Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 28th February 2018

CO comment

The focus in autumn is reaching average pasture cover and cow condition targets ready for spring. Where practical and economic this should include keeping cows in milk where body condition is adequate.

Some key actions are…

- Focus on leaving consistent post-grazing residuals
- Body condition score the herd for proactive feed management
- Complete an autumn feed budget to identify feed shortages
- Ensure any pasture renewal is a quality job, target autumn pests where possible
- Build APC by increasing rotation length.

Good grazing management through early autumn is maximising the pasture you grow and utilise, balanced with allowing pastures to recover following any dry periods in the summer.

The secret to achieving this good grazing management is leaving consistent post-grazing residuals and graze pastures at the right time (2.5-3 leaves). Grazing ryegrass pastures too early reduces autumn growth and too late reduces quality.

Good management: improved persistence

- Grazing at the 2½ - to 3-leaf stage. During May, the rotation length may be extended beyond this to start building feed for winter.
- Preventing grazing below 1500 kg DM/ha.
- If residuals are less than 1500 kg DM/ha, feed supplement to maintain herd intake and protect pasture. If there is no supplement available then stand cows off pasture once they reach the target residual

Poor management: reduced persistence

- Allocating too much pasture area (fast rotation) immediately after rain
- Frequent intense grazing before plants reach the three leaf stage reduces recovery of tiller numbers during autumn.

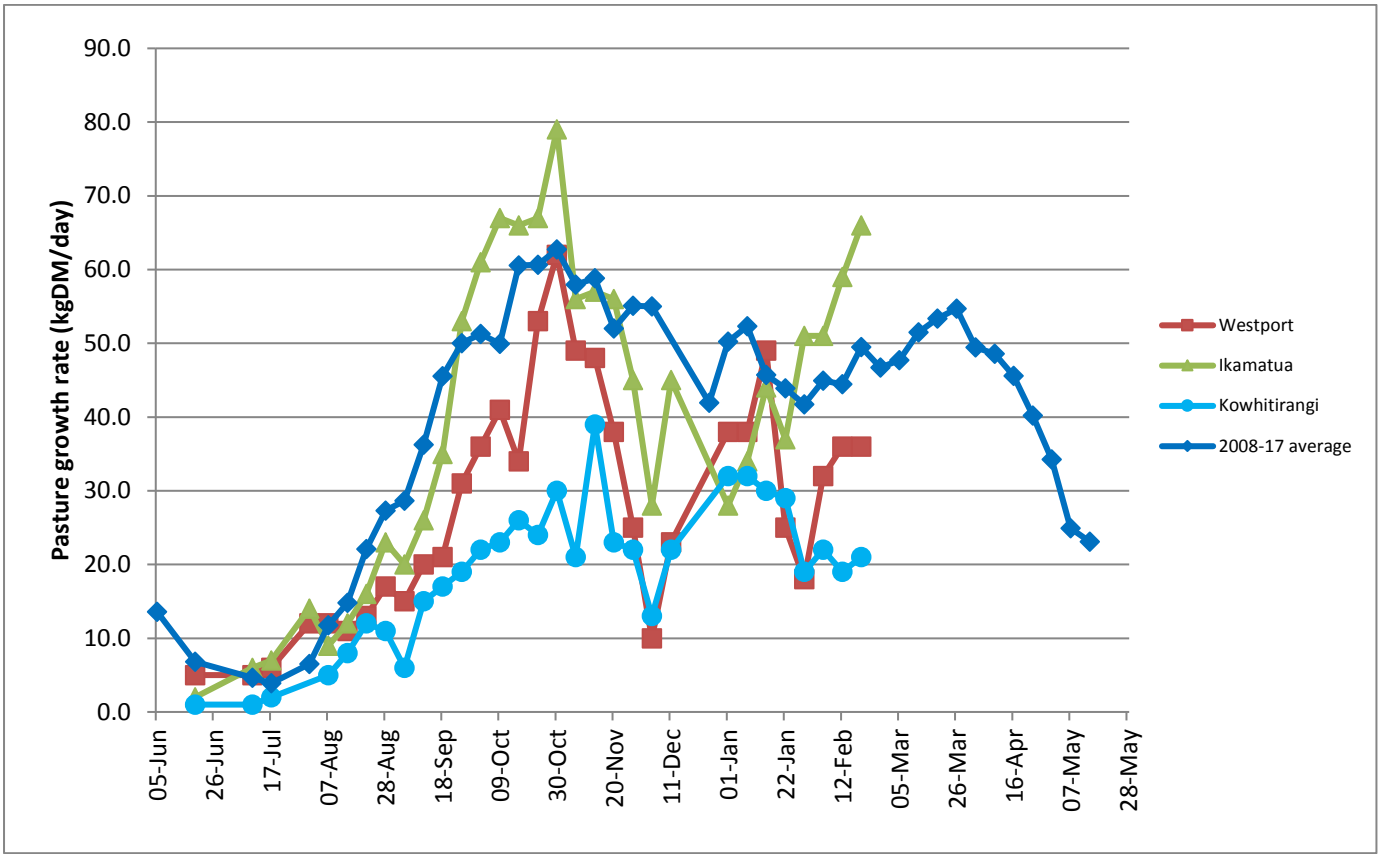
It is important to determine the leaf stage of your own pastures. Leaf appearance rates mainly depend on temperature and water availability with leaves taking longer to appear in colder temperatures or where water is limited.

Farm Summary

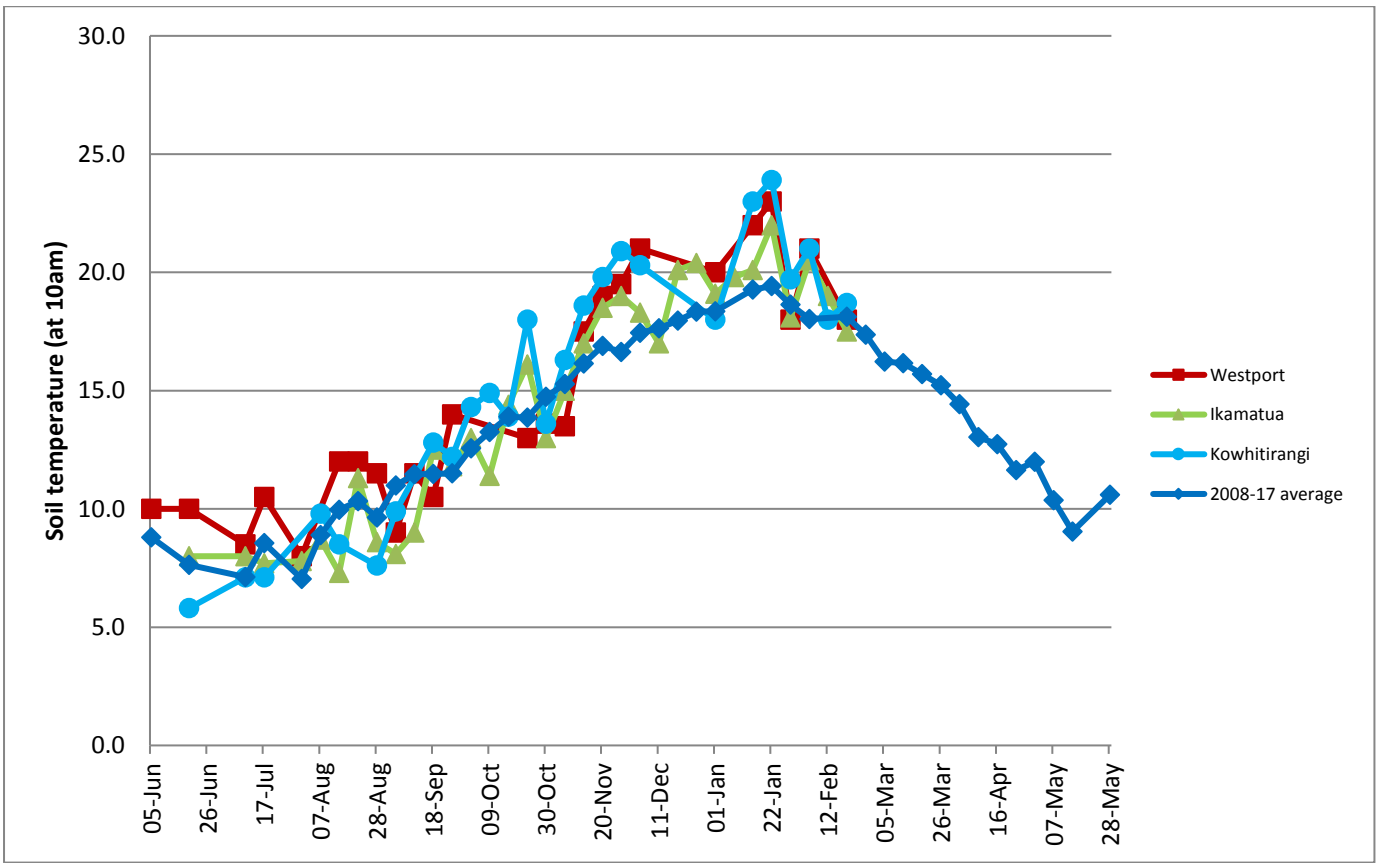
	Westport	Ikamatua	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	1984	2102	1887
APC (21 February)	*1977*	*2168*	*1880*
Rotation length (days)	21	22	26
Stocking rate	2.9	2.7	2.4
Percentage in milk	100	100	100
Milksolids kg/cow	1.35	1.62	1.32
Milksolids kg/ha	3.7	4.3	2.8
MS/cow (season to date)	320	380	271
MS/ha (season to date)	893	971	618
N (kg/ha) year to date	131	133	88
Current N application rate kg N/ha	20	20	28
	5 Feb	6 Feb	7 Feb
DM%	16.3	15.4	14.6
Pasture ME	11.8	11.6	11.9
Pasture NDF	55.3	45.9	47.8
Pasture CP	27.3	27.7	24.1
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	18	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	3	2.5	1
Soil temperature (°C)	18	17.5	18.7
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	36	66	21
Rainfall	41	70	84
Conditions for farmwalk	Overcast and cool	Cold and overcast	Fine….just!
Comments			

NB: pasture quality data are for 1 sample collected from each farm

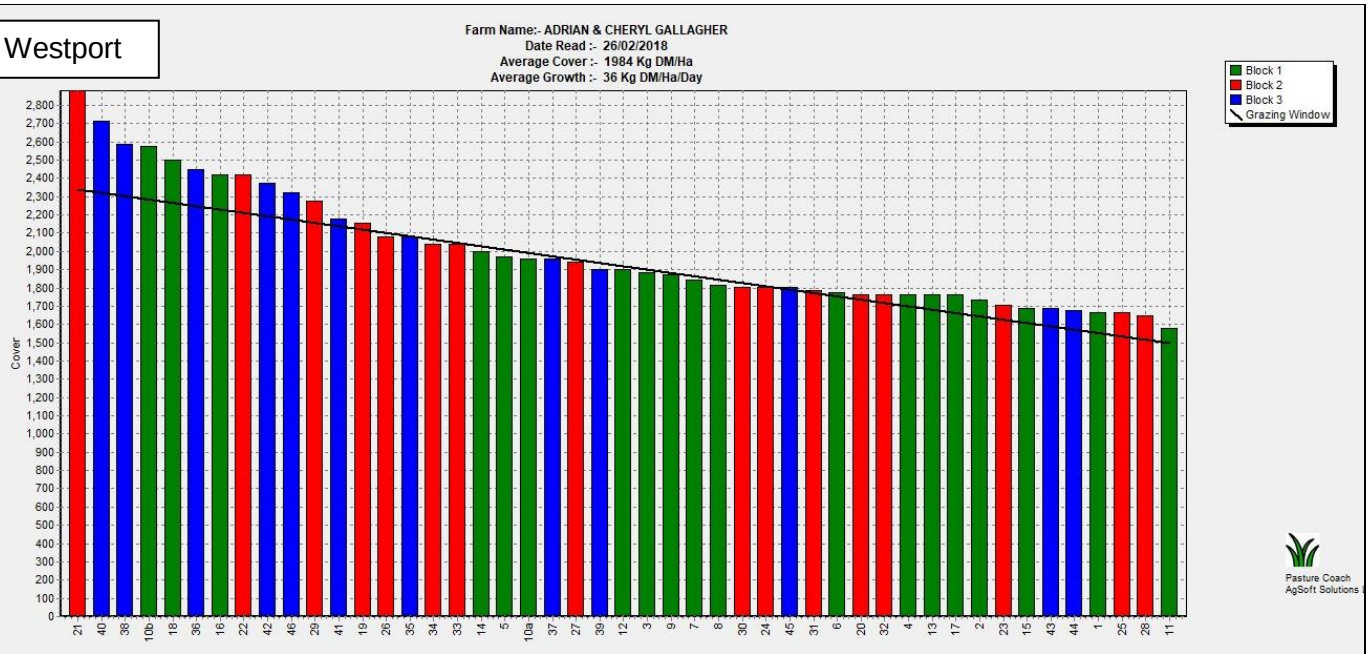
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



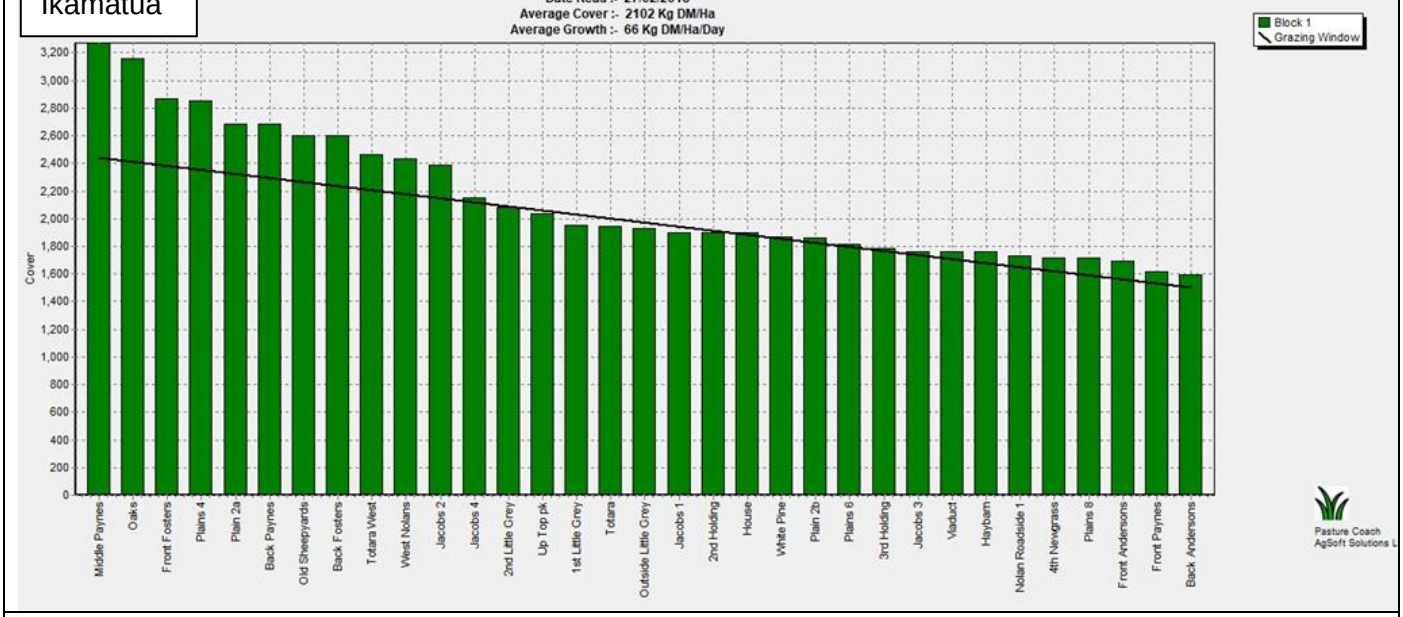
Weekly Soil Temperature



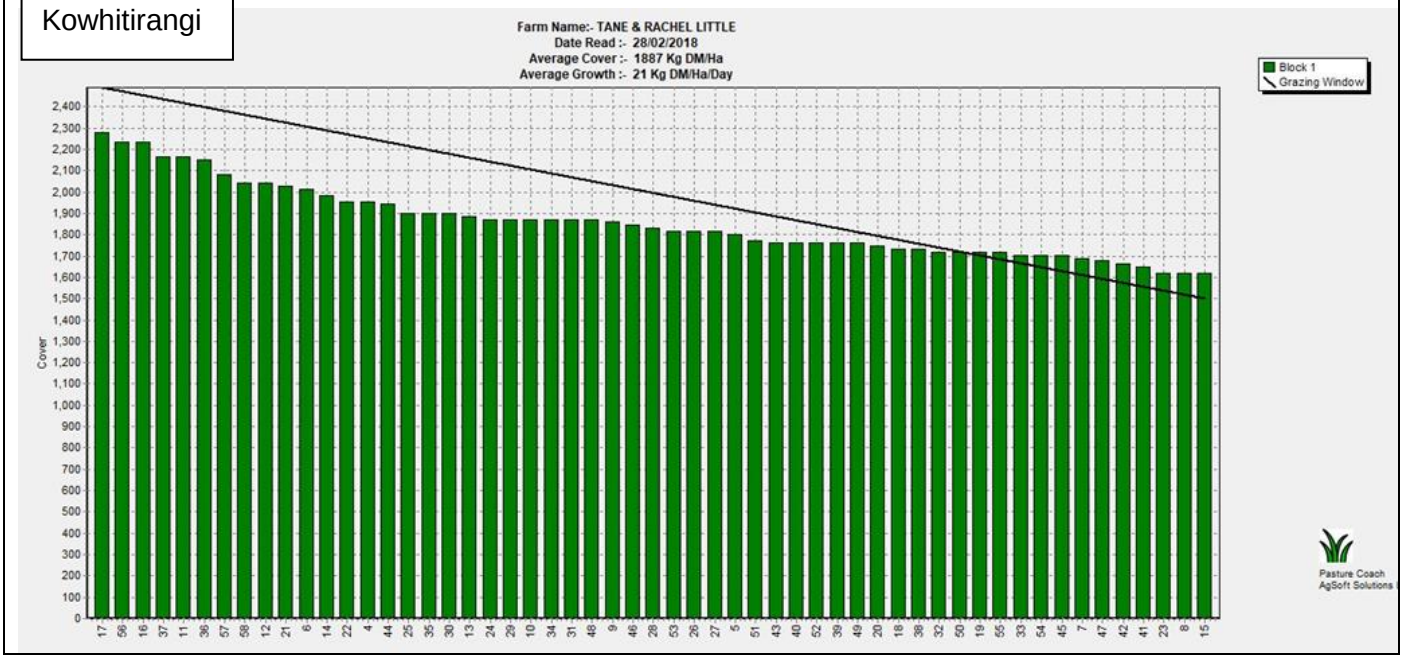
Westport



Ikamatua



Kowhitirangi



<u>Westport</u>

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
42	5/6/2017	10.0	16.7	37.8	5.4	20.4	43.6	5.1	>85	>12.7
44	3/8/2017	14.8	20.0	27.3	5.2	22.9	46.4	8.0	84.6	12.4
4	4/9/2017	10.3	15.4	31.9	5.3	22.4	42.2	5.9	88.5	12.9
26	3/10/2017	13.8	11.8	30.1	3.8	23.7	49.8	5.5	91.2	>12.7
40	30/10/2017	11.4	13.5	26.9	10.9	40.0	6.4			11.8
3	4/12/2017	11.7	21.3	17.9	3.4	30.0	57.3.	11.7	79.5	11.6
46	15/1/2018	10.7	15.6	30.6	3.2	26.8	58.1	1.1	>85	12.4
5	5/2/2018	11.3	16.3	27.3	2.7	27.7	55.3	4.5	80.6	11.8

Ikamatua

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME/kg
Haybarn	06/06/2017	14.8	16.3	29	5.4	19.6	37.4	12.7	>85	12.7
Totara east	03/08/2017	10.3	15.7	26.9	5.1	20.2	35.8	16.7	>85	>12.7
Totara west	03/08/2017	10.9	17.4	24.4	5.1	20.8	37.2	19.9	>85	>12.7
Plain 5	03/08/2017	12.2	17.3	24.5	4.7	20.5	41.4	16.7	>85	>12.7
Viaduct	03/08/2017	13.6	16.4	22.8	4.6	21.8	37.9	21.3	>85	>12.7
Mid-Payne	03/08/2017	15.8	16.7	22.2	4.7	23.7	41	16.1	80.8	11.8
Jacobs 2	03/08/2017	10.3	16.7	27	5.5	21.1	38	13.6	>85	12.5
Front Payne	05/09/2017	8.8	15.7	25	5	26.4	41	8.6	81.1	11.8
Schwass	04/10/2017	16.4	13	29	5	21.4	44.5	10.2	90.3	>12.7
Jacobs 2	31/10/2017	16.6	16.2	26.8	10	39.7	10.6			12.6
Back Foster	05/12/2017	15.9	17.7	28.8	4.8	22.9	46.7	11.6	87.1	12.7
Old sheep yards	16/1/2018	13.0	13.2	30.1	4.5	25.6	52.7	3.1	82.4	12.0
Jacobs 4	6/2/2018	10.8	15.4	27.7	4.8	25.8	45.9	8.7	79.4	11.6

Kowhitirangi

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME/kg
6	7/6/2017	10.1	15	24.2	5	18.8	34.9	18.8	>85	>12.7
10	3/8/2017	10.7	17.6	21.0	4.7	25.2	44.8	15.4	80.9	11.6
21	6/9/2017	10.6	15.4	23.6	3.8	22.8	42.4	14.3	89.1	>12.7
4	5/10/2017	9.9	13.8	21.5	4.4	21.3	37.9	16.1	89.0	>12.7
2	1/11/2017	10.4	15.6	21.0	9.5	41.6	11.2			12.1
33	6/12/2017	12.3	19.1	24.6	4.2	24.3	55.1	9.2	84.9	12.4
27	17/1/2018	14.3	12.0	27.5	3.9	25.4	53.8	4.3	84.2	12.3
16	7/2/2018	13.9	14.6	24.1	3.4	25.9	47.8	6.2	81.4	11.9