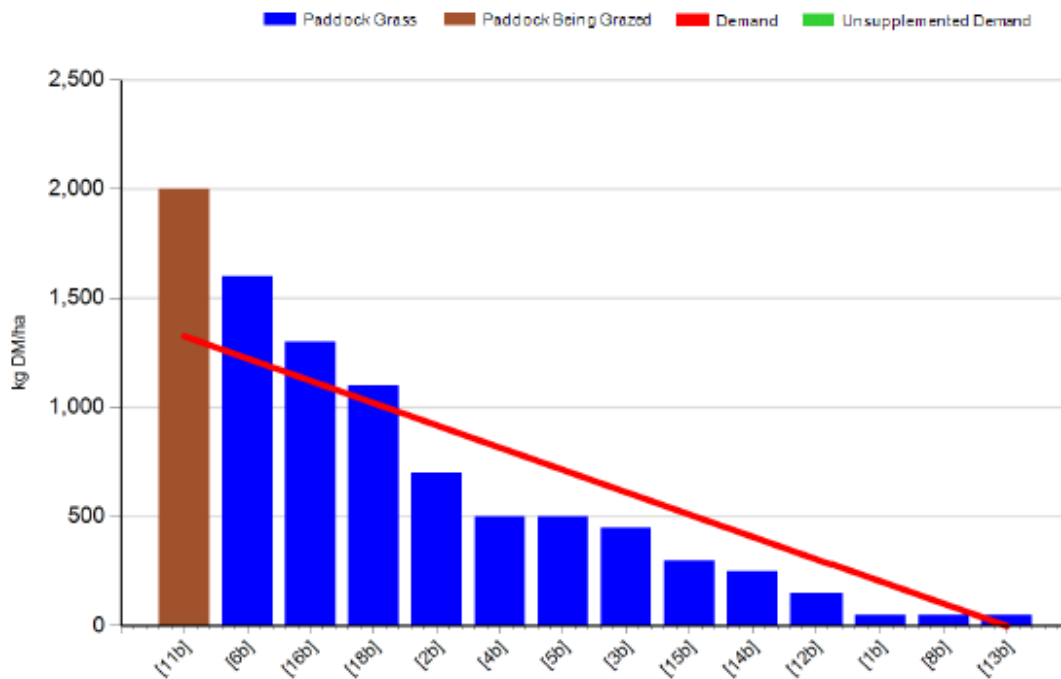


23/06/14
Curtins Farm weekly Farm Walk Notes

Medium SR (2.94 cows/ha)

- Grass growth –82kg DM/ha/day
- Farm cover – 668kg DM/ha (171 kg DM/LU)
- Rotation length – 20 days
- Current stocking rate 3.90 cows/Ha



- Grass growth was good this week at 82kg and we hope this will stay the same for the coming week with warm conditions and rain forecast. Growth is ahead of herd demand of 66kg DM/ha/day.
- Cows are hitting target residual cover of 4 cm but some stubble coming into pasture.
- Rotation length is at 20 days.
- The medium SR herd have a daily grass allocation of 17kg this week plus 0.2 kg of a 14% dairy ration per day.
- We are following the grazing herd with 27 units of sulphha-CAN.
- All cows are getting there mineral requirement in the water system.

- At higher SRs, the production of sufficient winter feed is an important objective and at Curtins, our target is to ensile 1.1 tons DM per cow for winter feed. This requires that we close off 40-45% of the land area from late March-early April for 6-7 weeks to maximise silage harvest. Previous studies suggest that this will maximise silage yield response even though subsequent pasture regrowths are reduced due to the dead stubble that remains after harvest. The average yield of DM on silage paddocks harvested in the 1st cut in late May was 6.8 tons DM/ha. Currently, the overall growth rate of the farm is reduced because of the low regrowth rate on this area.
- Due to the dry condition and to achieve our overall N budget target of 250kg N /ha in the year, we have reduced fert N application to 18 units of sulphur CAN/ac from this week. As K is often reduced in silage ground, we will also apply 1 bag of potash to all paddocks where silage has been harvested to help rejuvenate these swards quickly when normal rainfall returns.
- The farm has averaged 7.6 tons of DM/ha to date in 2014 with the best performance being achieved by the 2013 reseeded hybrid grasses at 9.1 tons DM/ha. This compares to 6.2 tons DM produced for the same period in 2013.

Overall farm situation

Grass DM was recorded at 18% on the farm walk on Monday morning.

Milk yield is on average 22 litres per day at 4.46% fat, 3.55% protein and 4.85% lactose. SCC is at 148,000