

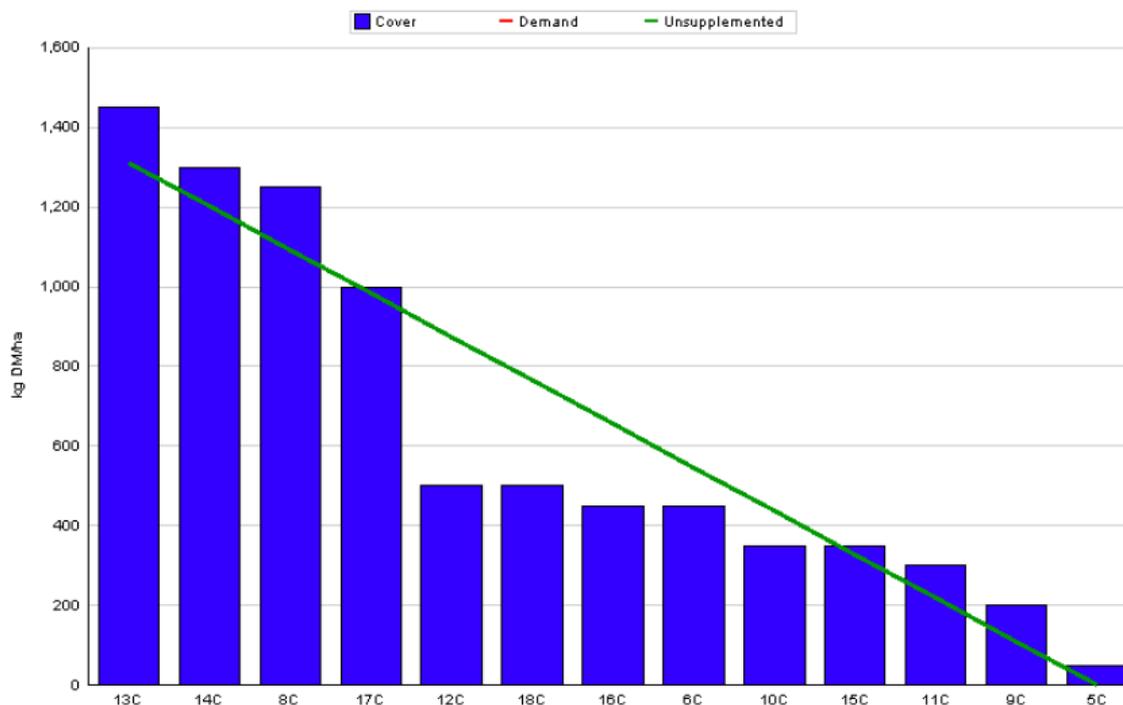
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 26-06-12

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 25-JUN-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 25-JUN-12		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	18
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	615
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	177
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0		
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.47
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	55
Residual Height :	4	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	62
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1311



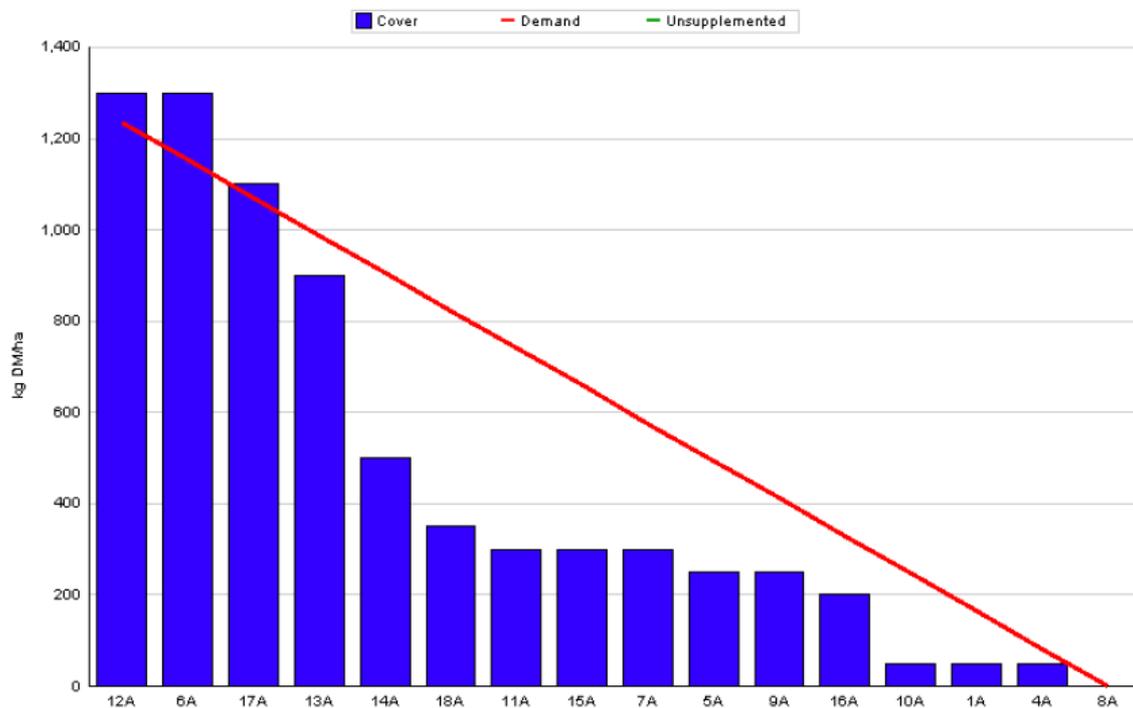
- Average Farm Cover for this week is 615kg/ha (177/cow). Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was 55kg/day (66kg/day last week).
- As can be seen in Figure 1., there is a considerable deficit in the middle of the wedge with four paddocks at the same height. The paddocks at the top and the bottom of the wedge are all above the target line so are not a concern. At current rotation length we are due to be grazing the first of these low paddocks next week.
- Stocking rate is currently 3.47 cows/ha as the majority of the silage area is still excluded despite being cut since last Sunday 17th June. This area will not be included until it begins to green up which is taking longer than previous harvests – an expected consequence of a heavy silage crop.
- Hopefully, this area will be included by next week, at which point stocking rate will be 2.5 cows/ha and target pre-grazing yield will be 950kg (2.5cows/ha x 18kg allowance x 21 day rotation length). Paddock 12 will have a cover of 920kg by next Monday if growth rates are 60kg/day for the coming week so no action is being taken at present.
- Pre-grazing yields of 950kg are a lot lower than we would like but we expect that this will be a short-term issue. Supplements will be fed next week if necessary. We are cautiously optimistic that growth rates will increase on the grazed area as higher temperatures and less rainfall are forecast.

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	25-JUN-12
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 25-JUN-12	Treatment :	High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	16
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	450
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	123
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0		
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.67
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Growth Rate :	57
Residual Height :	3	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	59
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1235



- Average farm cover this week is 450kg/ha (123/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days was 57kg per day (last week 64kg/day).

- As can be seen in Figure 2., there is a huge deficit in the feed wedge with only the top 3 paddocks reaching the target line. Like the low stocking rate group, the first of these low paddocks will be grazed next week.
- Stocking rate is currently 3.67 cows/ha but is due to drop to 3.3 cows/ha by next Monday presuming the rest of the silage area will be included. At this point, target pre-grazing yield will be 1100kg/ha (3.3 cows/ha x 16kg allowance x 21 day rotation length). It is unlikely that we will achieve this target pre-grazing yield on paddock 13 as it currently has a cover of 500kg and if it grows 60kg/day in 7 days it will have a cover of 920kg by next Monday. Therefore, some level of supplementation will probably be required next week.
- We have decided not to introduce supplement now as it was felt that doing so would not improve the situation. Our preference is to include 5 or 6kg of high quality silage for a few days next week which will have a more substantial effect on reducing demand. The focus this week will be on ensuring cows reach target post-grazing heights of 3.5cm and on holding rotation length. Cows will be moved to new paddocks between milking times if necessary.

Whole Farm Situation

1. 20 units of SulCAN/acre is being spread after grazing/silage.
2. All the silage area was cut on Sunday 17th June. On average, across all farmlets the yield was close to 12 bales/acre but the dry matter was low and bales have sagged significantly since baling.
3. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.62%, Protein 3.72%, Lactose 4.74% and SCC 147k.
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. Mating started on the 26th of April. 36% of the bulls being used were Norwegian Red (BSJ & EKE), 35% were Friesian (MWH, KNW, MJD, MOK, TJF) and 29% were Jersey (HWY, ASV, WTL, TIO). 90% of the herd was submitted in 24 days. Dairy AI was used until the 21st of June. Mating End Date is July 26th (13 weeks)

