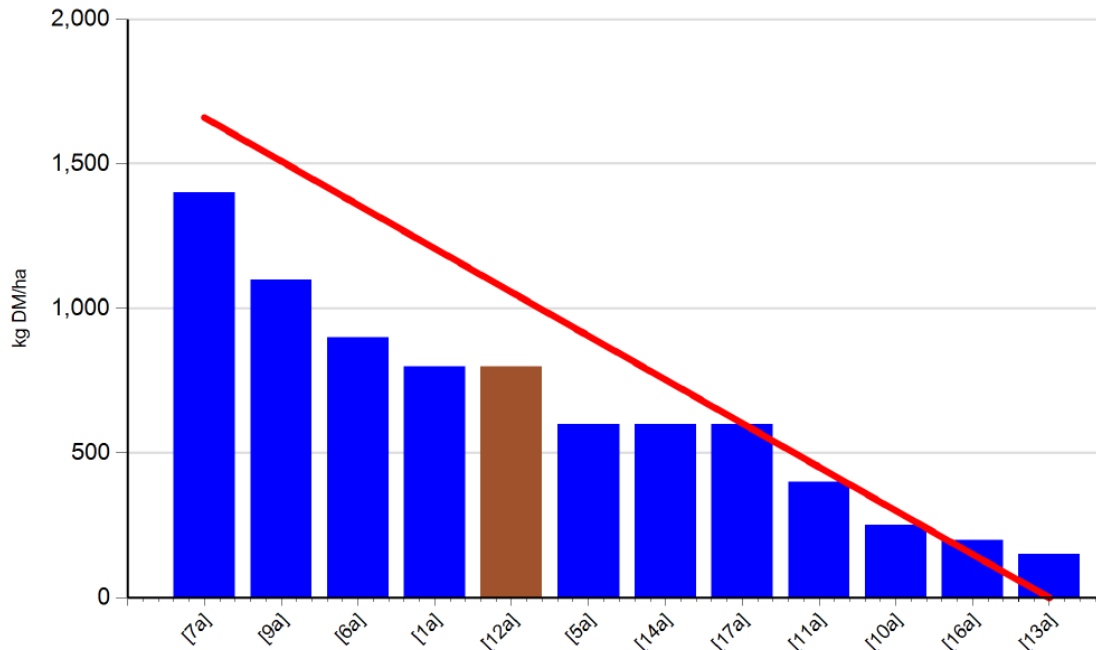


Curtins Farm Walk Notes 27/05/13

High SR (3.28 cows/ha)

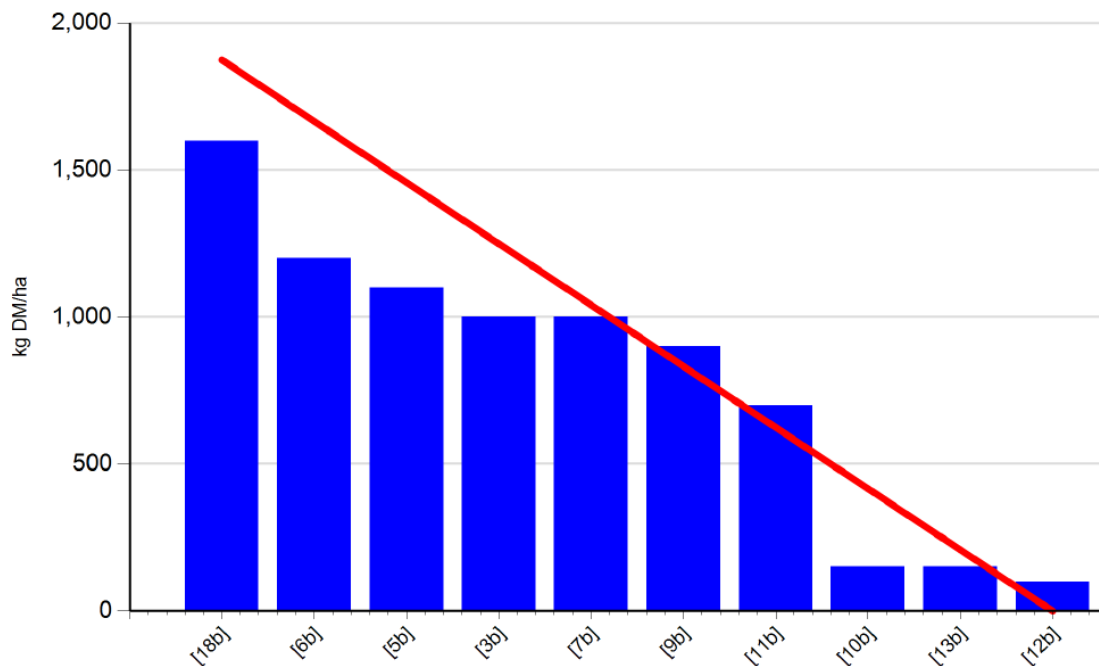
- Grass growth rates have decreased to 63kg DM/ha/day this week
- Farm cover 654 kg DM/ha (132 kg DM/cow)
- Rotation length is now set to 21 days
- Feed wedge High SR



- The high SR herd are on a grass allocation of 16kg grass DM plus 0.2 kg of concentrate this week. Grass allocation is on a 24 hr basis.
- Postgrazing residuals will be maintained at 3.5cm during the remainder of the grazing season.
- Although pre-grazing herbage mass is below target, we expect growth rates to increase to 100kg /ha/day during the next week (Soil temperature is 13.7 degrees on Monday am)
- We are currently following the grazing herd with 20 units of sulpha-CAN.
- Paddock 4a has been skipped from the grazing area and will be sprayed out and surface seeded during the next 2 weeks. This brings the overall farmlet grazing SR to 4.94 cows/ha. We will be cutting out some of the longest closed silage area to reduce overall farm SR to a more sustainable level (~4.5 cows/ha) in the next week.

Medium SR (2.94 cows/ha)

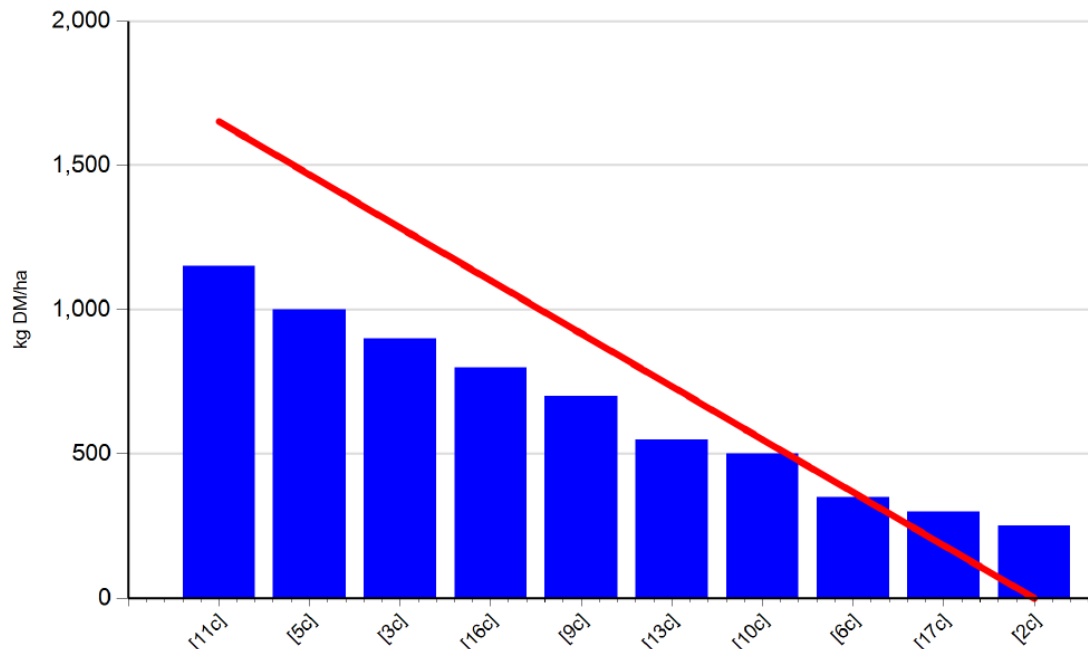
- Grass growth rates have decreased to 83kg DM/ha/day this week
- Farm cover 794 kg DM/ha (151 kg DM/cow)
- Rotation length is now set to 21 days
- Feed wedge Medium SR



- The medium SR herd are on a grass allocation of 17kg grass DM plus 0.2 kg of concentrate this week. Grass allocation is on a 24 hr basis.
- Although pre-grazing herbage mass is below target, we expect growth rates to increase to 100kg /ha/day during the next week (Soil temperature is 13.7 degrees on Monday am)
- Grass utilisation is excellent with a post grazing residual of 4cm on paddock 12b
- We are currently following the grazing herd with 20 units of sulpha-CAN
- Paddock 4b has been skipped from the grazing area and will be sprayed out and surface seeded during the next 2 weeks. This brings the overall farmlet grazing SR to 5.25 cows/ha. We will be cutting out some of the longest closed silage area to reduce overall farm SR to a more sustainable level (~4.5 cows/ha) in the next week.

Low SR (2.52 cows/ha)

- Grass growth rates have increased to 60kg DM/ha/day this week
- Farm cover 661 kg DM/ha (151 kg DM/cow)
- Rotation length is now set to 21 days
- Feed wedge Low SR



- The low SR herd are on a grass allocation of 18kg grass DM plus 0.2 kg of concentrate this week. Grass allocation is on a 24 hr basis.
- This group are grazing laxly - postgrazing height of 4.5cm on Paddock 2c
- We are currently following the grazing herd with 20 units of sulpha-CAN
- Although pre-grazing herbage mass is below target, we expect growth rates to increase to 100kg /ha/day during the next week (Soil temperature is 13.7 degrees on Monday am)
- Paddock 4c has been skipped from the grazing area and will be sprayed out and surface seeded during the next 2 weeks. This brings the overall farmlet grazing SR to 4.37 cows/ha.

Overall farm situation (27/05/13)

- Grass DM % was 16% on the farm walk on Tuesday afternoon.
 - We are applying Mg and minerals using the doseatron and concentrate supplementation is at 0.1kg per cow per day.
 - Currently, milk yield for the overall group is 26kg per cow per day at 4.54% fat and 3.69% protein (equivalent to 2 kg MS/cow/day). SCC is 149k and TBC is 4.
 - Have treated ten cows over 400k SCC, identified by milk recording and treated with four antibiotic tubes.
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EXPERIMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT AS AT SUNDAY 19/05/13

Objective: To compare the biological efficiency of alternative animal genotype and stocking rate combinations for Irish spring calving pasture-based production systems

Herd Details	EBI (€)	MILK (€)	FERT (€)	CALVING (€)	BEEF (€)	MAINT (€)	MANAGE (€)	HEALTH (€)	F + P (kg)
Holstein-Fr	185	54	94	33	-12	15	2	-1	20
HF*J X-bred	180	69	74	30	-27	32	3	-1	24

(April 2013 ICBF)

Breed Group Stocking rate Group	Holstein-Friesian			Holstein-Friesian Jersey Cross		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.4	2.9	3.3	2.5	3.0	3.4
(lwt/ha)	1250	1450	1650	1250	1450	1650
Mean calving date	21/2	23/2	21/2	15/2	16/2	19/2
Ear-tag Colour	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue
Band Colour	Yellow	Blue	Red	Yellow	Blue	Red

Week Details:						
Area allocated (m ² /cow/day)	115	90	80	110	85	75
Farmlet cover (kg DM/cow)	188	165	156	184	160	152
Pre-herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600
Residual grazing height (cm)	4.5	4.0	3.5	4.5	4.0	3.5
Diet (kg DM/cow/day)						
Grass	18	17	16	18	17	16
Silage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concentrate	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	2.1	2.1	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	25.1	26.8	23.7	22.3	21.5	21.0
% Fat	4.80	4.40	4.20	5.11	4.91	4.99
% Protein	3.50	3.55	3.35	3.79	3.75	3.58
Bodyweight (kg)	501	471	484	420	416	424
Condition Score	2.87	2.87	2.79	2.82	2.81	2.84

Cumulative:						
Milk solids (kg/cow)	160	162	152	160	157	150
(kg/ha)	384	470	502	400	471	510
Milk yield (kg/cow)	1999	2007	1908	1894	1835	1760
% Fat	4.60	4.63	4.58	4.90	5.02	4.98
% Protein	3.47	3.46	3.42	3.59	3.61	3.56
Days in milk	86	85	87	92	91	89
Total supplement fed (kg/cow)						
Concentrate	254	249	258	275	282	264
Silage	57	142	155	62	164	154

Conserved silage (kg DM /cow)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bought in Silage (kg DM /cow)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farmlet area (hectares)	9.17	7.87	7.01	9.17	7.87	7.01
Number of cows in group	22	23	23	23	24	24
Non-lactating cows	0	0	0	0	0	0

NB: These are raw data that have not been statistically analysed and, therefore, no definite conclusions can be drawn from them.