Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 Cows/ha)

Situation

Figure 1. Low Stocking Rate Feed Wedge and Average Farm Cover Track

- Average Farm Cover for this week is 1038kg/ha (412/cow). Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was 71kg/day (57kg last week)
- As can be seen in Figure 1, the average farm cover is above target for this time (red line). The yellow line indicates the expected average farm cover over the next two weeks while the blue line is the target average farm cover for Autumn and Spring.
- Current grass management decisions are based around average farm cover with the feed wedge playing a secondary role.
- Pre-grazing yields have risen considerably as rotation length has increased and growth rates have been higher than expected. As temperatures have dropped we predict a reduction in growth over the next week so we have decided not to remove any paddocks for silage. The yellow line predicts a return to target average farm cover in the next two weeks.
- Cows are currently grazing paddock 6. Paddocks are being halved and residency time per segment is 36 hours.
- Rotation length has increased to 36 days.
High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 Cows/ha)

Situation

Figure 2. High Stocking Rate Feed Wedge and Average Farm Cover Track

- Average farm cover this week is 1135kg/ha (344/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days was 81kg per day (55kg last week).
- As can be seen in Figure 1, the average farm cover well above target for this time (red line). The yellow line indicates the expected average farm cover over the next two weeks while the blue line is the target average farm cover for Autumn and Spring.
- Current grass management decisions are based around average farm cover with the feed wedge playing a secondary role.
• Despite average farm cover being well above target, we have decided not to skip any paddocks for now, but will review the situation before the end of the week. The high growth rates experienced last week will not continue into this week and with an unsupplemented feed demand of 53kg/day we predict that we will be back on track soon.

• However, what effect grazing higher covers has on milk yield and subsequent re-growth has yet to be seen.

• Cows are currently grazing paddock 1. Paddocks are being halved and residency time per segment is 36 hours.

Whole Farm Situation

1. 30 units/acre of sulCAN is currently being blanket spread across the farm. This will be the last application for the year and will bring total nitrogen applied to 250kgN/ha.

2. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 5.04%, Protein 3.98%, Lactose 4.51% and SCC 234k.

3. Mineral supplementation has ceased and cows are on an all grass diet. Paddocks will be dusted for magnesium depending on the weather.

4. The breeding season ended on the 26th of July and we are awaiting the results of the final scan at end of September.