SCC 165k.
4. Magnesium, selenium, cobalt, copper, zinc, iodine and phosphorus are being supplemented daily through the water supply via a Dosatron pump at a cost of 31c/cow/day.
5. Block 11 which was reseeded on the 20th of April was grazed for the first time on the 9th of June and sprayed with Clovex on the 11th of June.
6. Mating started on the 26th of April. 36% of the bulls being used are Norwegian Red (BSJ & EKE), 35% are Friesian (MWH, KNW, MJD, MOK, TJF) and 29% are Jersey (HWY, ASV, WTL, TIO). 90% of the herd was submitted in 24 days. Dairy AI will be used until the 21st of June.

