

# Curtins Farm Walk Notes 31-07-17

## Farm Details:

**Area available 48 ha**

**Farm Cover 672 kg/DM/Ha (216 kg DM /cow)**

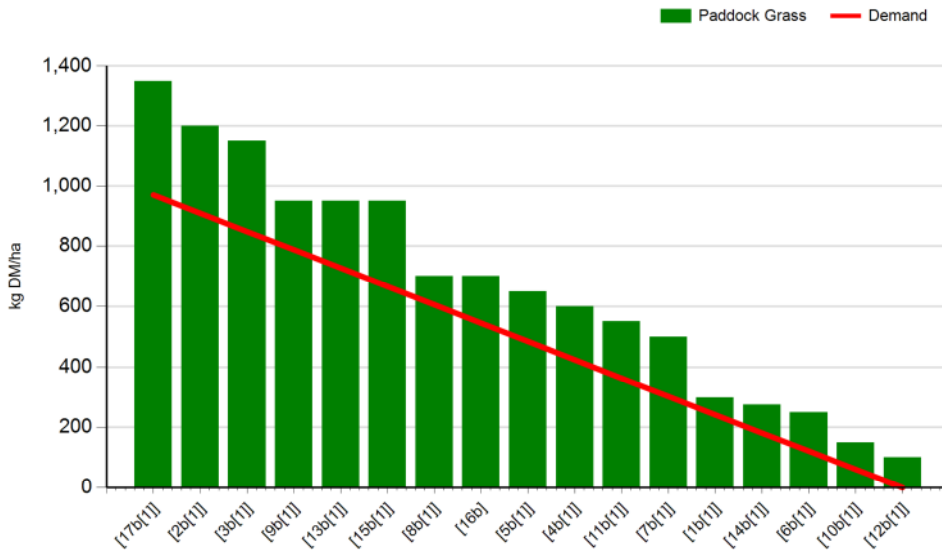
**Growth rate has averaged 58 kg/DM/ha per day.**

**Demand is 40 kg DM / ha/day**

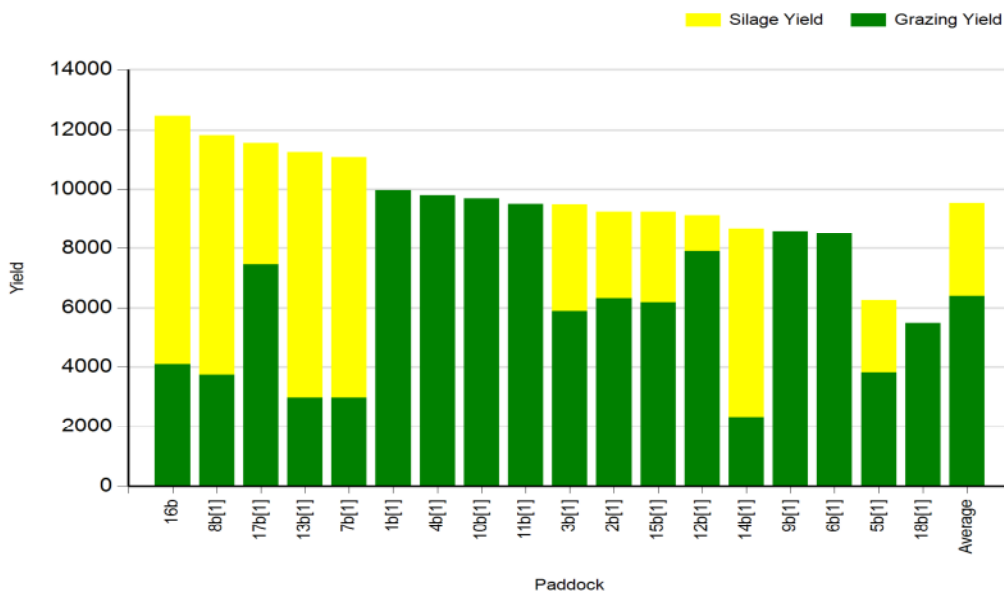
**Supplement: Concentrate 4.0 kgs /cow/day.**

## Grass Supply

Growth rate was 58 kg DM/ha per day and demand was reduced to 40 kg DM/ha. Growth has increased in the last week. Average farm cover (AFC) is 672 kg DM/ha and cover / cow is 216 kg DM/. We are currently grazing covers of 1200-1300 kg DM/ha. We are just starting to build grass for the autumn. Our rotation length is 24 days. Target Pre-grazing yield is 970 kg DM/ha and we are allocating 13 kg DM of grass, and 4.0 kg of concentrate.



## Annual Tonnage 31/07/2017



## **Grazing conditions**

Ground conditions are excellent. Post grazing residuals are on target (<4.0 cm) and are easy to achieve when grazing covers of 1200-1300 kg DM/Ha. We are allocating on a 24-36 hr basis. Growth is beginning to pick back up again.

## **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 266 kgs of concentrate/ cow. Minerals (Mg, I, Se, Zn, Cu and Co) are being administered through the water.

## **Silage**

We cut 10% of the area on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May. This area was skipped in the first rotation. It yielded 6 bales to the acre. First cut silage was cut on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May; this yielded 13 bales to the acre. We now have 60% of our winter forage conserved. We cut our 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. We will Disk harrow and use the one pass system to sow the grass seed. This will be done this week. We have decided to use two late heading varieties AberGain (T) and AberChoice (D) selected from the pasture profit index. We also included 1 kg of coolfin (clover) in the mix.

## **Fertiliser**

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

## **Milk Production**

- 18.5 litres / cow/ day
- 4.92 % Fat
- 3.76 % Protein
- 1.65 kg MS
- SCC 80,000

## **Breeding**

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

## **Priorities**

- Monitor grass wedge and cover / cow
- Strategic supplementation
- Build grass for Autumn