

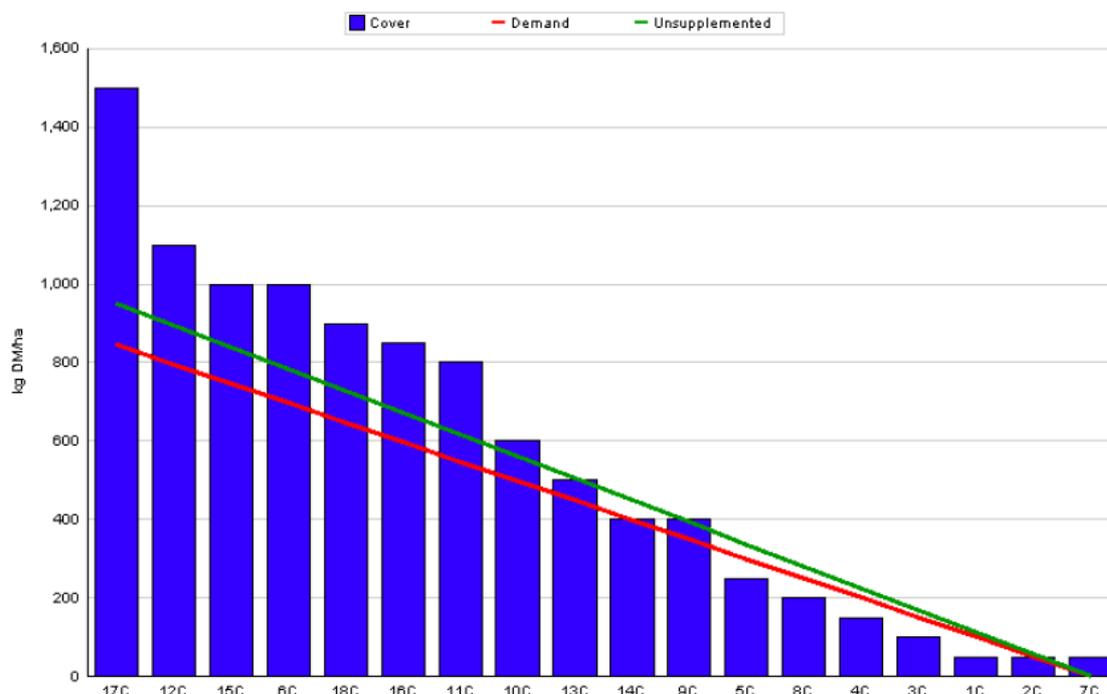
## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 03-07-12

### 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 04-JUL-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 02-JUL-12		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	16
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	559
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	222
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	2	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	2.52
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Growth Rate :	60
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	40
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	846
Residual Height :	4		
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



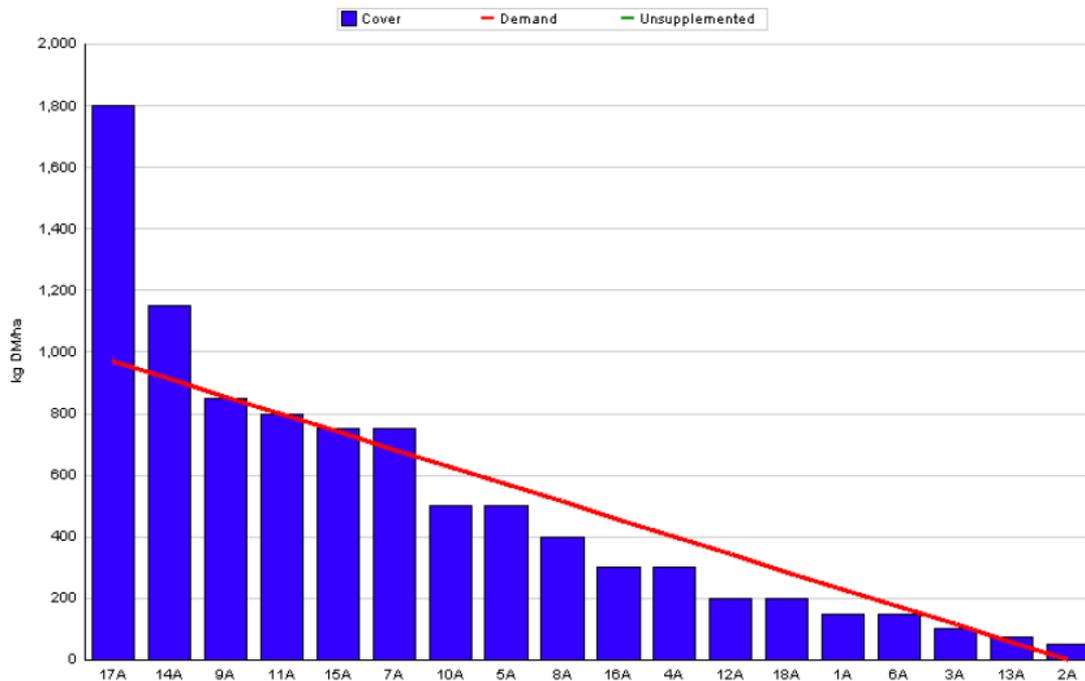
- Average Farm Cover for this week is 559kg/ha (222/cow). Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was 60kg/day (55kg/day last week).
- As can be seen in Figure 1., we have a reasonably even shaped feed wedge with no obvious deficits – a much-improved situation from last week. This improvement can be attributed to;
  - Reduced demand last week as cows were fed silage at night from Friday
  - Increased area as all the silage ground is now included
  - Slight increase in growth rates
- The evenly shaped feed wedge masks a number of important issues;
  - Pre-grazing yields are low at 1100kg – 1300 to 1500kg is preferred.
  - Many fields are waterlogged after torrential rain
  - Grass quality is generally poor with lots of seed heads, stem and yellow leaves
- Cows were fed silage at night from Friday to Sunday. They were re-housed on Tuesday night as it was felt that they were doing too much damage. Cows are currently on 2kg of concentrate. This will be removed as soon as conditions improve.

## 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	04-JUL-12
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 02-JUL-12	Treatment :	High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	14
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	514
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	14	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	156
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	2	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.30
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	55
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	46
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	969
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



- Average farm cover this week is 514kg/ha (156/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days was 55kg per day (last week 57kg/day).

- As can be seen in Figure 2., we have a reasonably even shaped feed wedge when you exclude paddock 17. However, like the low stocking rate, pre-grazing yield is low at 1000 – 1100kg DM/ha and grass quality is generally poor.
- Cows were fed silage at night since last Friday in a successful attempt to reduce demand and increase average farm cover. They were housed last night as grazing conditions were too wet. They are currently getting 2kg of concentrate in the parlour but will go off all supplement as soon as conditions allow.

### **Whole Farm Situation**

1. No fertiliser has been spread for the last 10 days. We plan to blanket spread the whole farm with 30 units of SulCAN per acre as soon as conditions allow.
2. All the silage area was cut on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 4.66%, Protein 3.58%, Lactose 4.73% and SCC 205k.
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. Grazing conditions are very difficult. Cows are being allocated grass on a 12 hour basis in square blocks. Previously grazed areas are being backfenced and on/off grazing is being practiced when necessary.
6. 62.4mm of rain fell in the seven days up to Monday and 214.7mm fell in total during the month of June.
7. Mating started on the 26<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> of June. Mating End Date is July 26<sup>th</sup> (13 weeks)
8. See below for pictures of grazing conditions.





