

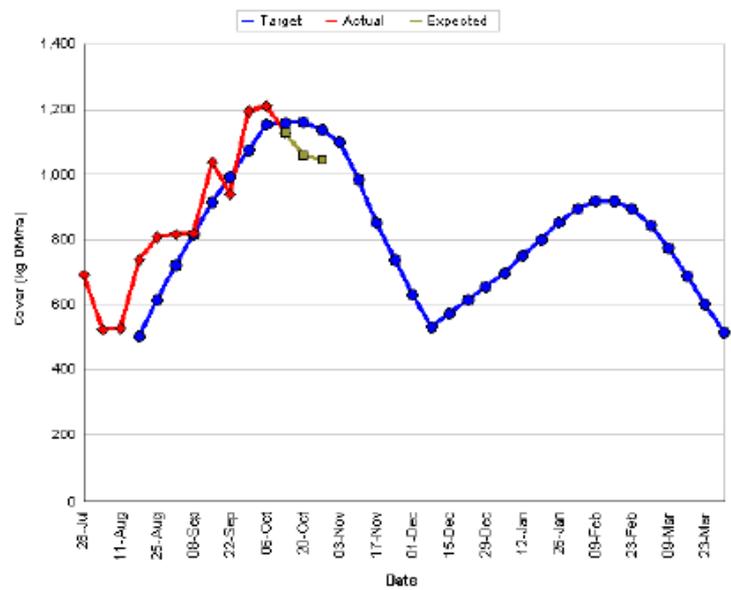
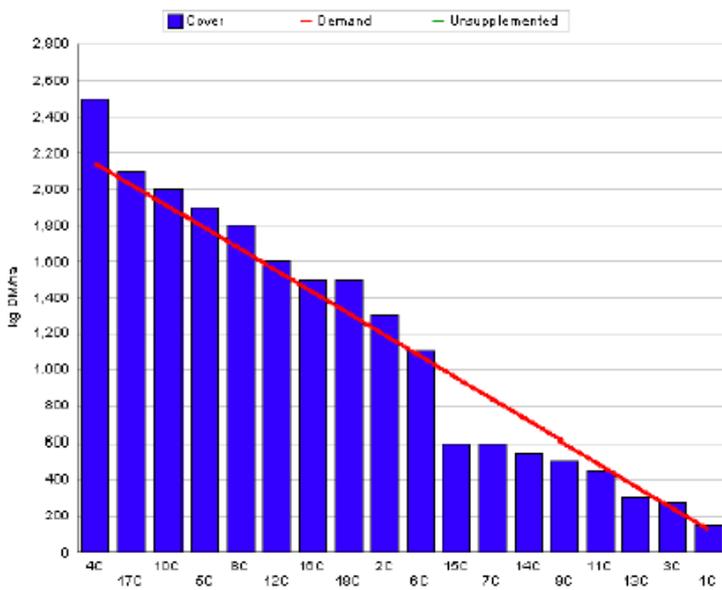
Curtins Farm Walk Notes Tuesday 09-10-12

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 : 09-OCT-12 | |
| Farm : Curtins Farm | | Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance | |
| Date : 08-OCT-12 | | Treatment : Low SR | |
| Rotation Length : 50 Grass Allocation /Cow (kg DM/Cow) : 16 Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : 2 Silage Fed (kg DM/cow) : 0 N Application Rate (units/acre) : N Application Rate (kg/ha) : Residual Height : 4.5 Total Livestock (LU) : 23 | Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : 1130 Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : 449 Current Monthly Fertilizer Rate (kg/ha) : Stock Rate (LU/ha) : 2.52 Growth Rate : 34 Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) : 40 Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : 2138 Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2: 30 28 | | |



- Average Farm Cover for this week is 1130kg/ha (449/cow). Growth rate for this group over the past 7 days was 34kg/day (45kg last week)
- As can be seen in Figure 1, the average farm cover is 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.

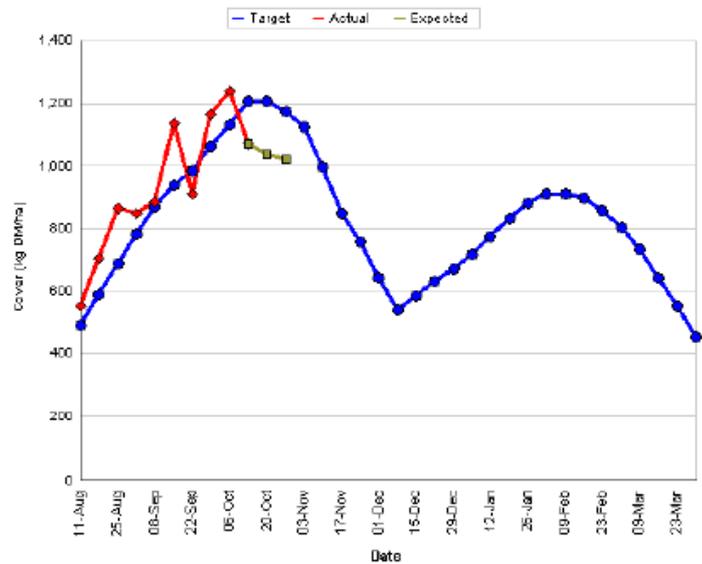
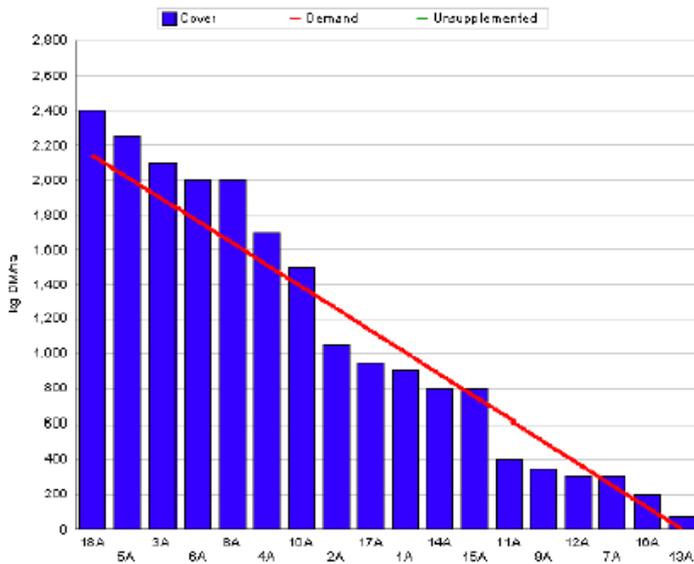
- Growth rates have dropped so there was a slight reduction in average farm cover between this week and last.
- Supplement has been introduced to this group at a rate of 2kg concentrate per head per day. This has reduced demand to 40kg/day. Further supplementation will be required over the next few weeks.
- Pre-grazing yields are at 2400kg and cows are currently grazing paddock 5. Paddocks are being halved and residency time per segment is 36 hours but will be moved to 12 hour allocations shortly as ground conditions have deteriorated.
- We have commenced the last rotation and all paddocks grazed since the 7th of October are now considered closed.
- Rotation length is at 50 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 | 09-OCT-12 |
| Farm | Curtins Farm | Effect of stocking rate and calving date on animal performance | |
| Date | 08-OCT-12 | Treatment | High SR |
| Rotation Length : | 50 | Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) : | 1070 |
| Grass Allocation /Cow (kg DM/Cow) : | 13 | Farm Cover (kg DM/LU) : | 325 |
| Concentrate Fed (kg/cow) : | 3 | 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 : | 43 |
| N Application Rate (kg/ha) : | | Farm Demand (kg DM/ha/day) : | 43 |
| Residual Height : | 3.75 | Target pregrazing yield (kg DM/ha) : | 2142 |
| Total Livestock (LU) : | 23 | Forecast Growth Week 1 and 2: | 38 36 |



- Average farm cover this week is 1070kg/ha (325/cow). Growth rate over the past 7 days was 43kg per day (55kg last week).
- As can be seen in Figure 2, the average farm cover dropped considerably this week as growth rates dropped and demand remained constant. We are now 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.
- 3kg of concentrate is being fed per cow per day. This has reduced demand to 43kg/day so if growth rate remains the same for this week there should be no change in average farm cover.

- Pre-grazing yield is at 2400kg and paddocks are being halved. Residency time per section is 36 hours but this will change to 12 hour allocations as ground conditions have deteriorated.
- Cows are currently grazing paddock 18 and rotation length is 50 days.
- We have commenced the last rotation and all paddocks grazed since the 7th of October are now considered closed.

Whole Farm Situation

1. 33 units/acre of sulCAN was blanket spread across the farm in mid September. This was the last application for the year and brought total nitrogen applied to 250kgN/ha.
2. Latest milk composition details from the processor are: Fat 5.25%, Protein 4.23%, Lactose 4.48% and SCC 144k.
3. Liquid mineral supplementation has ceased and cows are on an all grass diet.
4. The breeding season ended on the 26th of July and we are awaiting the results of the final scan at end of September.

