

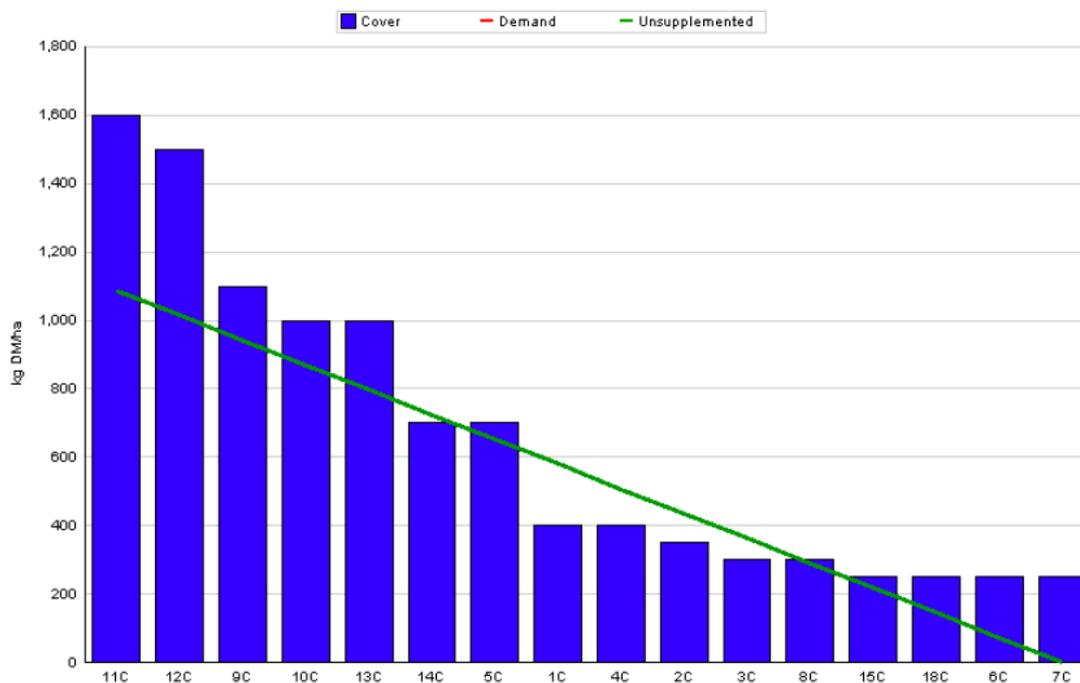
## Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 10-07-12

### 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 09-JUL-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 09-JUL-12		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	18
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	656
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	229
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	2.87
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Growth Rate :	56
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	52
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1085
Residual Height :	4		
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



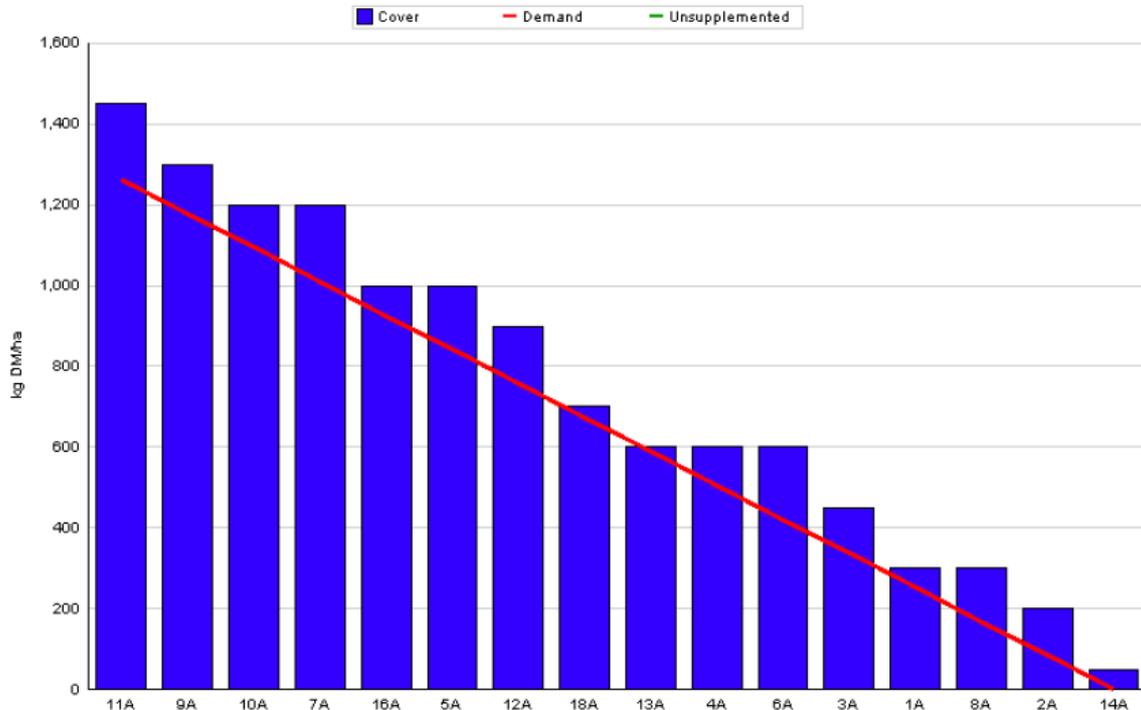
- Average Farm Cover for this week is 656kg/ha (229/cow). Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was 56kg/day (60kg/day last week).
- Grazing conditions have improved immensely and all supplements have been removed from the diet so grass allowance per day is back up to 18kg dry matter.
- As can be seen in Figure 1., we have a surplus in the feed wedge. This is after removing two paddocks for silage. Paddock 16 had a cover of 1600kg and was poor quality with a high proportion of stem, this paddock was cut on Monday evening. Paddock 17 has a cover of 950kg but is very poor quality having been poorly grazed out and slightly damaged during the poor weather last week. This will be topped up with 15 units of nitrogen and cut in 10 days time.
- Cows are currently grazing blocks 11 and 18. We are alternating between the two paddocks (am/pm) in an effort to reduce the risk of bloat as paddock 11 was reseeded in spring and is exceptionally lush.
- Pre-grazing yield is 1600kg and residency time per paddock is 36 to 48 hours.

## 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	09-JUL-12
Farm : Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance		
Date : 09-JUL-12	Treatment :	High SR	
Rotation Length :	21	Grass Allocation /LU (kg DM/LU) :	16
Number of Cows :	23	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	767
Grass Allocation /cow (kg grass dry matter/LU)	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	204
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stocking Rate (LU/ha) :	3.76
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	68
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	60
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1263
Total Livestock (LU) :	23		



- Average farm cover this week is 767kg/ha (204/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days was 68kg per day (last week 55kg/day).

- As can be seen in Figure 2., we have a very even shaped feed wedge with a slight surplus throughout. Two paddocks have been skipped for silage. Paddocks 14 and 17 were both grazed in the last week but because of the wet conditions poor utilisation was achieved with high residuals and some pugging occurred. These will be topped up with 15 units of nitrogen and cut for bale silage in 10 days.
- Cows are currently grazing blocks 11 and 15. We are alternating between the two paddocks (am/pm) in an effort to reduce the risk of bloat as paddock 11 was reseeded in spring and is exceptionally lush.
- Pre-grazing yield has risen to 1450kg and residency time per paddock is between 36 and 48 hours.

### **Whole Farm Situation**

1. The biggest issue facing the farm at present is grass quality. As a result of the prolonged wet spell with poor growth rates and decreased utilisation a high proportion of the farm is now noticeably stressed with stemmy pasture and seed heads dominating the sward.
2. It is unlikely that grazing alone will improve the pastures for the next and subsequent rotations so some form of mechanical intervention is required. While topping is not an activity that we normally advocate, in these exceptional circumstances it may play an important role in improving quality. However, our preference is to improve quality by cutting these poor pastures for silage. As outlined above, we have made the decision to cut a number of these paddocks in 10 days time. The pre-cutting yield will not be a concern, of greater concern will be to get them cut and get them back growing leaf. With this in mind we intend to adopt an intensive silage cutting strategy over the next few weeks.
3. 26 units/acre of sulCAN is being blanket spread across the farm excluding paddocks stopped for silage which will get 15 units/acre.
4. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 4.57%, Protein 3.50%, Lactose 4.78% and SCC 192k.
5. 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.
6. Inactivated IBR vaccine was administered last Monday and a worm dose (*Eprinex* pour-on) will be administered to all cows later this week.
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)

