

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 29th January 2020

CO Comment

Some welcome rain this week for many areas on the West Coast. It is starting to dry out rather quickly and some consideration may be needed on how best to manage pasture and herd diet if this weather pattern is going to be consistent going forward.

The primary differences between summer and spring pastures are, in summer dry regions, leaf emergence rate and pasture growth rates are slower due to reduced moisture. Slowing down the round or increasing the number of days in the rotation to capture the three-leaf stage will help maximise growth during the summer and increase feed available in autumn months.

In summer-dry non-irrigated regions, high air temperatures and moisture stress can cause a build-up of dead material in the pasture base. It is a timely reminder that due to this dead matter the risk of increase in facial eczema spores is heightened. Talk to your vet regarding spore counting. The dead material may increase dry matter percentage and fibre content, but also reduces pasture quality; this needs to be considered when allocating daily pasture allowances.

For most farms, protein will not be limiting production as crude protein content in pastures is rarely less than 16%. The requirement for a mid-lactation cow is 16% protein.

Protein may be limiting production where a low-protein supplement is fed. A protein supplement being necessary or not will be dependent on the average protein content of the cow's diet especially if a high proportion of the diet is supplemented.

If protein is limiting production during the summer months in a pasture-based system, supplements high in undegradable dietary protein (UDP) are required to generate a milksolids response. Feeding supplements high in rumen-degradable protein (RDP) or non-protein nitrogen will not improve production.

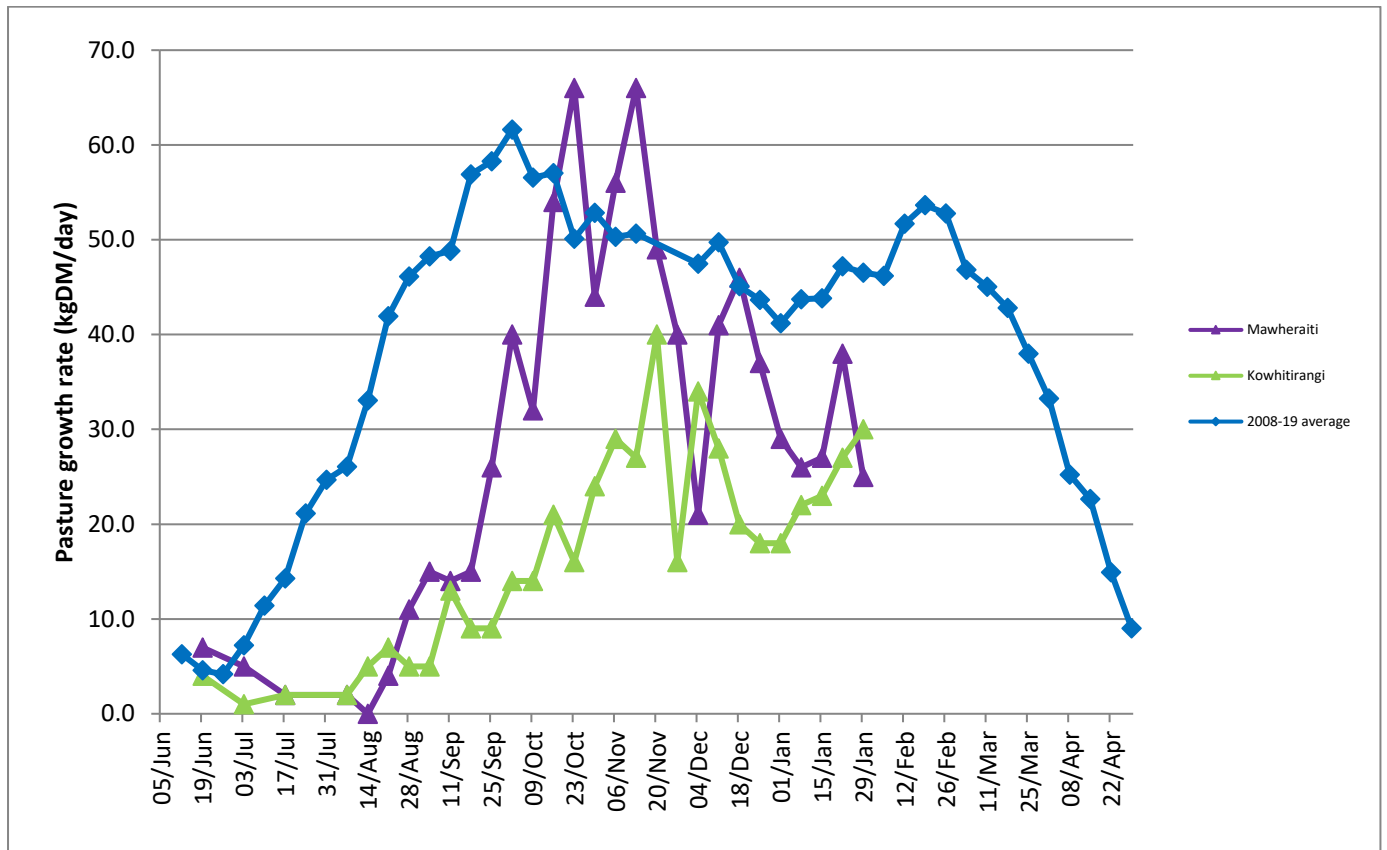
The West Coast Monitor Farm Field Days are on the horizon. Check [the DairyNZ West Coast events page](#) for more details.

Farm Summary

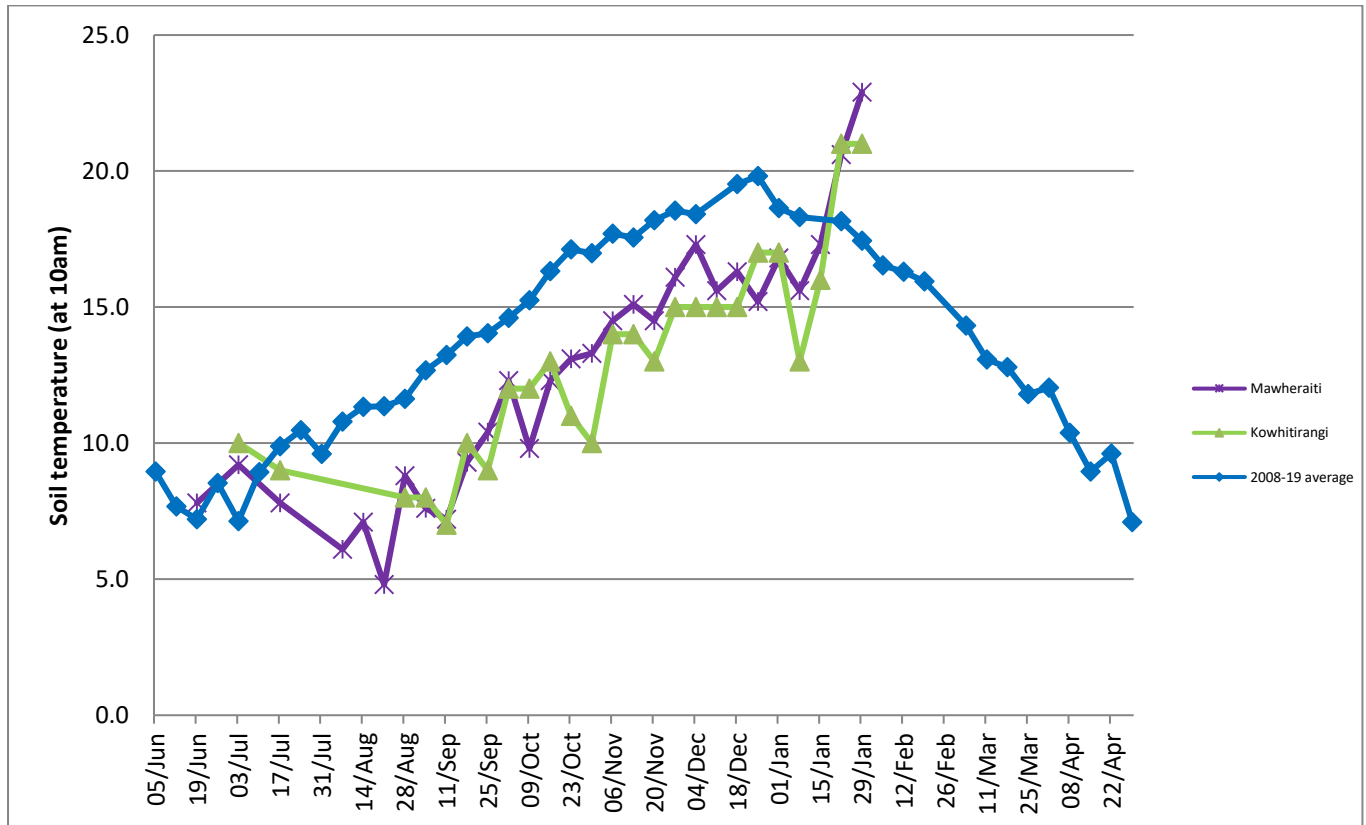
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2047	1996
APC (22 January)	2063	1957
Rotation length (days)	27	22
Stocking rate	2.4	2.3
Percentage in milk	100	100
Milksolids kg/cow	1.59	1.59
Milksolids kg/ha	3.8	3.3
MS/cow (season to date)	261	297
MS/ha (season to date)	653	592
N (kg/ha) year to date	139	175
Current N application rate kg N/ha	33	-
	13 Jan	15 Jan
DM%	14.7	19.5
Pasture ME	11.9	11.2
Pasture NDF	46.9	44.7
Pasture CP	24.5	18.8
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	17	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	0	2
Soil temperature (°C)	22.9	21
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	25	30
Rainfall	0	30
Conditions for farmwalk	Very hot and fine	Heavy rain

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

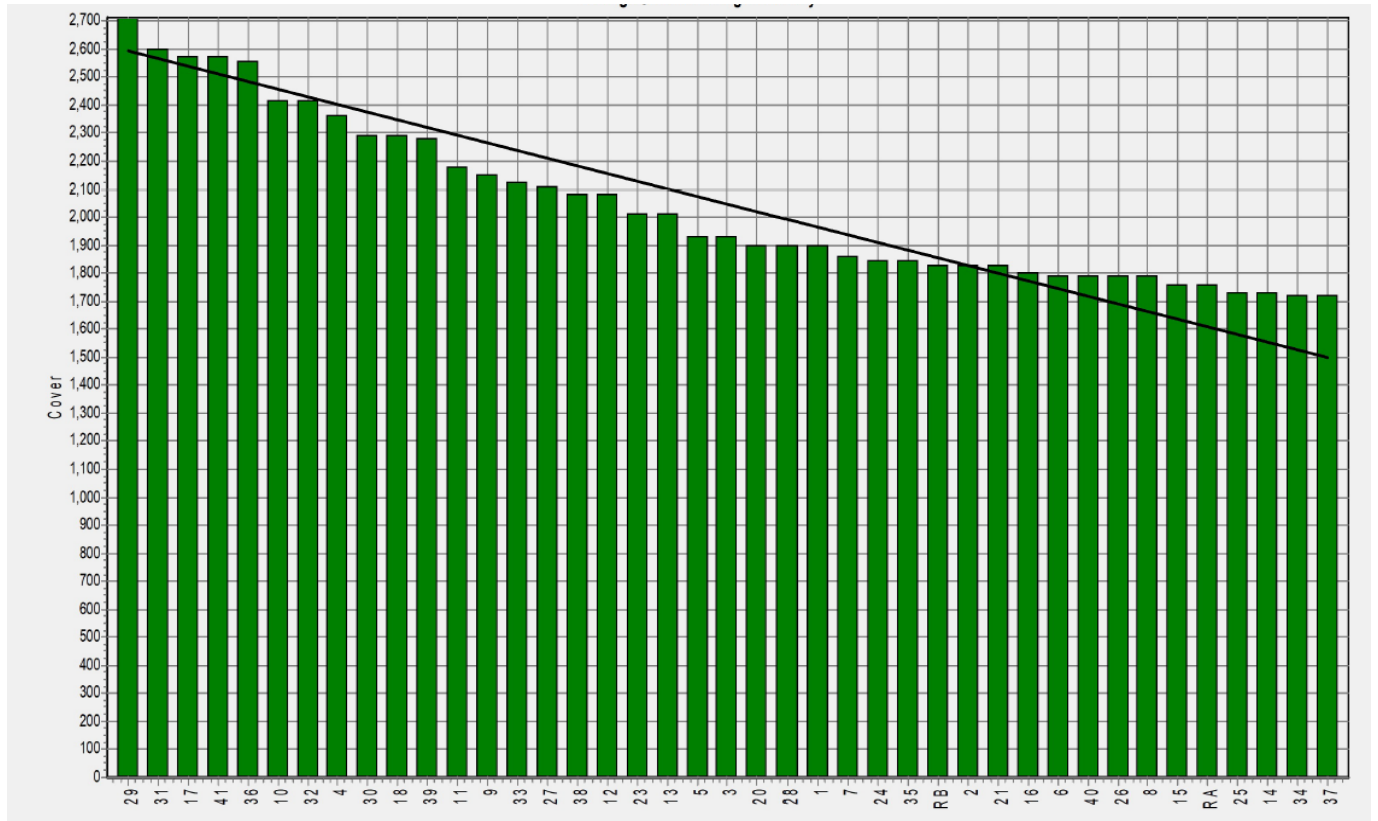
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



Weekly Soil Temperature



Mawheraiti



Kowhitirangi

