Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 27th May 2020

CO Comment

Last week the Government made some announcements regarding the Essential Freshwater Package. We will start to see some changes around freshwater management. Now is a good time to acquaint yourself with your on farm nutrient numbers and begin to make a plan on how the requirements will be met in your business.
Keeping in mind that this is still very new, there are some good resources online around the basics of nutrient function and management. Understanding the basics is a good place to start as we see this policy progress.
Nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) are only two of many nutrients that are essential to plant growth and function when applied strategically, they increase pasture growth. The input of N and P to a water body can have serious impacts on water quality. Understanding the N and P cycles, and how the nutrients can move from farmland into water bodies, is an essential first step to managing these nutrients efficiently on your farm.

Knowing your farm's soils and their drainage qualities is important as this influences how much nitrate and phosphate may be lost to the environment. Most farms have multiple soil types on their property; therefore, the risk of nutrient losses will vary across and between farms.

Remember all water in a catchment is connected. Be aware of the location of water bodies (e.g. streams, rivers, creeks, drains, ponds and wetlands) on your farm and where they flow.

All farms have several hotspots for nutrient losses. To familiarise yourself with these have a look at https://www.dairynz.co.nz/environment/nutrient-management/ where you can download a number of resources to assist you with making your plan.

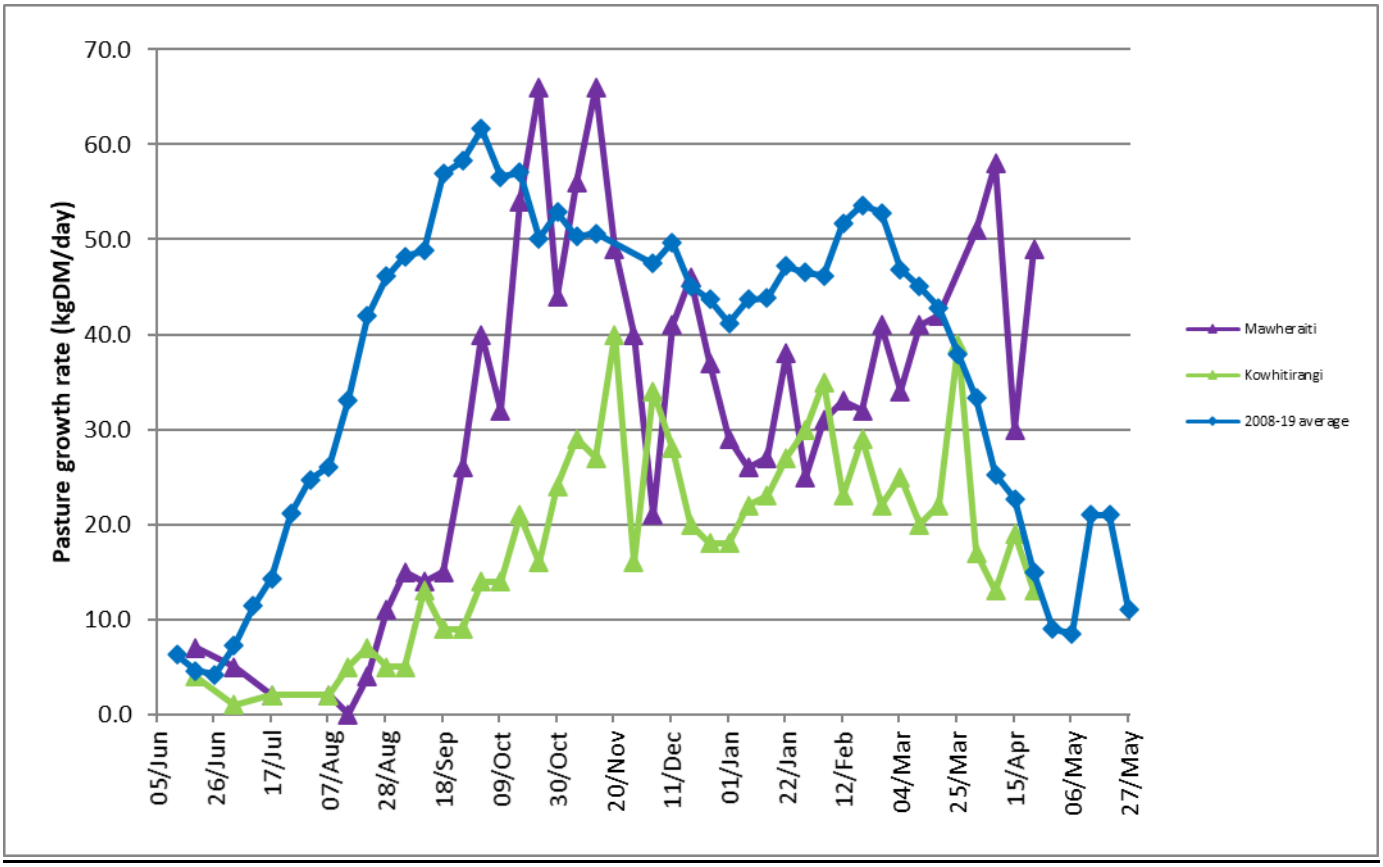
There will be more specifics around the policy detail communicated to you, but the above resources are a good place to start.

Farm Summary

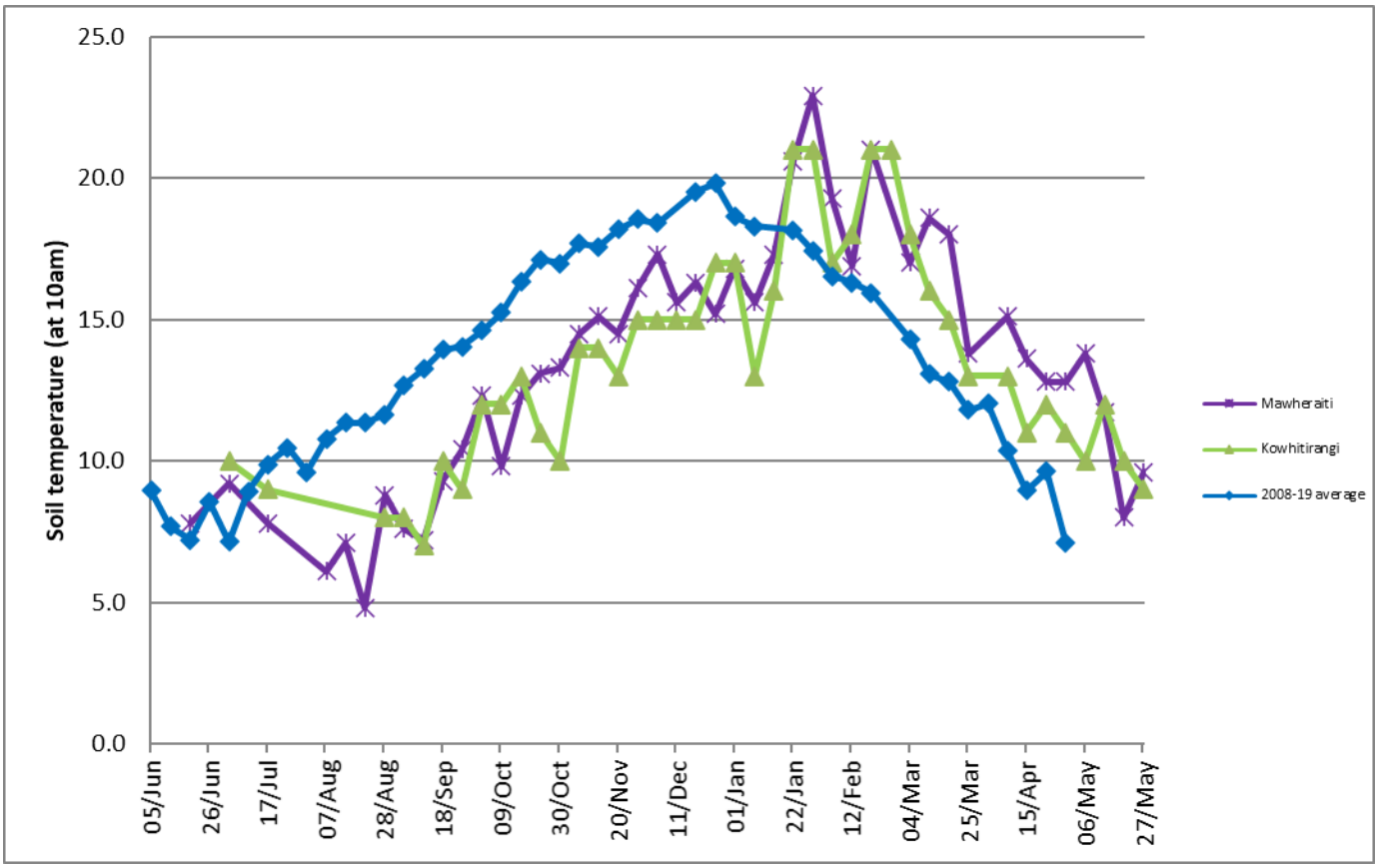
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	1986	1876
APC (20 May)	*2121*	*1865*
Rotation length (days)	33	
Stocking rate	2.0	
Percentage in milk	100	0
Milksolids kg/cow	1.21	0.68
Milksolids kg/ha	2.3	1.2
MS/cow (season to date)	419	464
MS/ha (season to date)	1053	924
N (kg/ha) year to date	275	282
Current N application rate kg N/ha	25	-
	2 Mar	4 Mar
DM%	11.4	11.6
Pasture ME	11.5	11.9
Pasture NDF	48.4	45.0
Pasture CP	28.5	29.5
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	17	
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	4	
Soil temperature (°C)	9.6	9
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	14	8
Rainfall	40	24
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine day, farm very wet	Fine, frost, beautiful

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

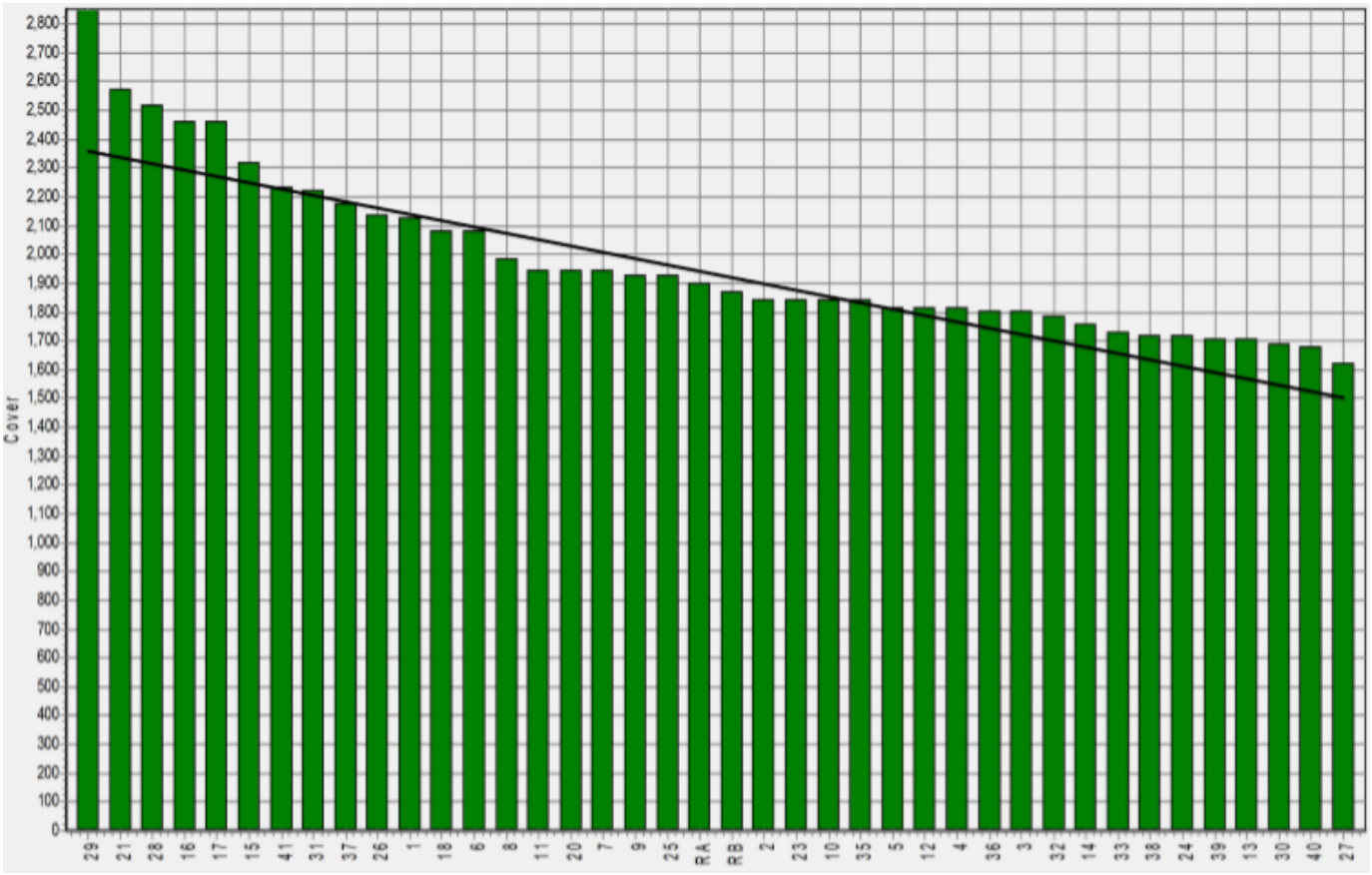
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



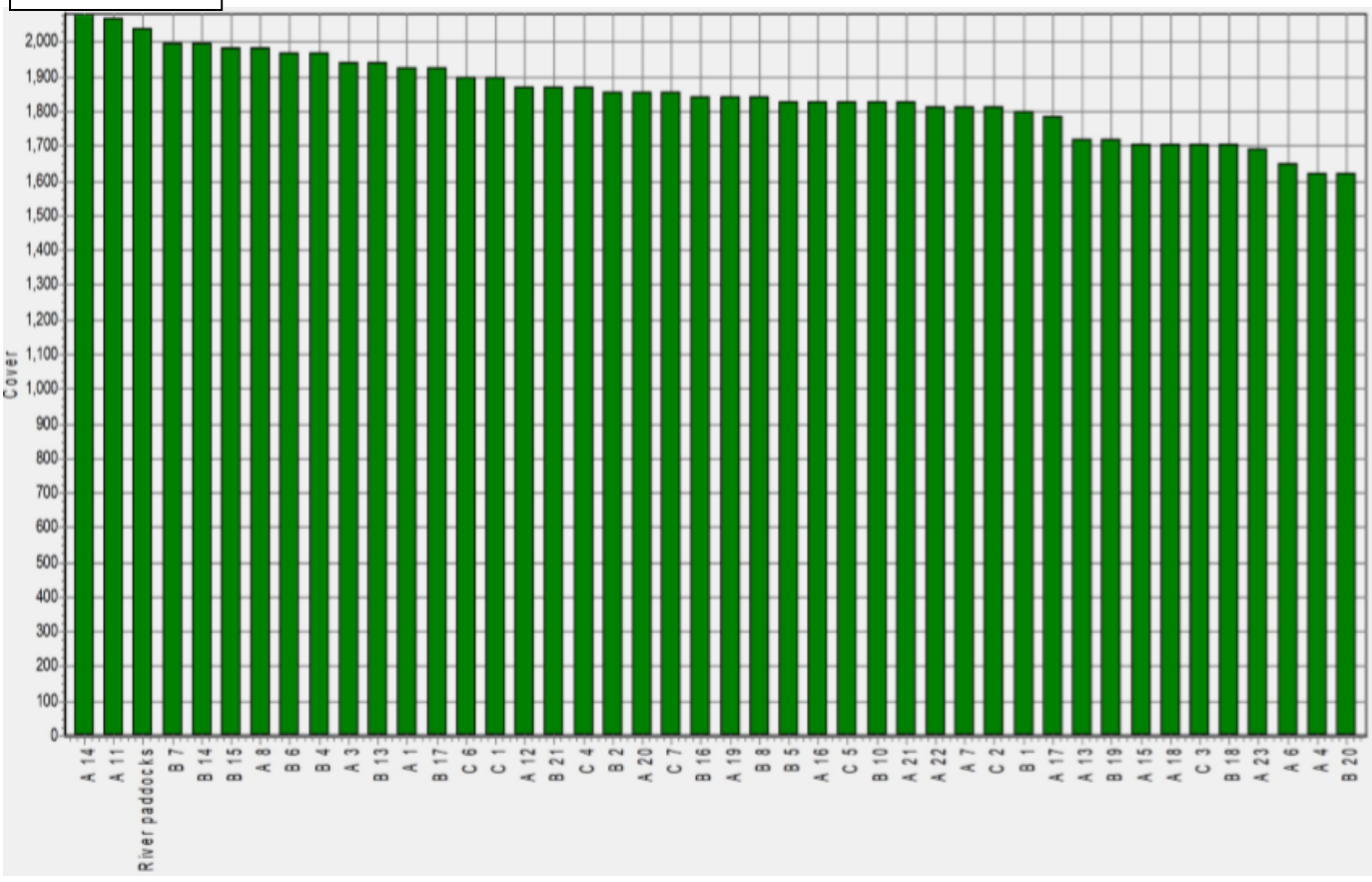
Weekly Soil Temperature



Mawheraiti



Kowhitirangi



Mawheraiti

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME/kg
Paddock 2	15/07/19	15.4	12.7	30.2	3.8	19.2	38.4	8.5	88.8	13.0
Paddock 17	2/09/19	16.8	15.5	24.0	4.7	11.4	48.3	12.0	84.4	12.3
Paddock 2	4/11/19	13.0	15.4	16.3	3.4	22.1	46.6	16.5	83.2	12.2
Paddock 10	2/12/19	17.7	15.3	20.6	3.2	23.0	44.0	10.0	79.7	11.6
Paddock 1	13/1/20	14.4	14.7	24.5	3.5	23.3	46.9	11.7	81.3	11.9
Paddock 24	3/2/20	10.8	13.2	25.0	3.4	25.3	47.1	5.7	79.8	11.6
Paddock 21	2/3/20	15.8	11.4	28.5	3.4	25.7	48.4	5.9	78.6	11.5

Kowhitirangi

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
Paddock 5b	17/07/19	13.8	14.3	24.3	3.9	18.4	43.1	14.2	85.2	12.4
Paddock 3c	4/09/19	10.8	17.3	24.0	3.5	15.7	36.1	21.1	>85	12.6
Paddock 9b	9/10/19	8.9	15.0	25.6	3.3	22.3	45.2	10.5	83.3	12.2
Paddock 15a	6/11/19	9.0	13.5	23.7	3.8	20.4	43.8	12.2	>85	12.5
Paddock 13a	4/12/19	13.3	11.5	29.4	3.2	24.5	43.3	6.4	85.0	12.4
Paddock 13b	15/1/20	10.0	19.5	18.8	3.4	24.1	44.7	13.8	76.8	11.2
Paddock 4a	5/2/20	13.8	9.9	24.8	3.3	30.5*	53.1	2.1	76.0	11.1
Paddock 14a	4/3/20	16.0	11.6	29.5	3.3	22.9	45.0	6.4	81.7	11.9

* Test analytes which have occurred as outliers on the NIRS calibration are indicated by * and should be treated as an approximation only.