

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 16 September 2020

CO Comment

Before mating it is important to know what percentage of the herd has not yet been detected on heat. There is still plenty of time before mating starts to do a pre-mating tail paint which can help determine this. Knowing how many animals have not cycled pre-mating can allow for decisions to be made to improve the mating programme for these animals. Intervening early will allow for better outcomes. Talk to your vet early regarding intervention options for non-cyclers.

Have a look at some options in the InCalf book which is a must have for all dairy farmers at <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/media/5789084/the-incalf-book.pdf>

After determining the health status of non-cyclers it is beneficial to identify cows and heifers that are below target BCS and management strategies implemented to ensure they are in a positive energy balance through the mating period. Milking these cows once a day for several weeks, while ensuring adequate energy intake, will support a positive energy balance situation.

Even if cows continue to be milked twice daily, identifying and separating any younger, thinner cows from the main herd and preferentially feeding them with good quality pasture (and supplements if necessary), will remove competition from more dominant cows and improve energy status and BCS. This will increase the potential for a more successful mating result.

If cow BCS and pasture residuals are on target, adding supplements to the diet will not improve reproduction. However, if you do need supplements, use good-quality supplements that are free from spoilage.

There is no reproductive benefit of feeding high-starch supplements, such as grains, compared with high-fibre feeds (e.g. PKE or pasture silage) Therefore, your decisions on supplement type should be based on the cost/benefit of the predicted milksolids response.

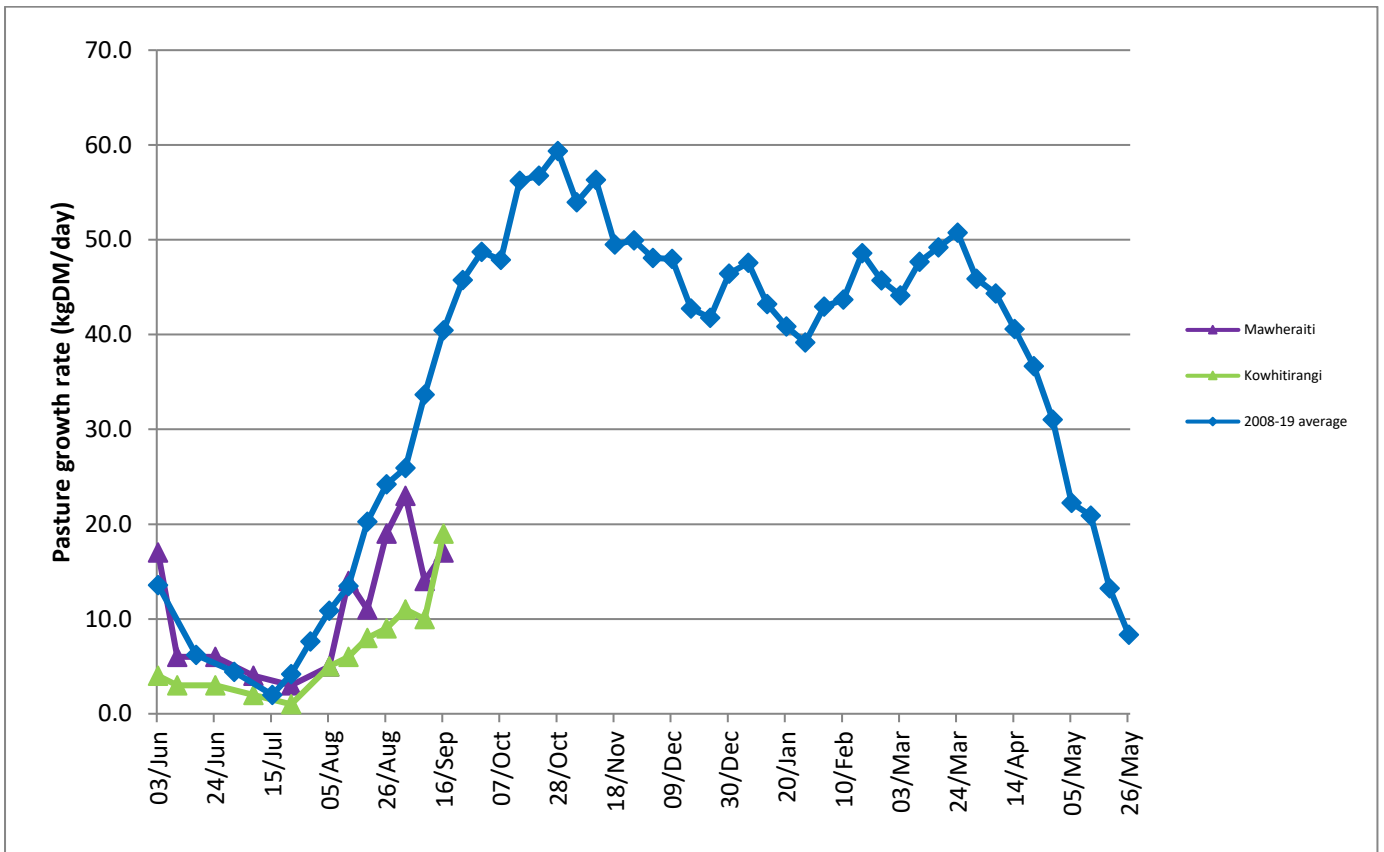
With the recent wet weather, you might find your calf rearing sheds a bit damp/wet through there not being enough 'drying time' throughout the day. Calf health breakdowns become more common later in the calving period. A build-up of bugs in housing can cause problems. Spread older calves outdoors with adequate shelter, to reduce contamination and continue to ensure any new calves get colostrum. For tips on calf care visit <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/calves/>

Farm Summary

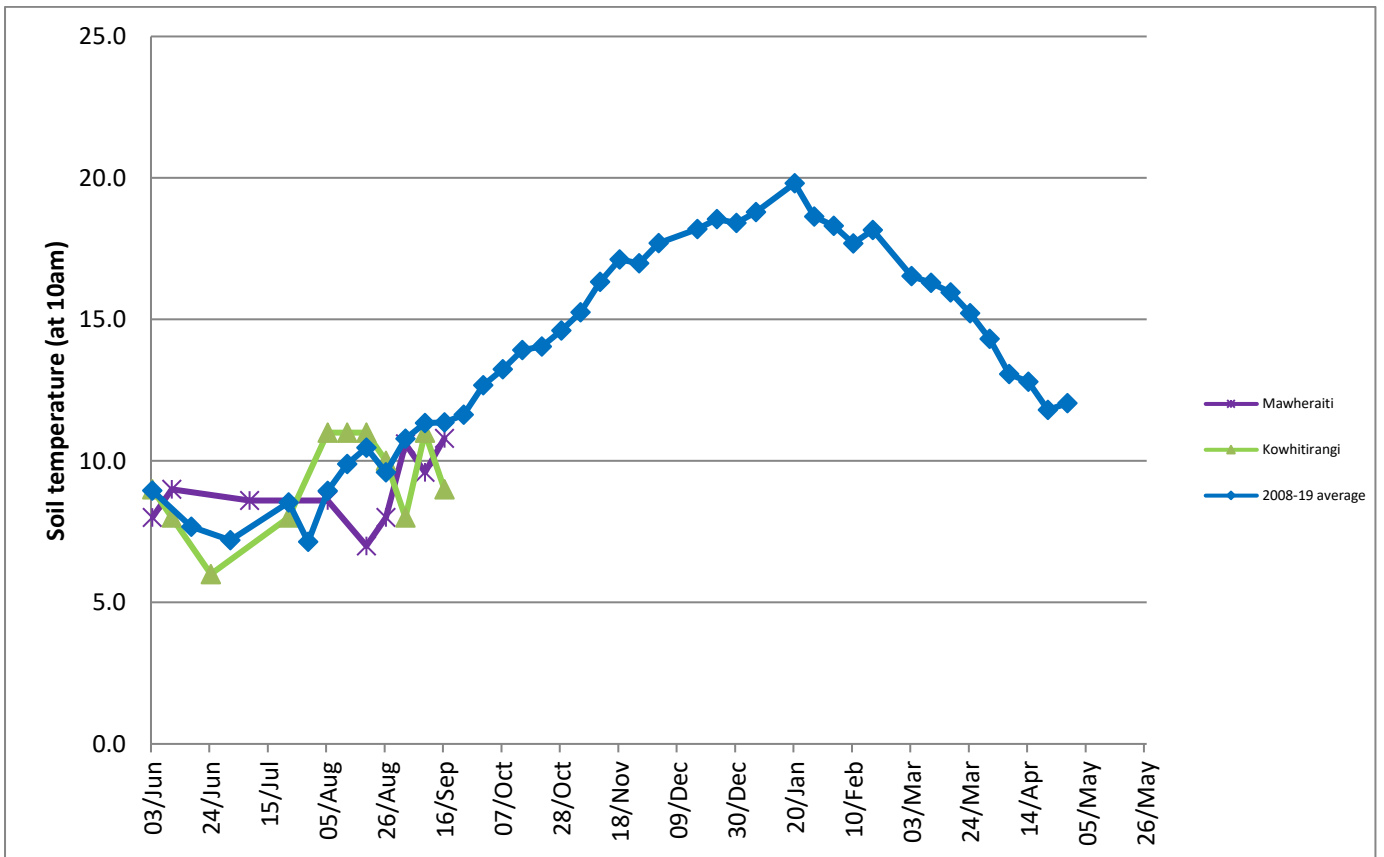
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2244	1962
APC (19 August)	2266	1915
Rotation length (days)	64	30
Stocking rate	1.9	1.8
Percentage in milk	78%	91%
Milksolids kg/cow	1.88	1.82
Milksolids kg/ha	3.5	3.4
MS/cow (season to date)	34	35
MS/ha (season to date)	85	79
N (kg/ha) year to date	35	22
Current N application rate kg N/ha	-	-
	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)	19	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	4.1	3.0
Soil temperature (°C)	10.8	9.0
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	17	19
Rainfall	6	110
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine and warm	Farm flooded, unable to walk, all readings estimated

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

Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



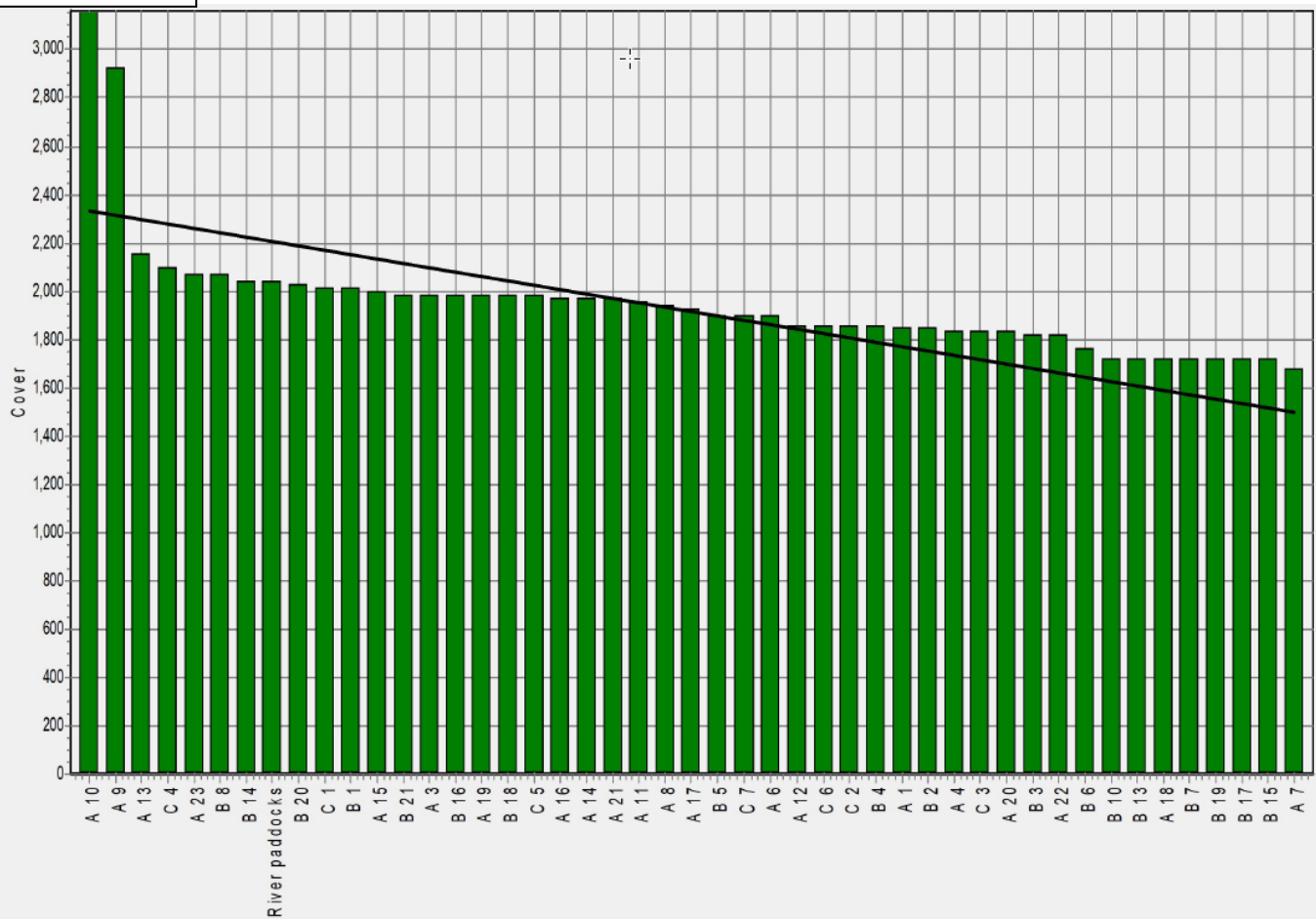
Weekly Soil Temperature



Mawheraiti



Kowhitirangi



Kowhitirangi

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
Paddock 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
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.