

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 14 October 2020

CO Comment

Following on from last week's farmwatch, do not forget about prepping your Yearlings for mating. Yearling heifers should be at, or above, 60% of their expected mature liveweight by the planned start of mating to optimise in calf rates. In practice, there may be times when some heifers are below this target. If a group of heifers are at less than 50% of their expected mature liveweight at the planned start of mating, there will be a significant proportion that will not have reached puberty and will not cycle.

Some heifers may be too small or of low BCS, that they are not suitable for mating. In this situation, consult your vet to develop a plan for these animals to give them the best possible chance to get in calf. Review feeding levels for underweight yearlings and the quality and crude protein levels of the feed they receive, as well as quantity.

Select bulls of a size and temperament that are less likely to injure heifers at mating, and for calving ease.

Excessively small heifers should be withheld from mating for their own health and wellbeing. They should either be grown until they meet minimum mating weights or culled. Heifers represent the future of your dairy herd. Focusing on them now will ensure they have the best chance at getting pregnant and performing through to maturity.

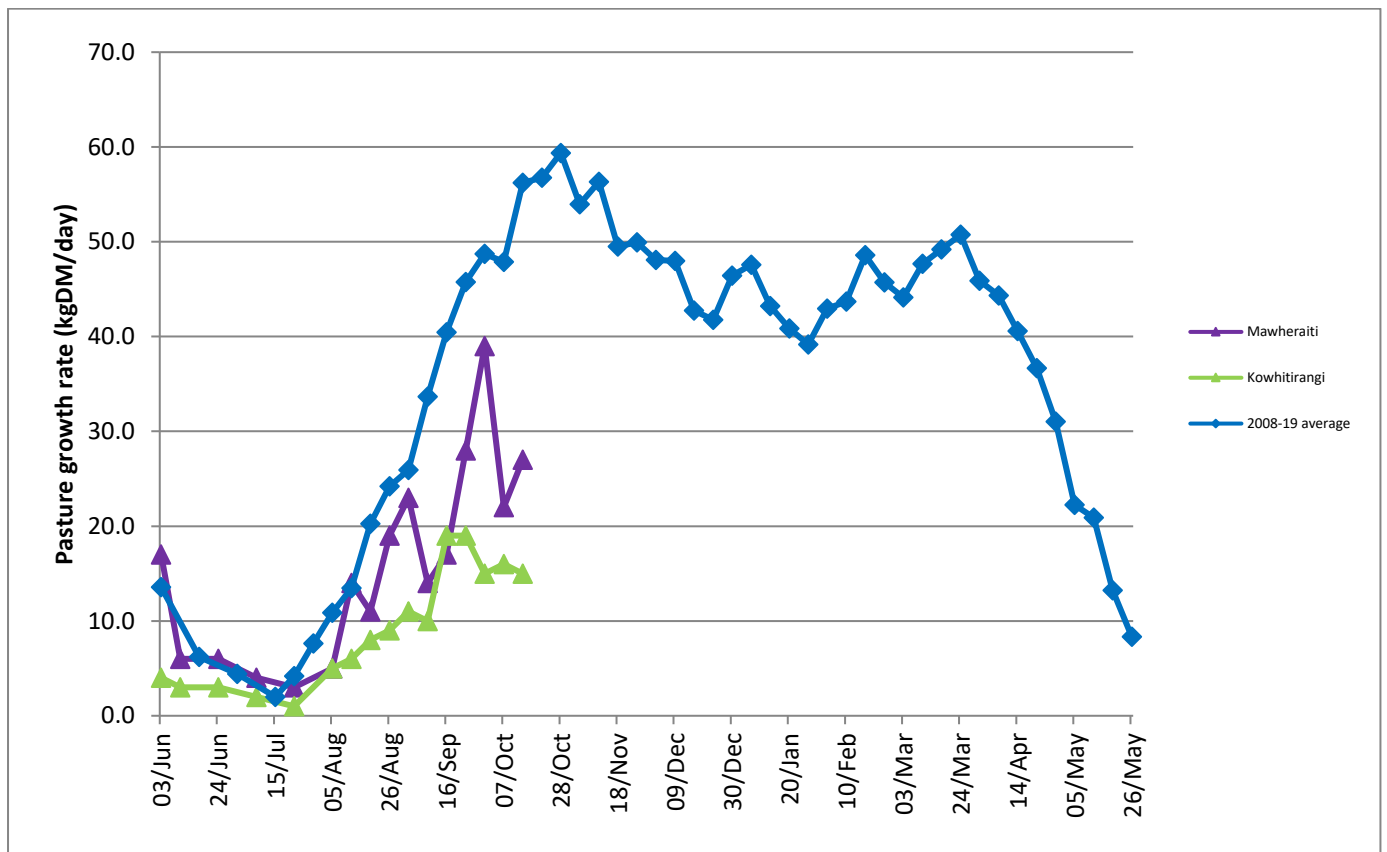
For a successful mating most of the investment is time, not cash. Have simple systems in place, with people clear about their roles and actions required. Start preparation early as the more time you spend preparing for a successful mating the higher your chances are of actually having one.

Farm Summary

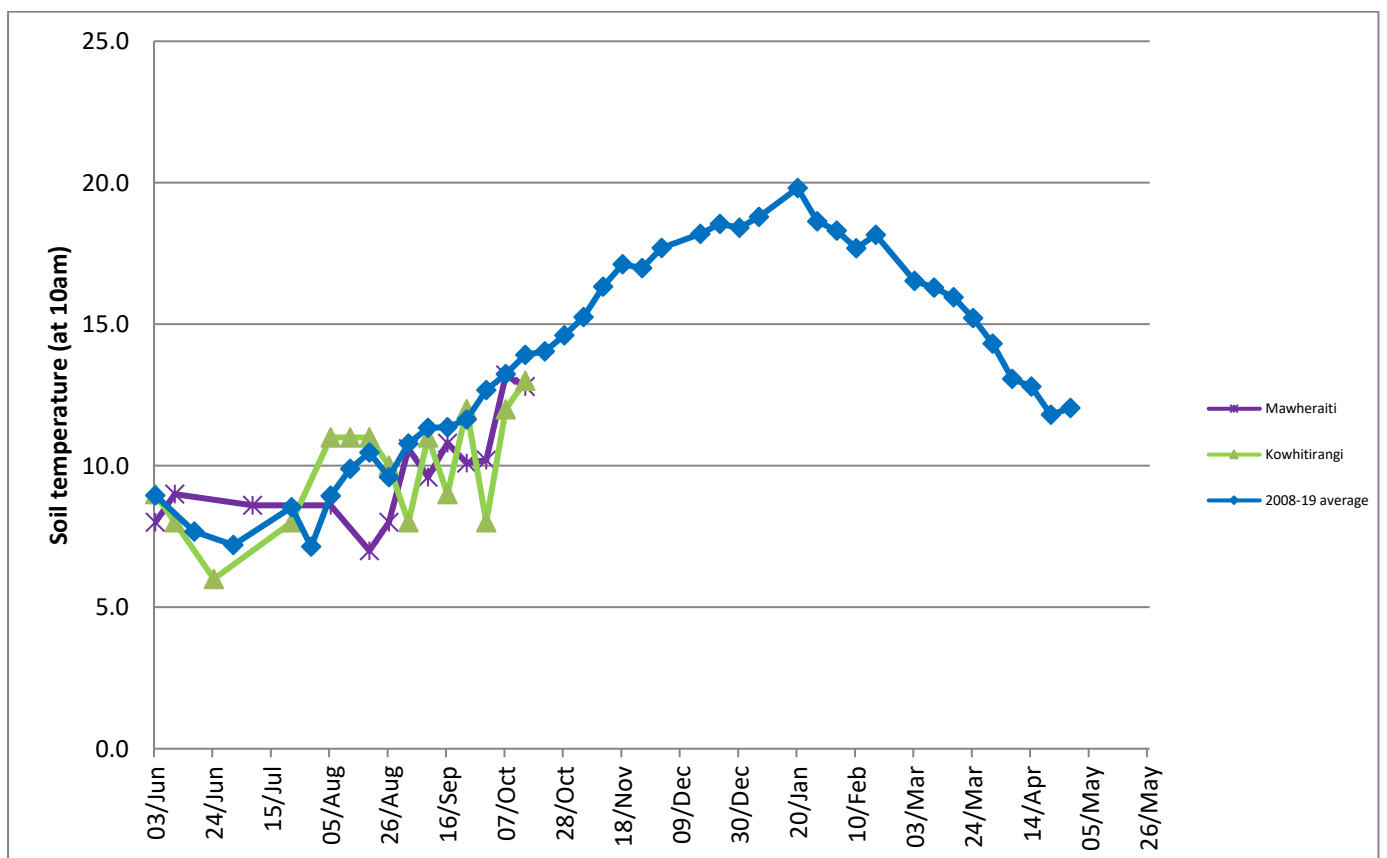
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2032	1948
APC (7 October)	2139	1930
Rotation length (days)	28	25
Stocking rate	2.3	2.2
Percentage in milk	94%	99%
Milksolids kg/cow	2.21	1.71
Milksolids kg/ha	5.0	3.7
MS/cow (season to date)	82	84
MS/ha (season to date)	208	187
N (kg/ha) year to date	70	70
Current N application rate kg N/ha	30	39
	31 Aug	2 Sept
DM%	15	17.3
Pasture ME	12.1	>12.7
Pasture NDF	44.9	42.3
Pasture CP	29.6	25.8
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	2.3	3.2
Soil temperature (°C)	12.8	13.0
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	27	15
Rainfall	50	117
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine	Pouring rain, windy and cold. Cleared in pm but still very cold wind.

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

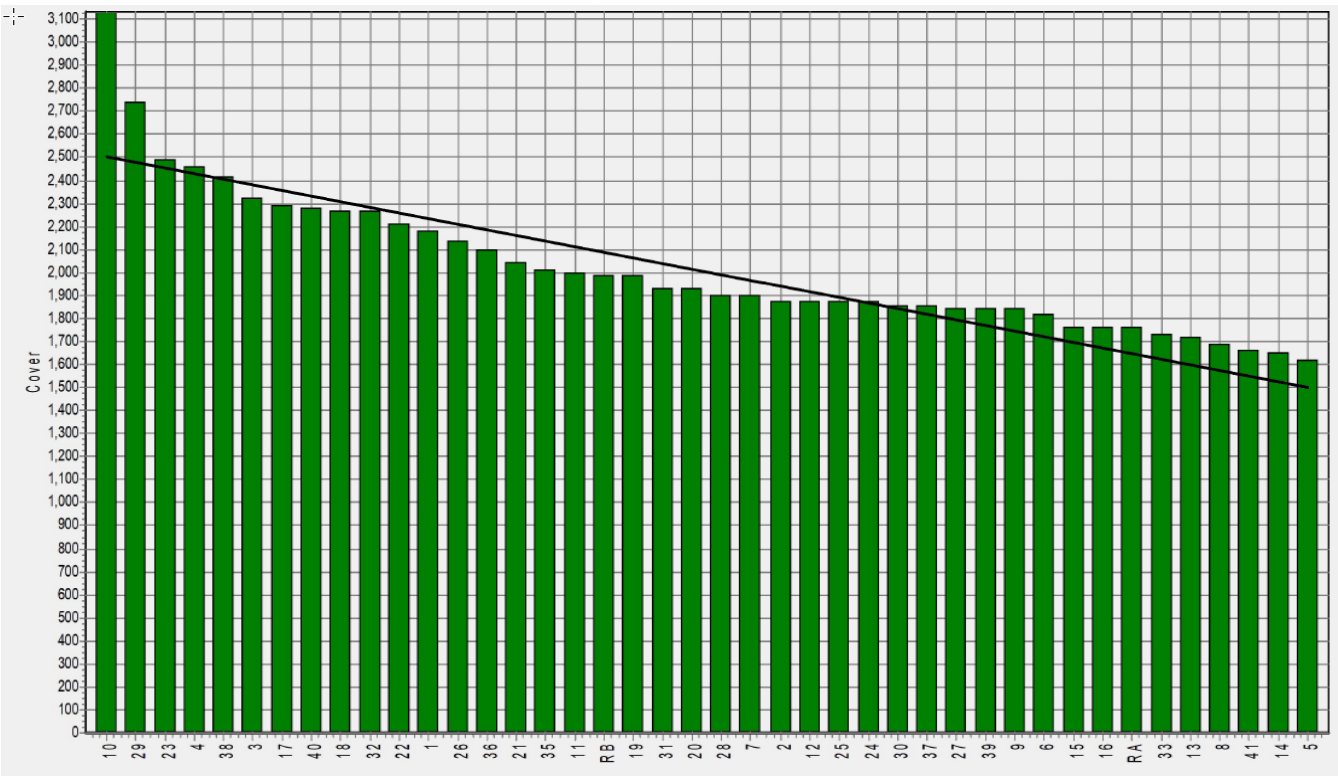
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



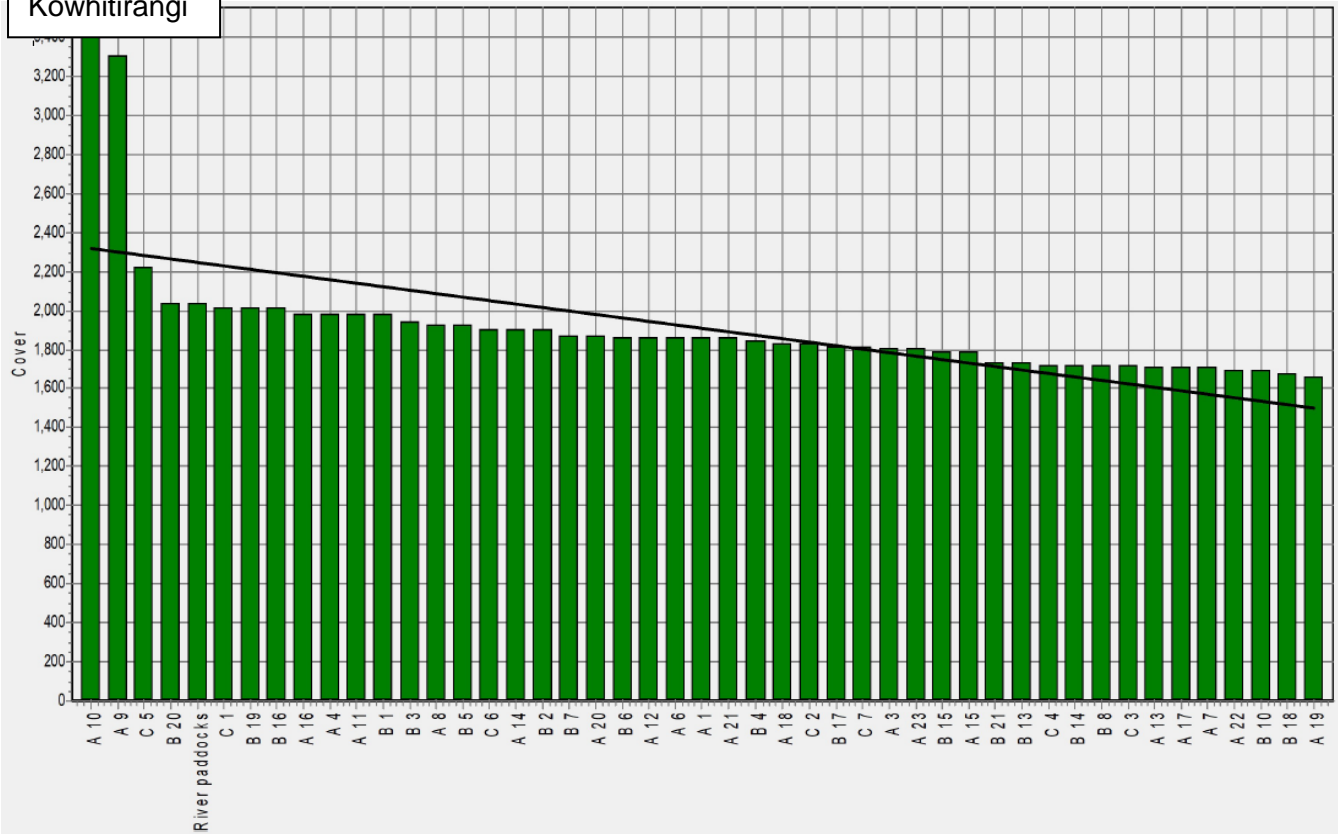
Weekly Soil Temperature



Mawheraiti



Kowhitirangi



Kowhitirangi

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
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
Paddock 17b	10/6/20	10.8	13.6	28.3	3.8	17.4	33.6	14.0	88.3	12.9
Paddock 13b	7/7/20	8.0	11.8	29.4	4.1	21.7	44.6	10.0	84.6	12.3
Paddock 3c	5/8/20	10.2	11.7	30.9	4.3	23.5	45.9	7.1	81.3	11.9
Paddock 4a	2/9/20	11.8	17.3	25.8	4.2	21.5	42.3	12.0	>85	>12.7

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