

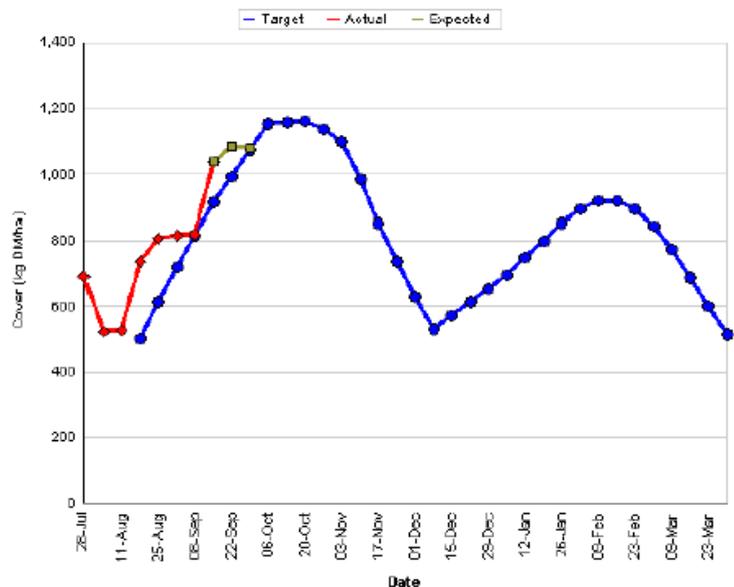
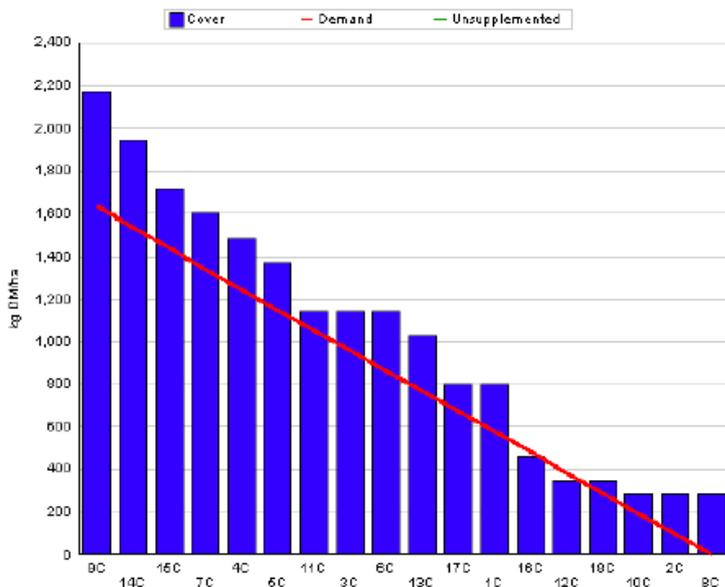
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 11-09-12

Low Stocking Rate Group (2.5 Cows/ha)

Situation

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

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group : TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS		Date Produced : 11-SEP-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 10-SEP-12		Treatment : Low SR	
Rotation Length : 36 Grass Allocation /Cow (kg DM/Cow) : 18 Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : 0 Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) : 0 N Application Rate (units/acre) : N Application Rate (kg/ha) : Residual Height : 4 Total Livestock (LU) : 23		Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : 1038 Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : 412 Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) : Stock Rate (LU/ha) : 2.52 Growth Rate : 71 Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) : 45 Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : 1631 Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2: 52 51	



- 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.

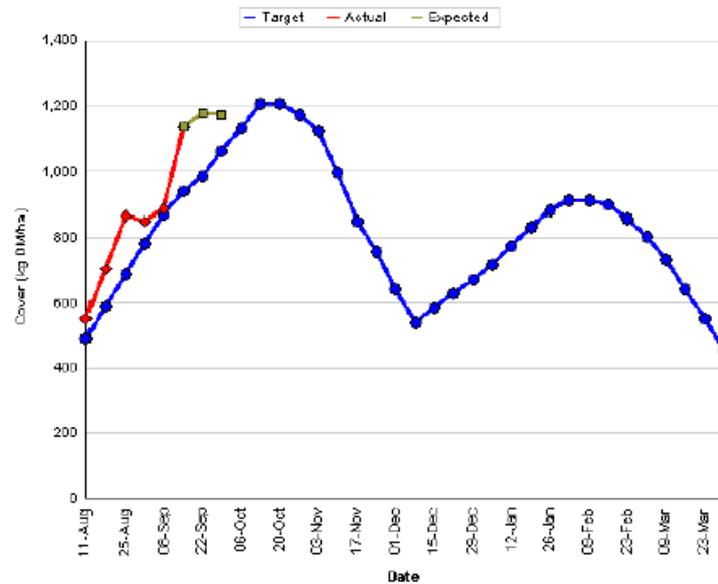
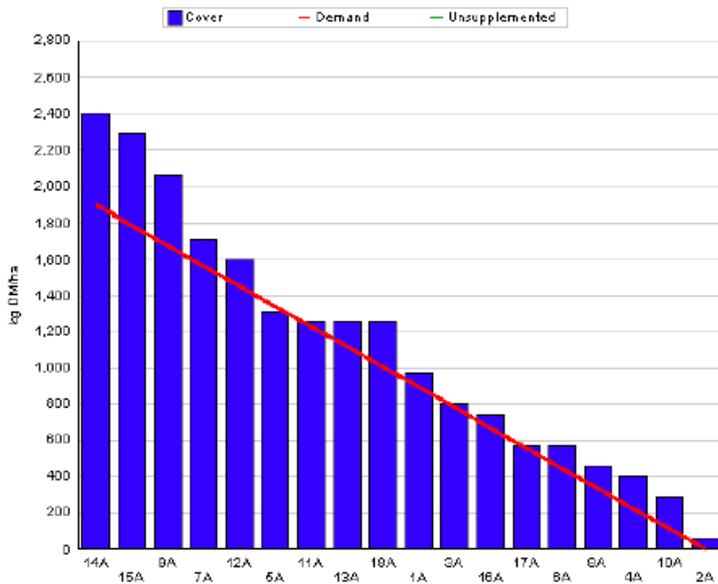
High Stocking Rate Group (3.3 Cows/ha)

Situation

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

Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre		GrazePlan - Grass Measurement Report	
Group	TEAGASC RESEARCH FARMS	Date Produced	11-SEP-12
Farm	Curtins Farm	Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date	10-SEP-12	Treatment	High SR

Rotation Length :	36	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	1135
Grass Allocation /Cow (kg DM/Cow) :	16	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	344
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	3.30
N Application Rate (units/acre) :		Growth Rate :	81
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :		Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	53
Residual Height :	3	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1898
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	59 58



- 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.

