

# Using The Grazing Wedge

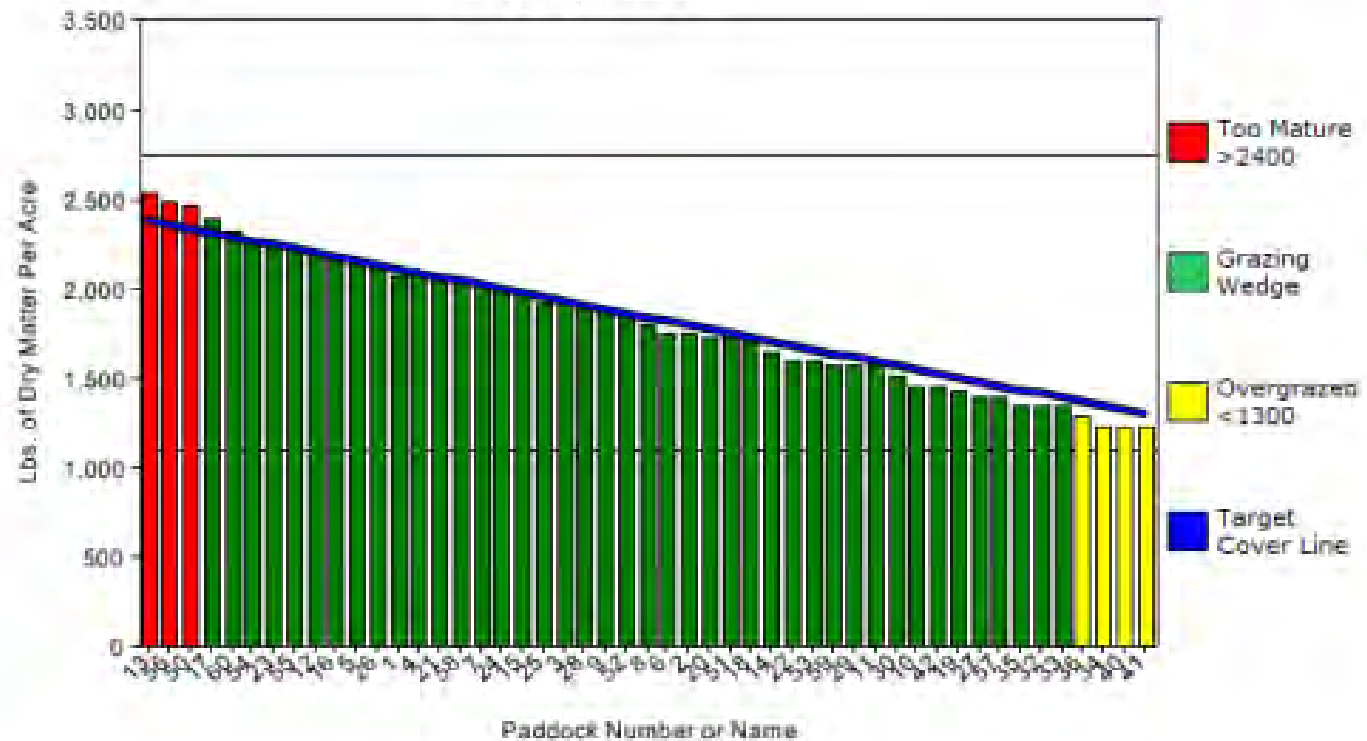


# Grazing Wedge

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## Grazing Wedge Edgewood Dairy 04/25/2009

Print All



# Bird's Eye View



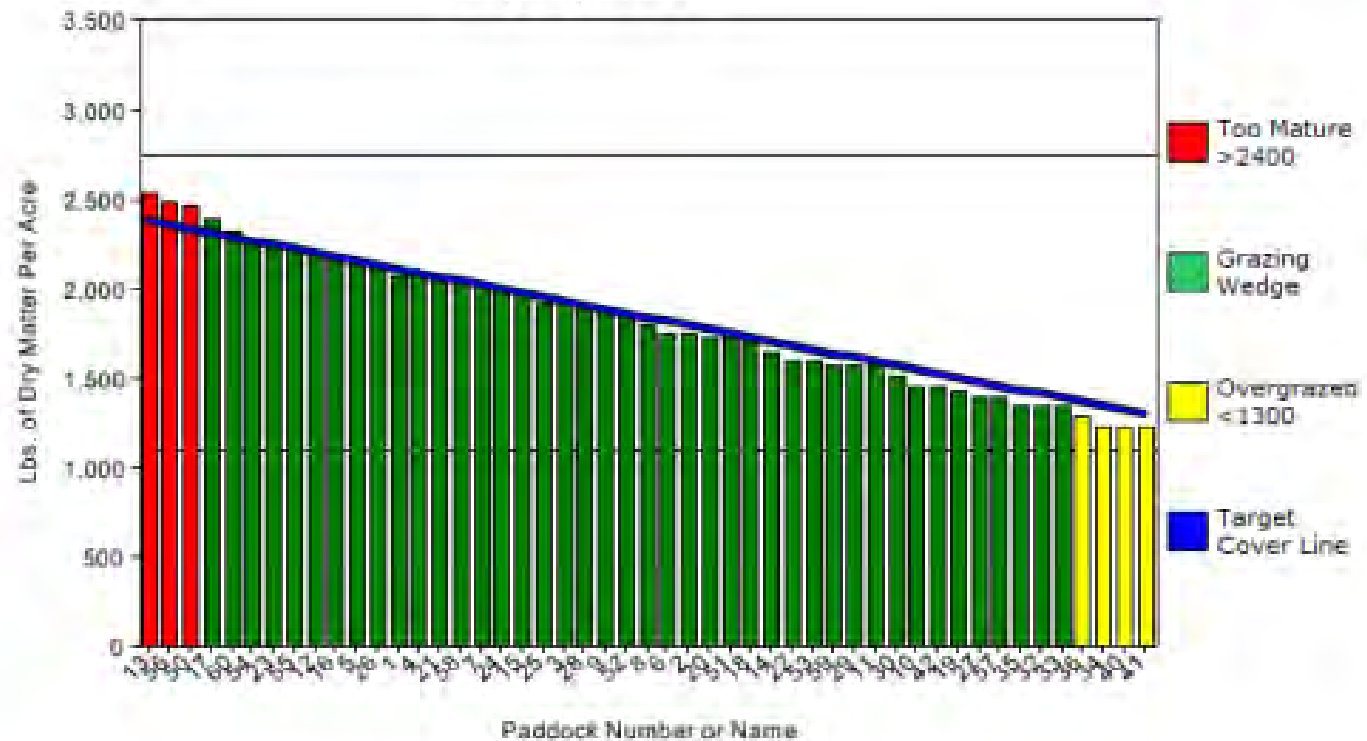


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## Grazing Wedge Edgewood Dairy 04/25/2009

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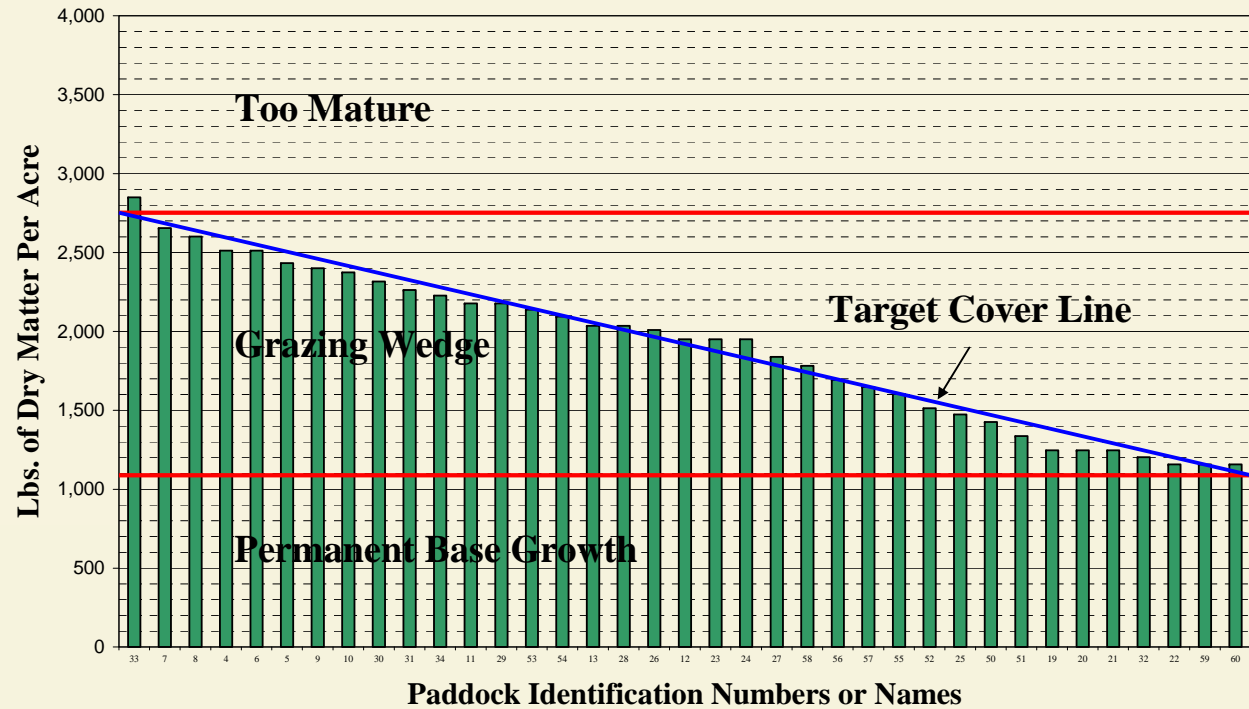


# Available Pasture

- Test 1
- Test 2
- Test 3



Grazing Wedge at Missouri Farm #7



## Too Mature

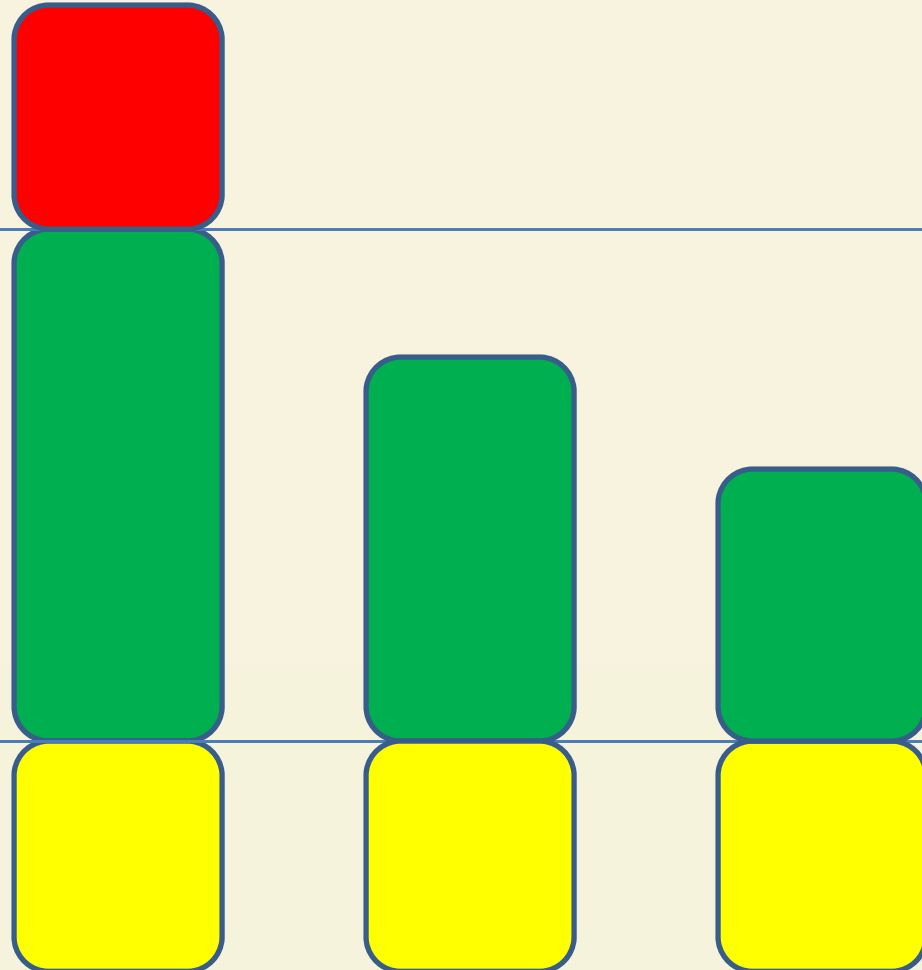
2800# >

## Available Pasture

1000# - 1500#

## Residual

1300#

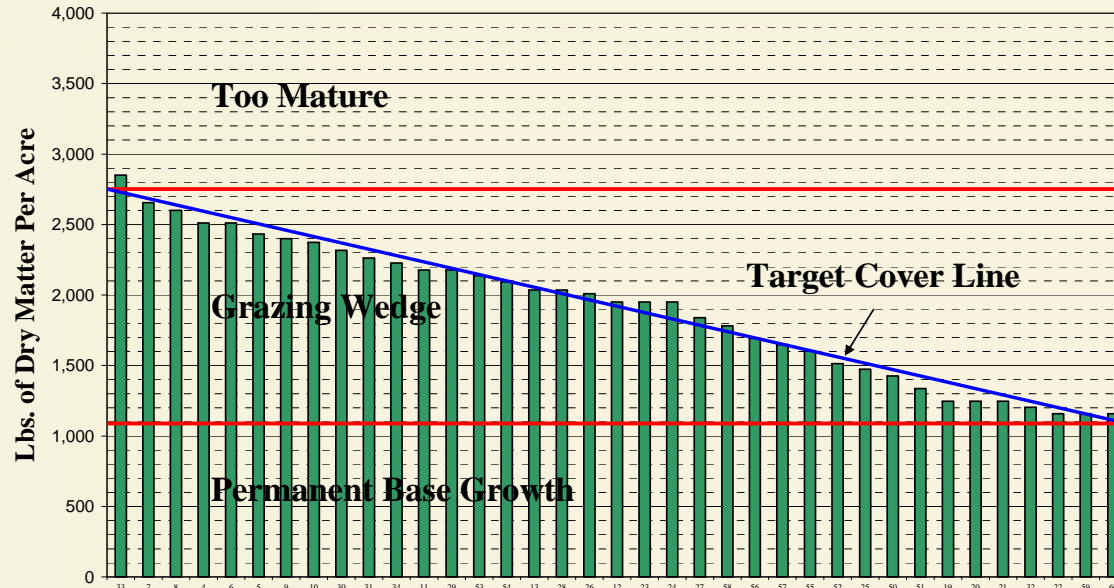


**Available pasture should be no less than 1000# DM per acre and no more than 1500# DM per acre**





Grazing Wedge at Missouri Farm #7



Date paddocks  
measured:  
6-28-06

Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

Estimated growth rate (lbs of dry matter accumulation per acre per day)	<b>57</b>	
Cover when cows turned onto a paddock (lbs DM/Acre)	Actual: <b>2,820</b>	Ideal: <b>2,750</b>
Cover when cows removed from paddock (lbs DM/Acre)	Actual: <b>1,158</b>	Ideal: <b>1,100</b>
Average pasture cover (lbs DM/Acre)	Actual: <b>1,902</b>	Ideal: <b>1,925</b>
Rotation length current (days till cows return to given paddock)	<b>30</b>	
Milk production (lbs per day)	<b>51</b>	
Lbs of hay currently being fed (per cow per day)	<b>0</b>	
Lbs of grain currently being fed (per cow per day)	<b>14</b>	

Critical issues right now

Rain 6/17/06 .10, 6/22/06 .60, 6/25/06 .30

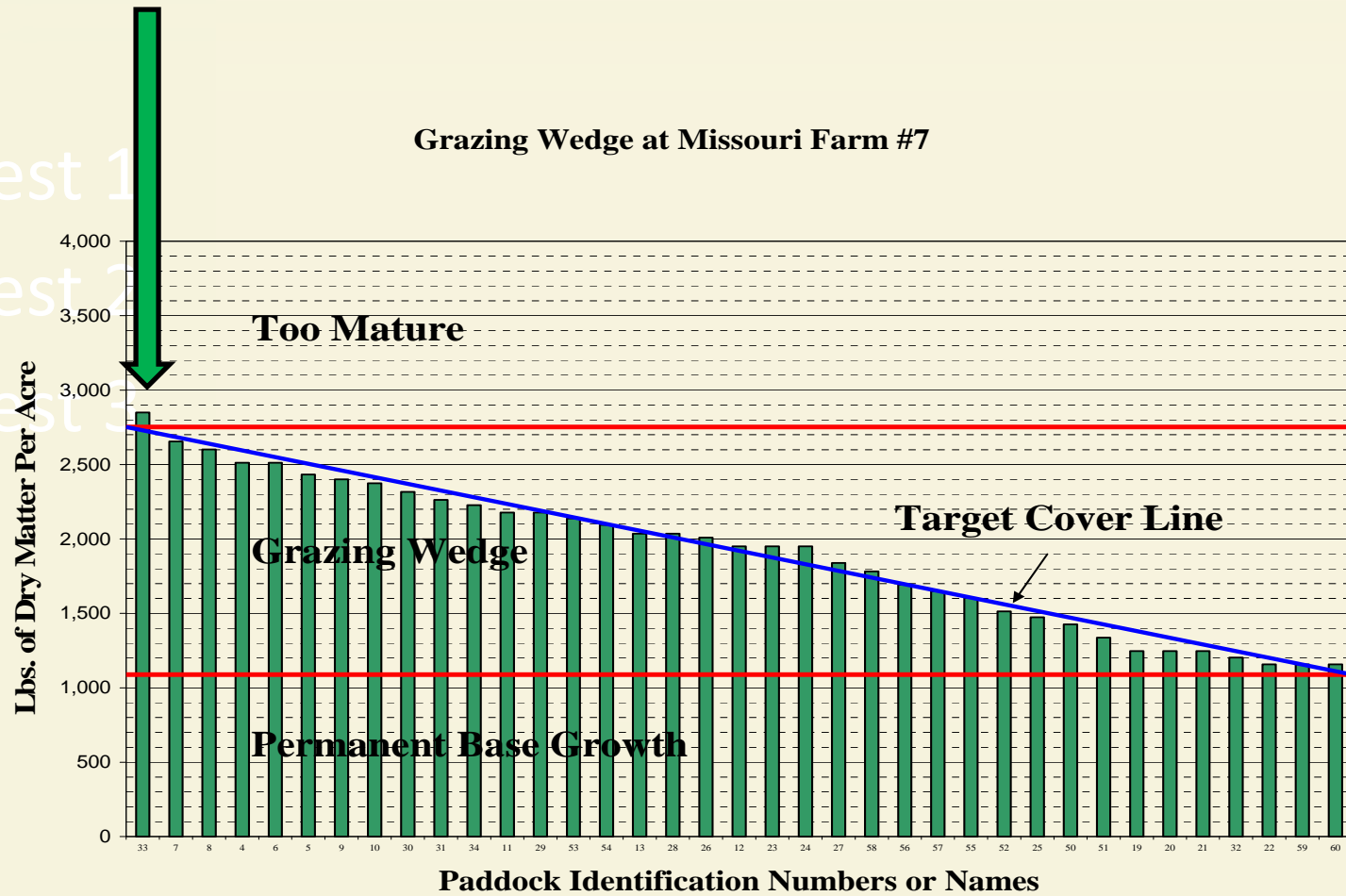
Rotation is 30 days but if we receive some rain in the near future we will speed back up.

## Pre grazing cover



# Pre grazing cover

- Test 1
- Test 2
- Test 3



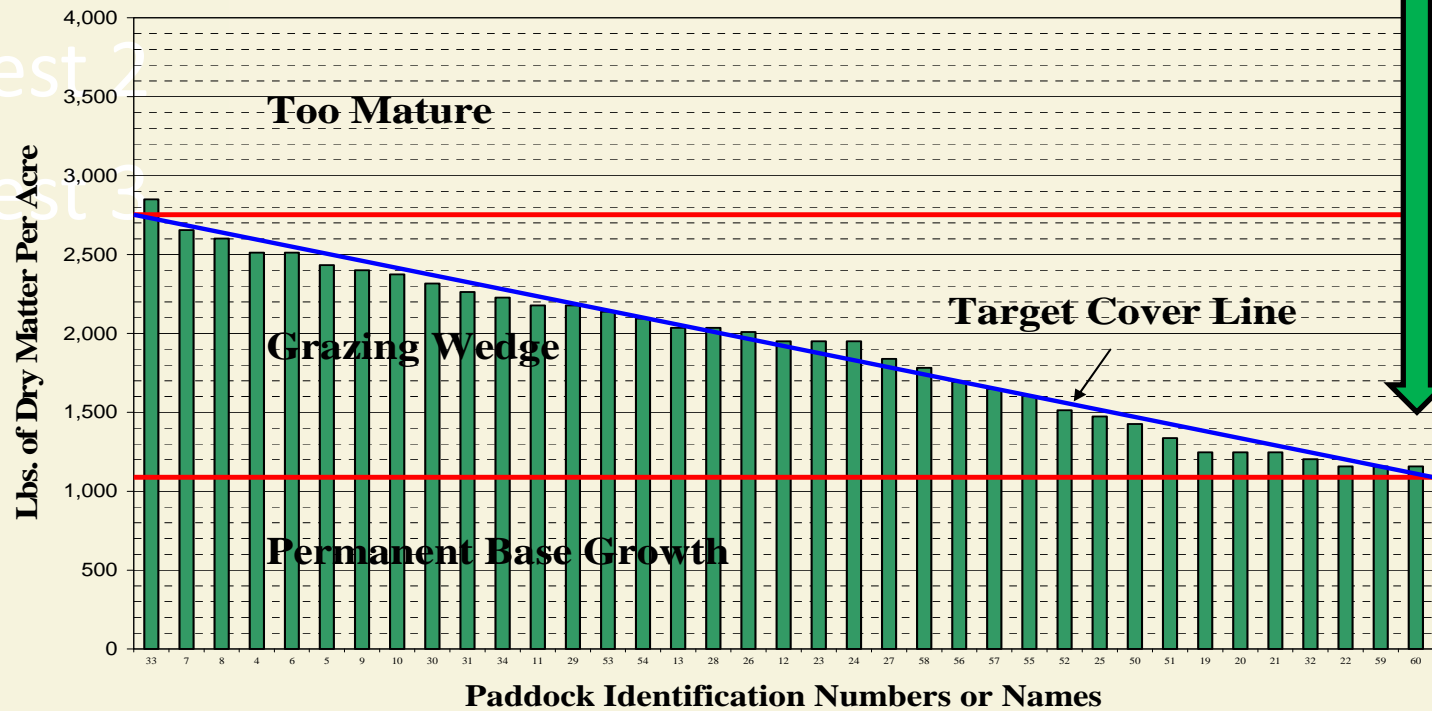
# Post grazing residual



# Post grazing residual

Grazing Wedge at Missouri Farm #7

- Test 1
- Test 2
- Test 3



Post grazing residual

Pre grazing cover



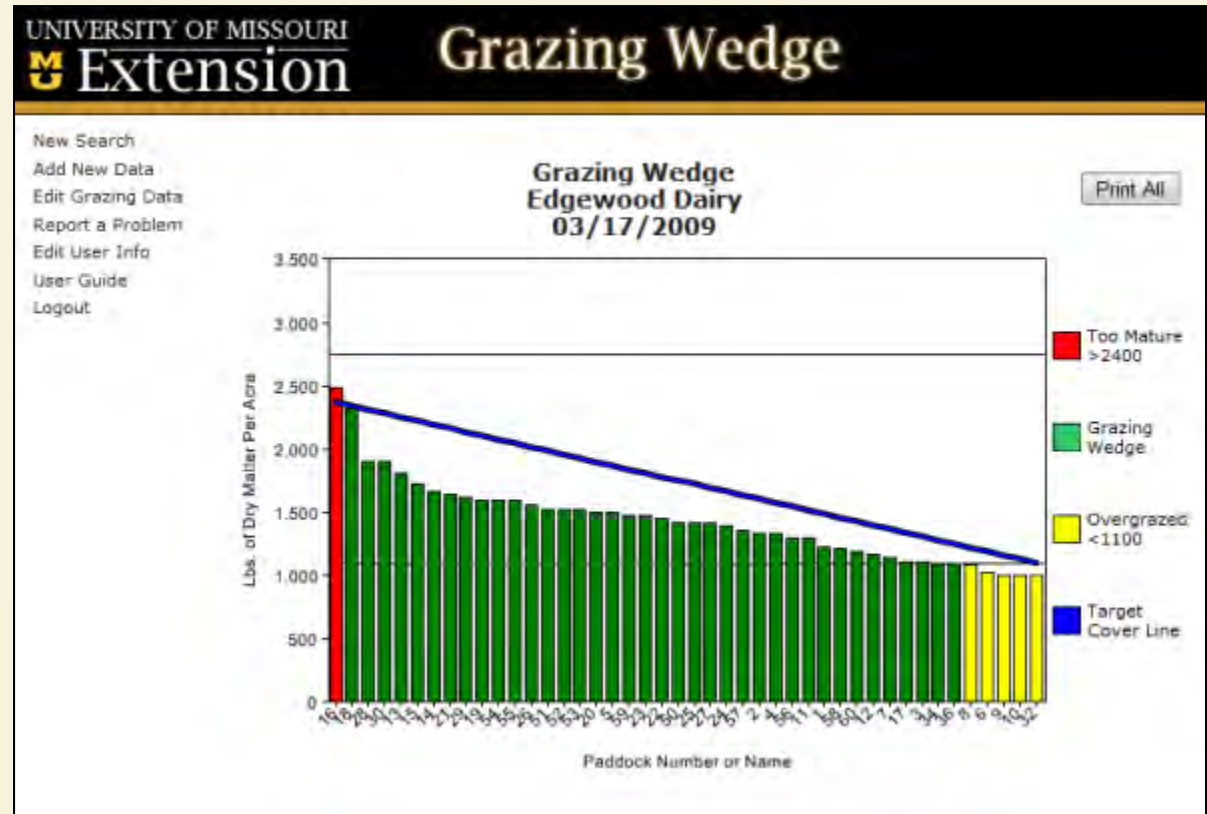
# Examining “Wedges”

Growth rate is limiting factor here

At current usage, forage will run out if growth rate does not improve

## Options:

- Feed more supplements
- Decrease stocking rate
- Take some condition off of livestock
- Fertilize to improve growth rate



Growth rate is 33 lb/a/day

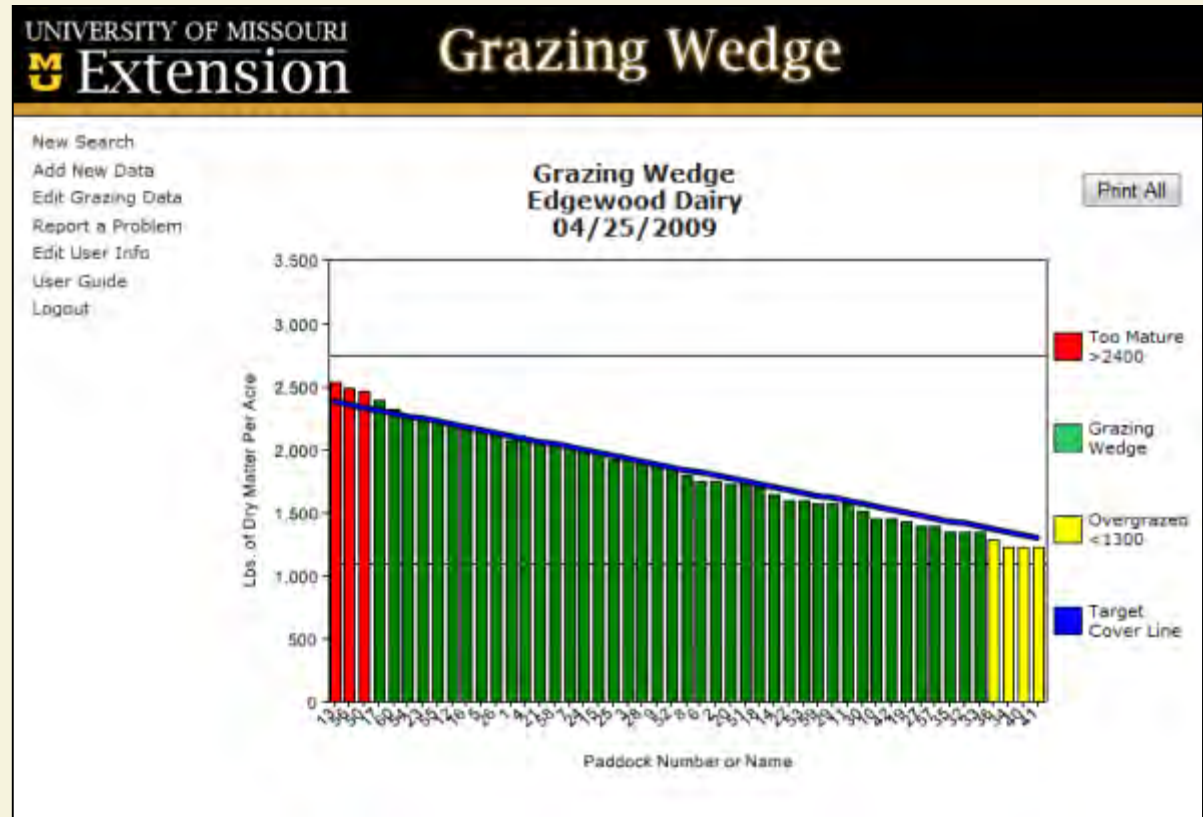
# What about this one?

Nearly perfect balance – a few paddocks getting ahead

At current usage, forage growth rate is nearly ideal

## Options:

- Not much to do, except harvest a few paddocks
- Beware that growth rates change quickly sometimes – don't get complacent



Growth rate is 61 lb/a/day

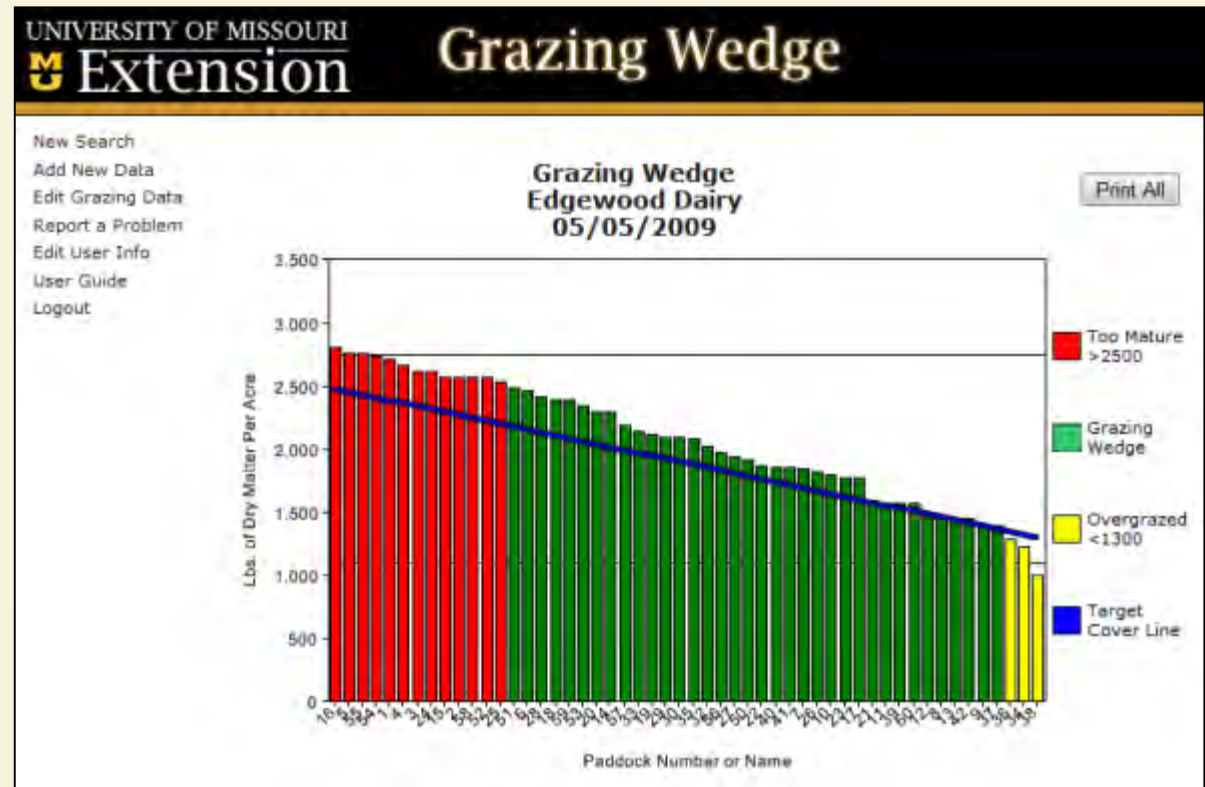


# What do you do about this?

Too much forage – If some paddocks are not harvested then all of the forage in the system will be of low quality

## Options:

- Harvest paddocks in red
- Graze the paddock with the tallest green bar
- Reduce or eliminate supplements so that stock will harvest forage



Growth rate is 63 lb/a/day

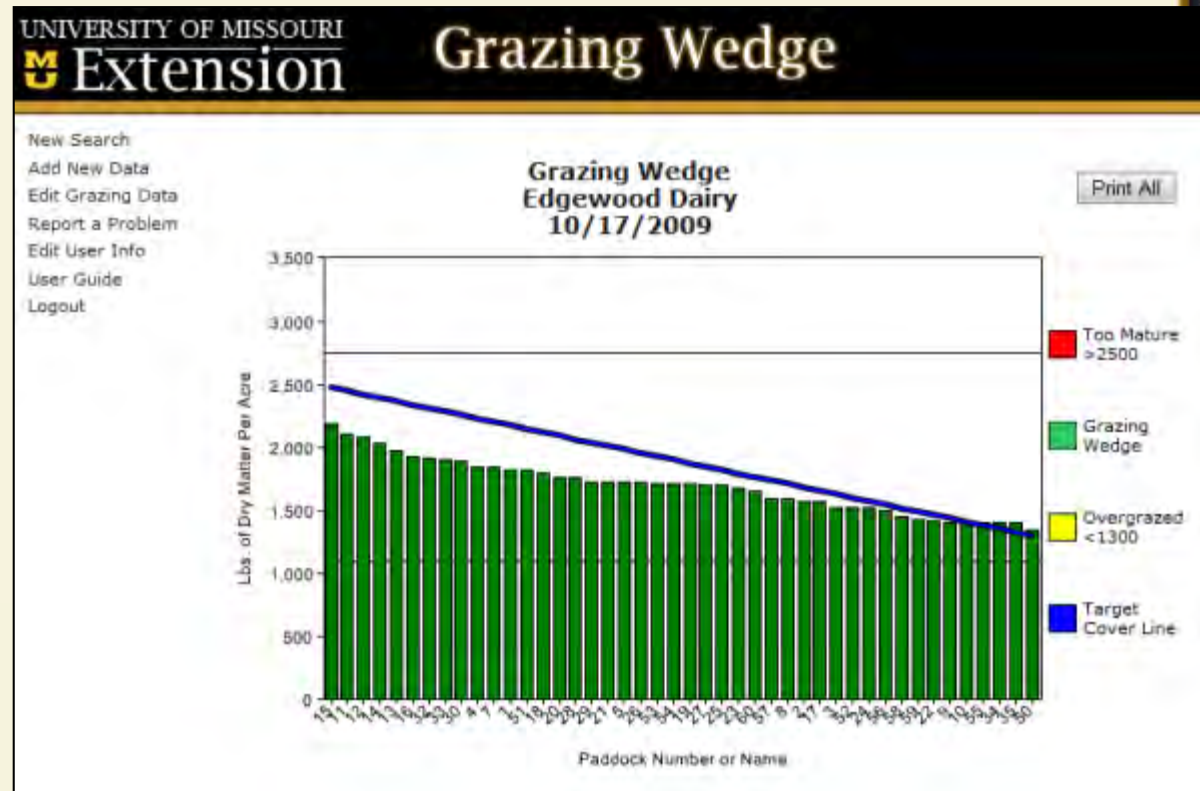
# Autumn growth

Many paddocks available for grazing but rotation length will be short

Growth rate low, but unlikely to improve much due to time of year

## Options:

- Graze what you can but it won't last long
- Consider giving growing livestock priority access to pasture
- Could increase supplements if you want to continue on pasture



Growth rate is 16 lb/a/day

# Use the grazing wedge to manage for top quality pasture



Harvest all the top quality pasture you can grow

