

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 2 December 2020

CO Comment

It is predicted that this summer will present us with a La Nina weather pattern. NIWA states the influence this will have on New Zealand will see North-easterly winds becoming more common and reduced rainfall to the lower and western South Island and bringing moist, rainy conditions to north-eastern areas of the North Island with warmer than average air and sea temperatures for the whole country.

It might not seem like it now, but it is important to have a summer management strategy for your farm. Successful summer management depends on planning, monitoring, and taking action. Planning a summer strategy in early December helps focus on the profitability of the herd's production for the remainder of the season and prevents next season from being compromised.

Be clear about target dates and trigger points for any feeding out and drying off decisions, culling decisions, and changes to milking frequency (16 hours/OAD). It is preferable to have these targets and dates in place now rather than waiting to see what happens. When these targeted dates arrive, with a well thought out plan in place there will only be 'yes' and 'no' decisions to make. Be realistic with estimates of supplement and milk prices, crop tonnages and pasture condition.

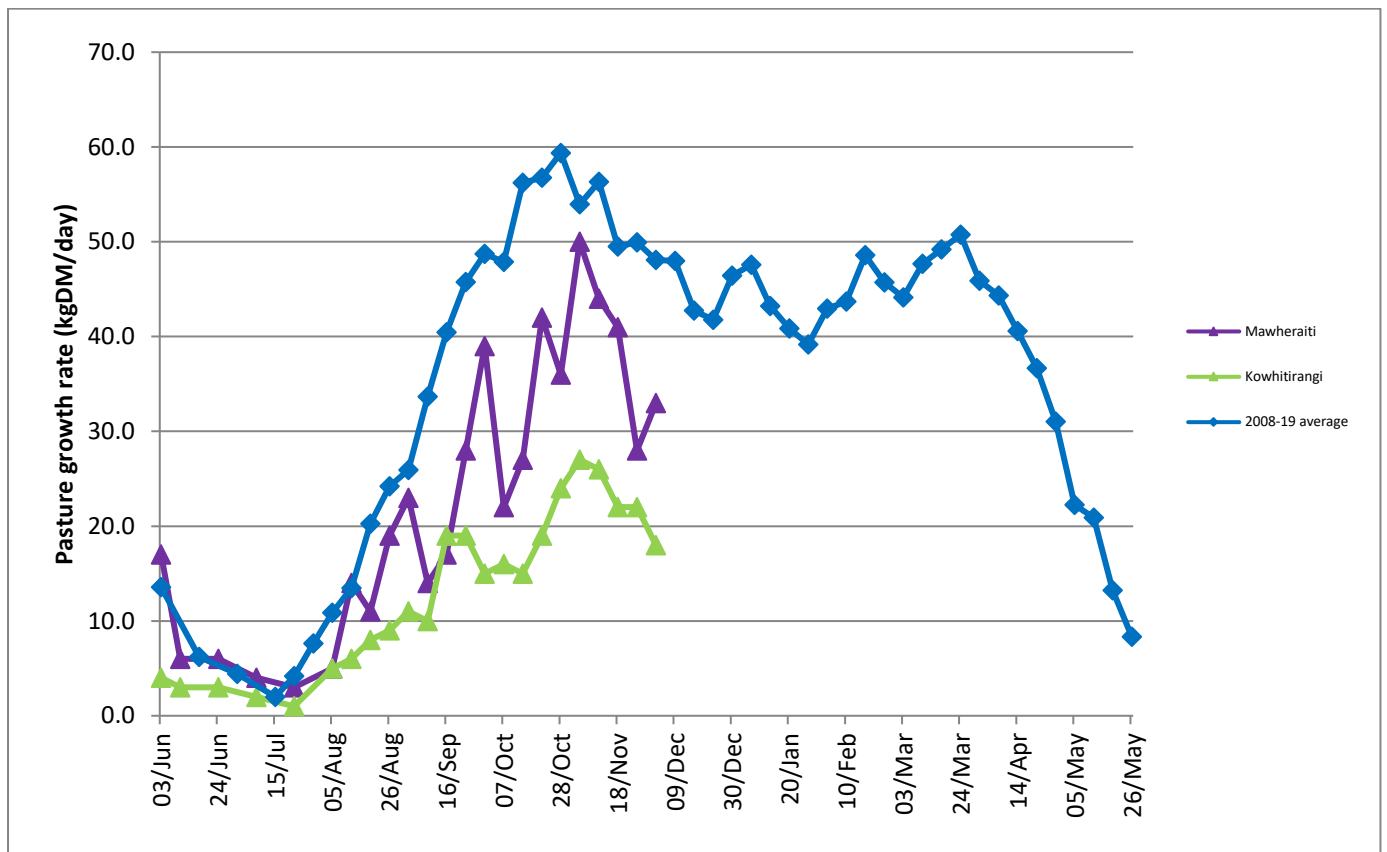
For many farms, winter and spring pasture damage and the subsequent weed burdens could change expectations about how these pastures will perform over summer. Determine the facts, like an estimate of how much less silage is on hand and how much less crop I will have. Assess and measure the size of any potential deficit and have a plan to cope.

Farm Summary

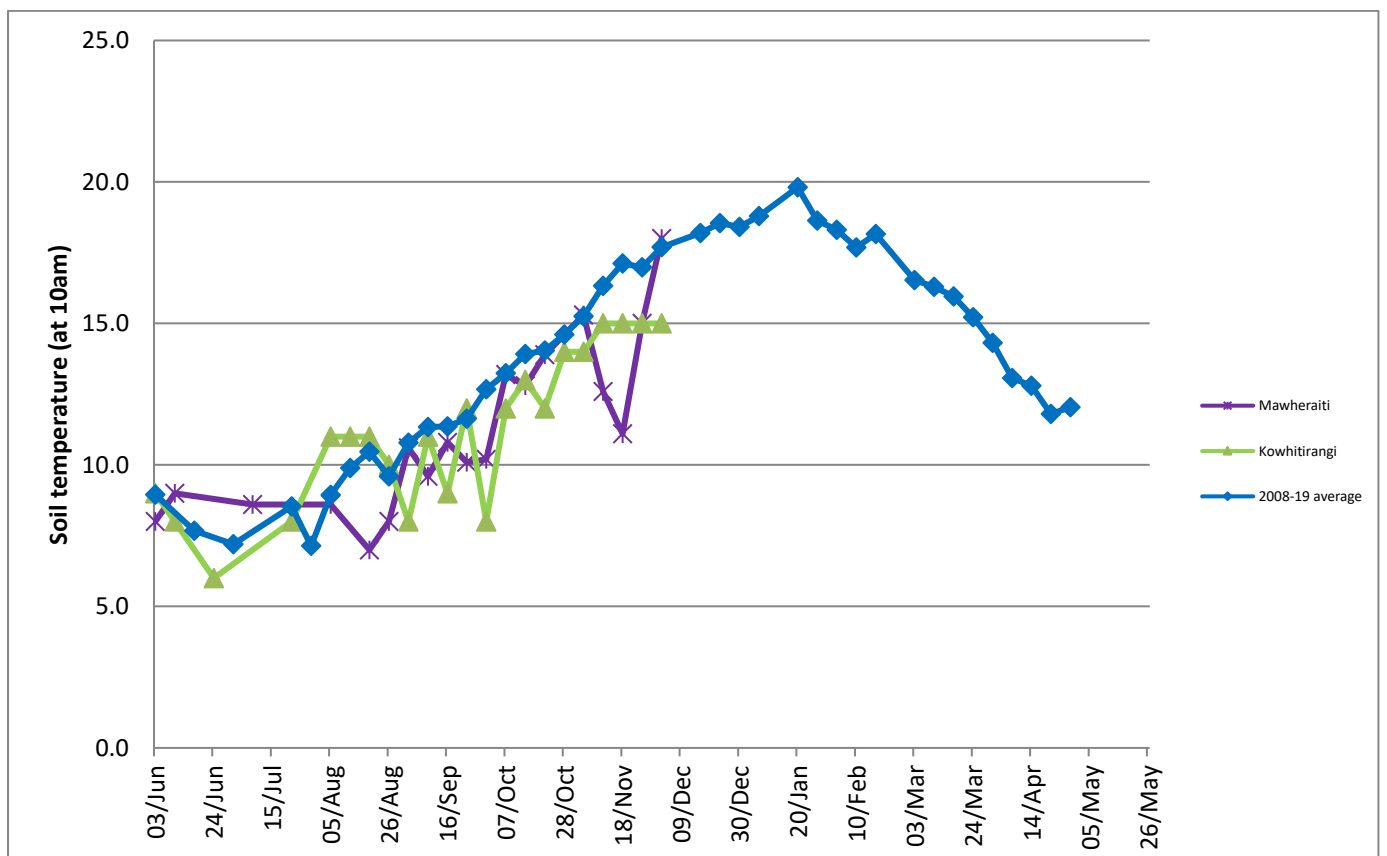
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2006	1943
APC (25 November)	2021	2011
Rotation length (days)	27	23
Stocking rate	2.3	2.3
Percentage in milk	100%	100%
Milksolids kg/cow	2.02	1.82
Milksolids kg/ha	4.7	4.1
MS/cow (season to date)	176	174
MS/ha (season to date)	446	388
N (kg/ha) year to date	112	110
Current N application rate kg N/ha	22	20
	2 Nov	4 Nov
DM%	13.6	10.9
Pasture ME	11.4	11.4
Pasture NDF	51.1	54.0
Pasture CP	24.6	27.6
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	3.7	2.5
Soil temperature (°C)	18	15
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	33	18
Rainfall	20	21
Conditions for farmwalk	Rain	Showers

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

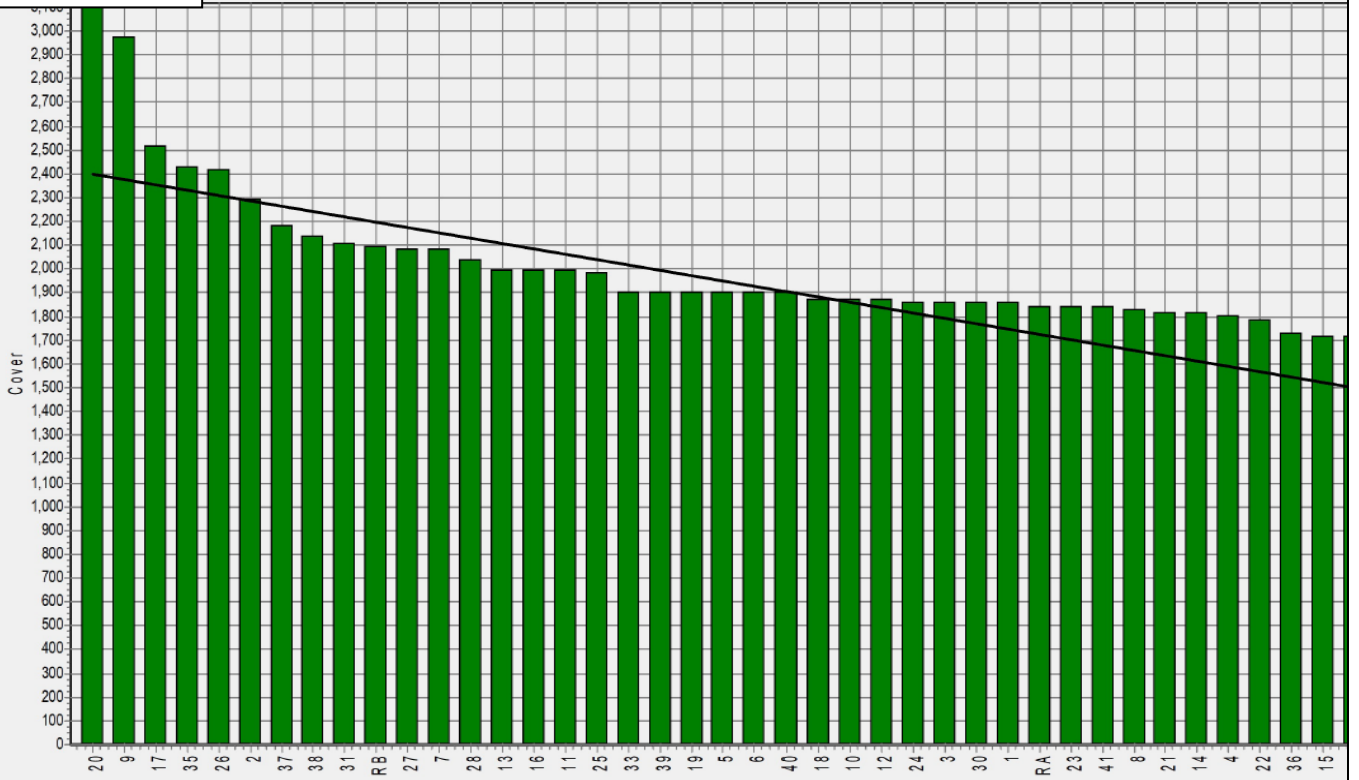
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



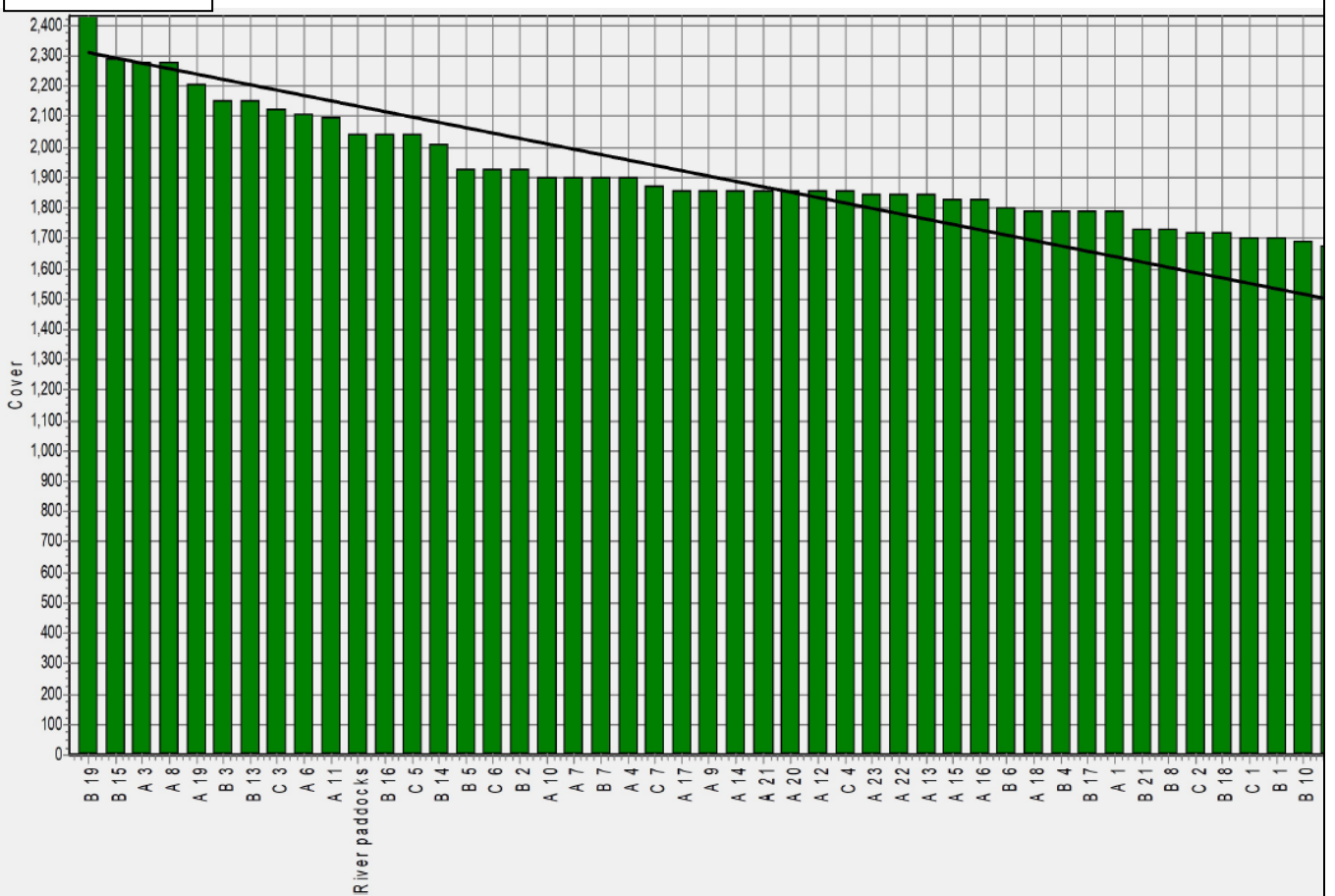
Weekly Soil Temperature



Mawheraiti



Kowhitirangi



Kowhitirangi

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
Paddock 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
Paddock 1	14/10/20	9.7	12.9	31.7	4.0	23.9	49.0	6.8	83.2	12.1
Paddock 19b	4/11/20	11.8	10.9	27.6	3.6	27.4	54.0	3.9	78.3	11.4

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