Curtins Farm Walk Notes 31-10-16

Farm Details:
Area available 48 ha
Farm Cover 813 kg/DM/Ha (360kg DM /cow)
Growth for last 7 days has averaged 25 kg/DM/ha per day.
Demand is 27 kg DM / ha/day
Rotation 41 days
Supplement: Concentrate 2 kgs /cow/day.
Silage 3 kgs DM /cow/ day

Grass Supply
Growth rate was 25 kg DM/ha per day last week and demand was set at 27 kg DM/ha. Growth is well back. Average farm cover (AFC) has dropped below target. We are currently grazing covers of 1700kg DM/ha. Target Pre-grazing yield is 1085 kg DM/ha and we are allocating 12 kg DM of grass, 3 kg DM silage and 2 kg of concentrate. We have reduced demand by introducing silage into the diet and by also drying off 1st lactation animals and cows with low BCS.
Grazing conditions
Ground conditions are excellent and post grazing residuals are on target (< 4.0 cm). We are still using a 36 hr strip wire to achieve our target residuals. There is 64% of the farm closed to date.

Supplements
Cows are being fed 2kg of a high energy (0.94 UFL), low protein (14%) concentrate and 3 kg DM of bale silage.

Fertiliser
The last of slurry was spread 14th of October.

Milk Production
Average production 14 litres per cow, 5.29% fat, 4.48% protein, (1.40kg MS), SCC 117,000.

Breeding
Breeding started on the 27th of April and lasted for a total of 11 weeks. 21 day submission rate was 96%. We did 6 weeks AI and five weeks with stock bulls. Scanning results were good with – 10.7% empty and 74% 6 week in-calf rate.

Replacement stock
Replacement heifers will return in the next week. On their return they will be housed full time to reduce the demand for grass on the farm.

Priorities
- Grass utilisation.
- Closing paddocks for next spring.
- Final preparations for winter housing