

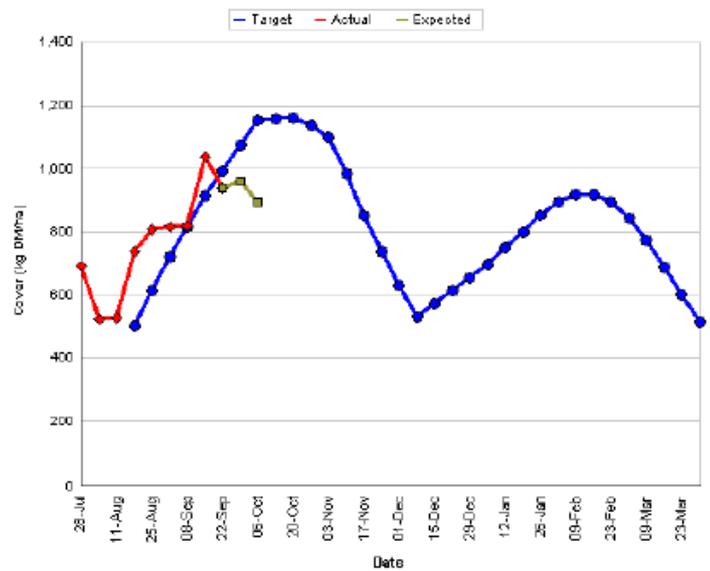
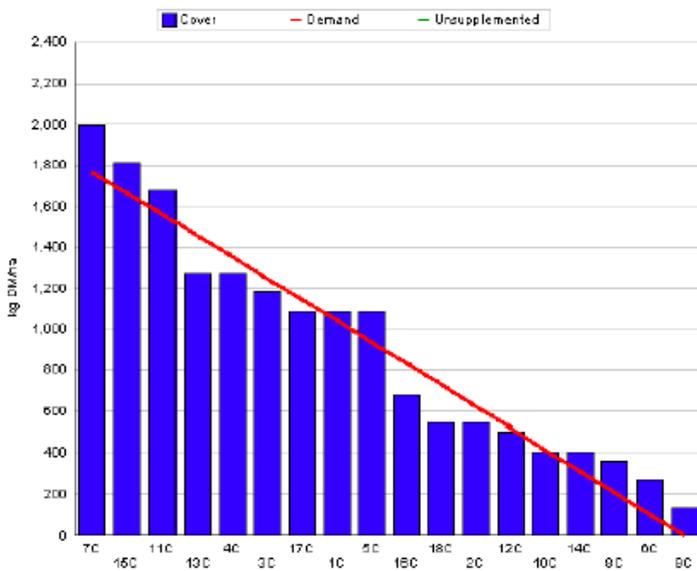
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 18-09-12

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 : 18-SEP-12	
Farm : Curtins Farm		Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance	
Date : 17-SEP-12	Treatment : Low SR		
Rotation Length :	39	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) :	941
Grass Allocation /Cow (kg DM/Cow) :	18	Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) :	374
Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) :	0	Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) :	2.52
Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) :	0	Stock Rate (LU/ha) :	2.52
N Application Rate (units/acre) :	0	Growth Rate :	33
N Application Rate (kg/ha) :	0	Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) :	45
Residual Height :	4	Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) :	1767
Total Livestock (LU) :	23	Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2:	48 38



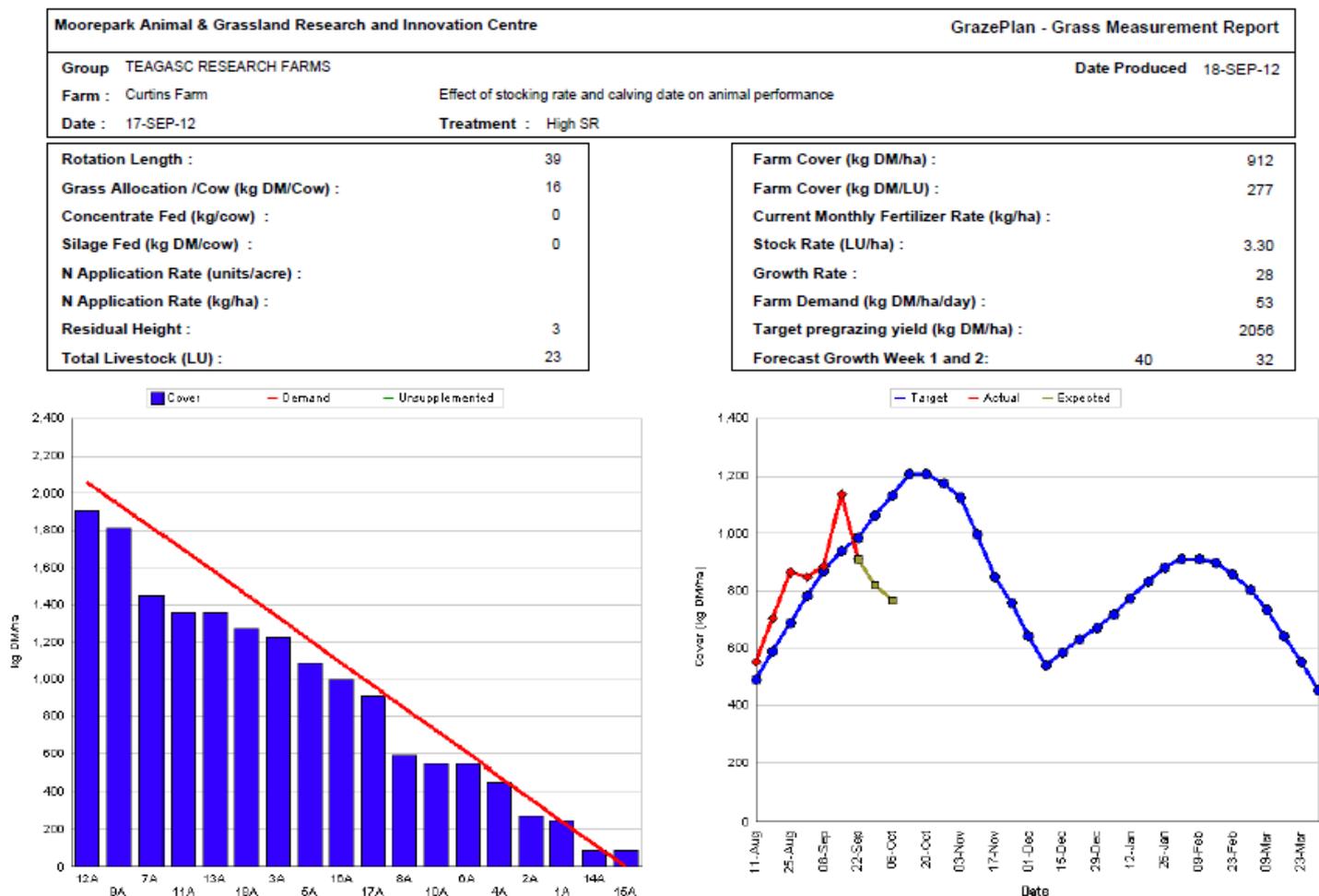
- Average Farm Cover for this week is 941kg/ha (374/cow). Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was 33kg/day (77kg last week)
- As can be seen in Figure 1, the average farm cover has dropped substantially from the high of 1038kg last week and it is now on target for this time (red line). The 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.

- Growth rates dropped substantially last week as nights became noticeably colder and daylight hours decreased. We need to build covers over the next two weeks in order to keep on target. This will only occur where growth rates are greater than demand. Demand is currently 45kg/day. Reducing cow numbers or introducing supplement will lower this. As we are on target this week we are not carrying out these actions but will consider it next week if we are behind target.
- Pre-grazing yields are at 2000kg and cows are currently grazing paddock 15. Paddocks are being halved and residency time per segment is 36 hours.
- Rotation length has increased to 39 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 912kg/ha (277/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days was 28kg per day (81kg last week).
- As can be seen in Figure 1, the average farm cover has dropped substantially from the high of 1127kg last week and it is now just slightly below 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 a massive fall in growth, we have decided not to introduce any supplement just yet. The bulk of the fertiliser was applied last week and with milder weather forecasted we expect growth rates to rise again. The situation will be reviewed towards the end of the week.
- Cows are currently grazing paddock 9. Paddocks are being halved and residency time per segment is 36 hours.

Whole Farm Situation

1. 33 units/acre of sulCAN was blanket spread across the farm last week. 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 5.02%, Protein 4.03%, Lactose 4.38% and SCC 291k.
3. Mineral supplementation has ceased and cows are on an all grass diet. Paddocks are being dusted for magnesium.
4. The breeding season ended on the 26th of July and we are awaiting the results of the final scan at end of September.

