

Curtins Farm Walk Notes 17-07-17

Farm Details:

Area available 48 ha

Farm Cover 440 kg/DM/Ha (138 kg DM /cow)

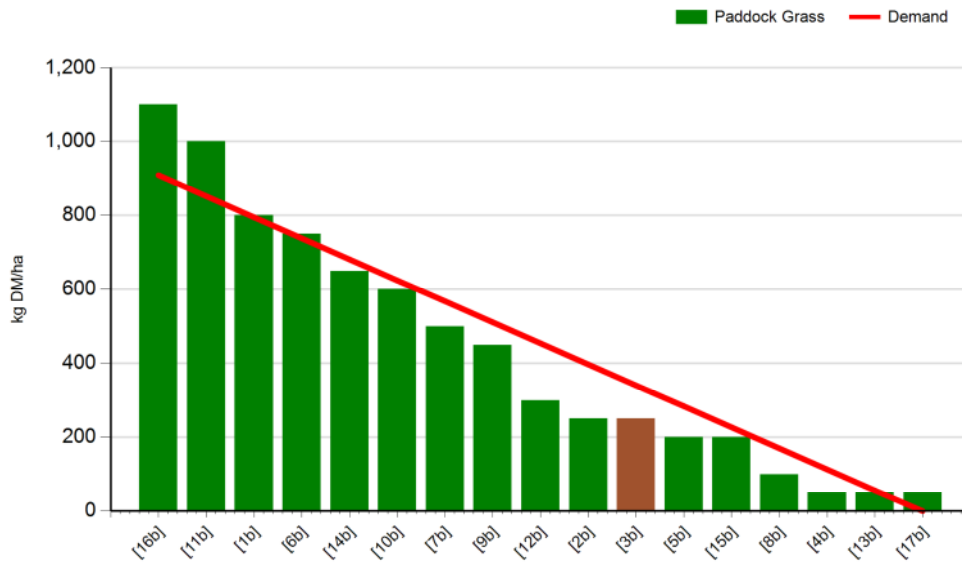
Growth rate has averaged 34 kg/DM/ha per day.

Demand is 40 kg DM / ha/day

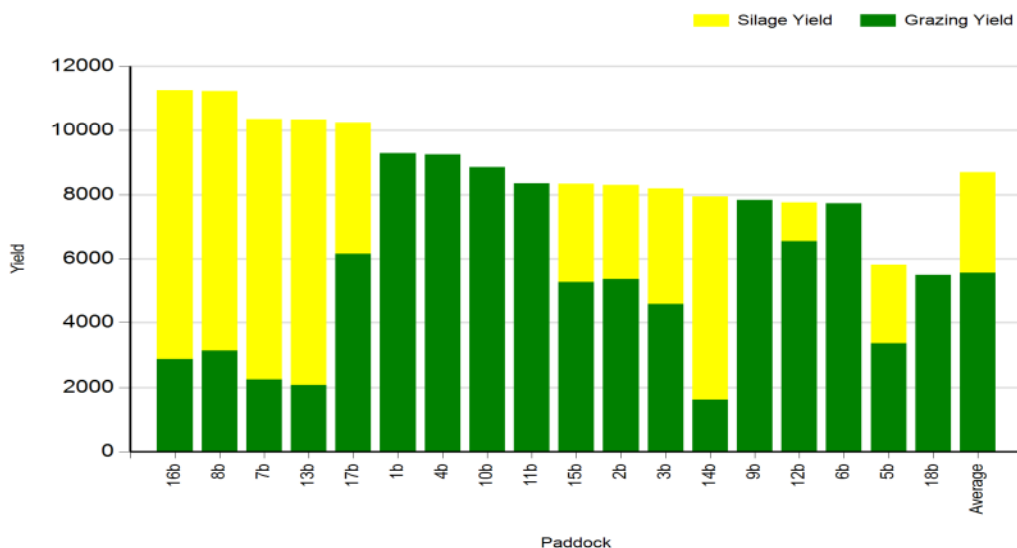
Supplement: Concentrate 4.0 kgs /cow/day.

Grass Supply

Growth rate was 34 kg DM/ha per day and demand was reduced to 40 kg DM/ha. Growth has slowed up with extreme dry conditions. Average farm cover (AFC) is 440 kg DM/ha and cover / cow is 134 kg DM/. We are currently grazing covers of 1000-1100 kg DM/ha. Target Pre-grazing yield is 909 kg DM/ha and we are allocating 13 kg DM of grass, and 4.0 kg of concentrate.



Annual Tonnage 17/07/2017



Grazing conditions

Ground conditions are excellent. Post grazing residuals are on target (<4.0 cm) and are easy to achieve when grazing covers of 1000-1100 kg DM/Ha. We are allocating on a 24-36 hr basis. Growth is poor and rain is required to increase growth rates.

Supplements

Due to extreme dry conditions we reduced our grass demand / ha by supplementing 4.0 kg of a high energy (0.94 UFL), low protein (14%) concentrate, to date we have only fed 210 kgs of concentrate/ cow. We will consider supplementing bale silage if growth rates don't pick up in the next week. Minerals (Mg, I, Se, Zn, Cu and Co) are being administered through the water.

Silage

We cut 10% of the area on the 11th of May. This area was skipped in the first rotation. It yielded 6 bales to the acre. First cut silage was cut on the 30th of May; this yielded 13 bales to the acre. We now have 60% of our winter forage conserved. We cut our 2nd cut silage last week. Our overall yield was back due to poor growth and grazing some of the area.

Reseeding

We have 5 % of our area sprayed of for reseeded; this is part of the 2nd cut silage we will cut this in seven days to prepare for seeding.

Fertiliser

We are currently following the cows with 20 units Sulpha CAN.

Milk Production

- 18.6 litres / cow/ day
- 4.83 % Fat
- 3.75 % Protein
- 1.64 kg MS
- SCC 78,000

Breeding

Breeding began on the 25th of April. We achieved a 94% submission rate in 21 days. We used artificial insemination for 6 weeks and are now using AA stock bulls. Bulls were taken away last week after 11.5 weeks of breeding. Preliminary pregnancy results suggest that breeding went well. We will complete a final scan in three weeks.

Bulls Selection for 2017

- FR2385 Nextgen Candy
- FR2007 Nextgen Brigade
- FR2053 Ballybride Cardiff
- FR2053 Kildarra Maestro
- FR2005 Kealfincheon Norman
- FR4103 Rossbare Leo
- JE2438 Conrad
- JHC Hijinx

Priorities

- Monitor grass wedge and cover / cow
- Strategic supplementation