

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 21 April 2021

CO Comment

The end of the season is not that far away now, and a lot of the focus has been going on the milking cows and what is important for them at this stage of the season, but what about the replacement heifers due to come into the herd? How are they tracking? Regular weighing (or at the least, an assessment) of the replacement heifers goes a long way to ensuring that they hit their targets. Weighing by itself does not make them any heavier. You need to be using an interpretive tool such as MINDA Weights to provide feedback against what the animals could potentially weigh. Once you have determined the weights of the animals in the mob, you need to identify any that are below target and put in place a strategy to make sure they are able to meet the target mating weights.

Use all the information you can to formulate your strategy – your 2020 Fertility Report is a good place to start to identify any problem areas that may need to be improved. The pay-off is clear – well grown heifers that hit target weights will be more likely to get in-calf in the first 6 weeks of mating, have a longer lactation, re-conceive more readily as 3-year old's and as a result be more profitable over their lifetime.

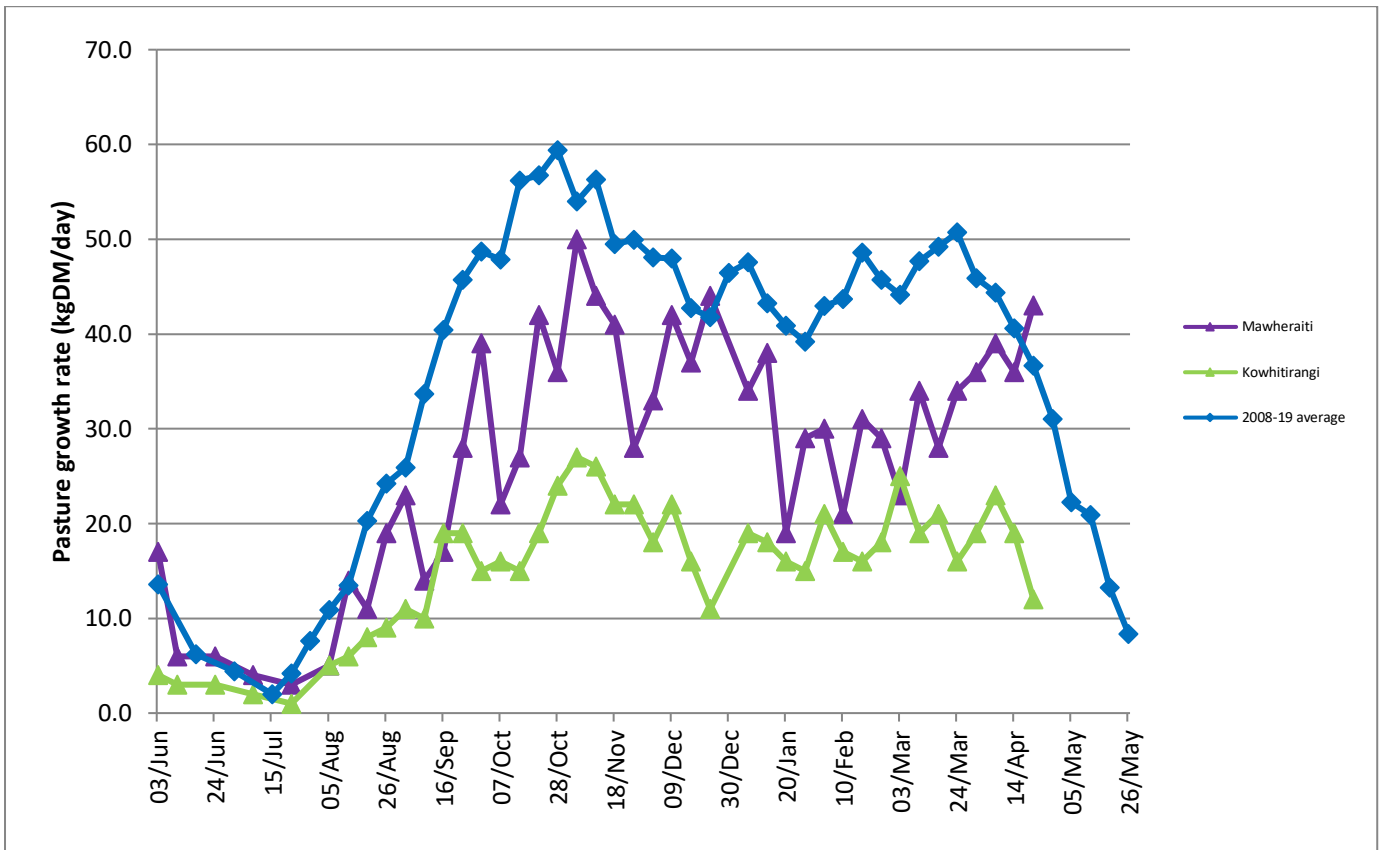
Not only is it important to monitor the weights and growth of these animals but it is also important to have a plan on how you will manage their transition into the herd. Will these animals be kept separate until they calve or mixed in with the main herd? If targets have been met, then by 22 months of age heifers should be ready to compete in a seasonal herd. Heifers will generally be at the bottom of the social hierarchy and are physically smaller than older cows, but you can minimise bullying by ensuring cows have sufficient space on tracks and in the yard. In large herds, separate mobs so heifers are not with dominant cows.

Farm Summary

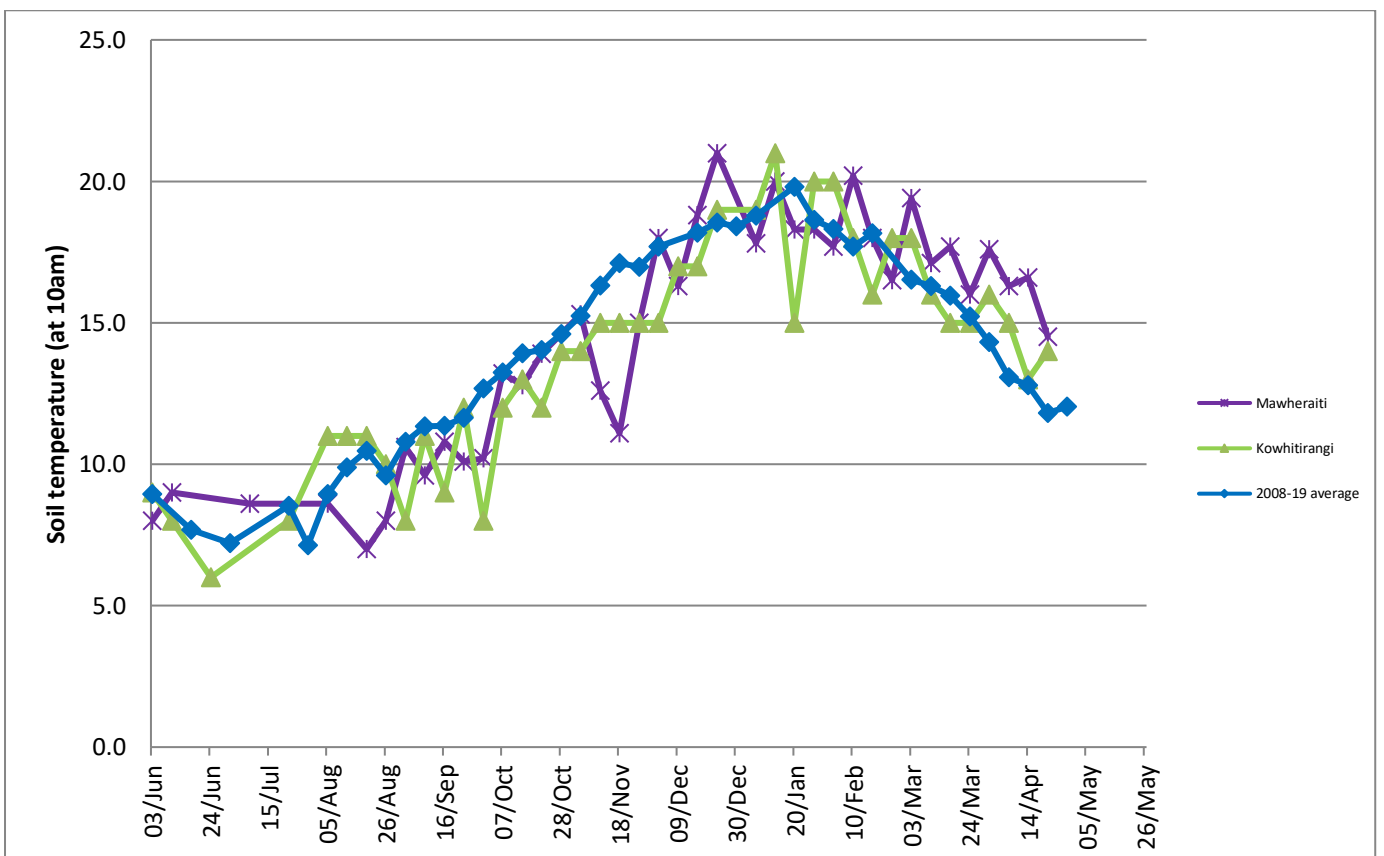
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2273	1916
APC (7 April)	2197	1993
Rotation length (days)	30	30
Stocking rate	2.4	2.2
Percentage in milk	100%	100%
Milksolids kg/cow	1.56	1.35
Milksolids kg/ha	3.4	3.1
MS/cow (season to date)	420	395
MS/ha (season to date)	992	850
N (kg/ha) year to date	239	194
Current N application rate kg N/ha	22	0
	7 April	12 April
DM%	11.7	9.8
Pasture ME	11.6	11.8
Pasture NDF	51.3	46.5
Pasture CP	28.0	26.0
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	3	2.4
Soil temperature (°C)	14.5	14
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	43	12
Rainfall	50	54
Conditions for farmwalk	Wet and cold	Warm and fine
Notes:	Has too much grass! What to do about that in April?	At the end of April R2s coming back home and R1s are not leaving, so extra mouths to feed

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

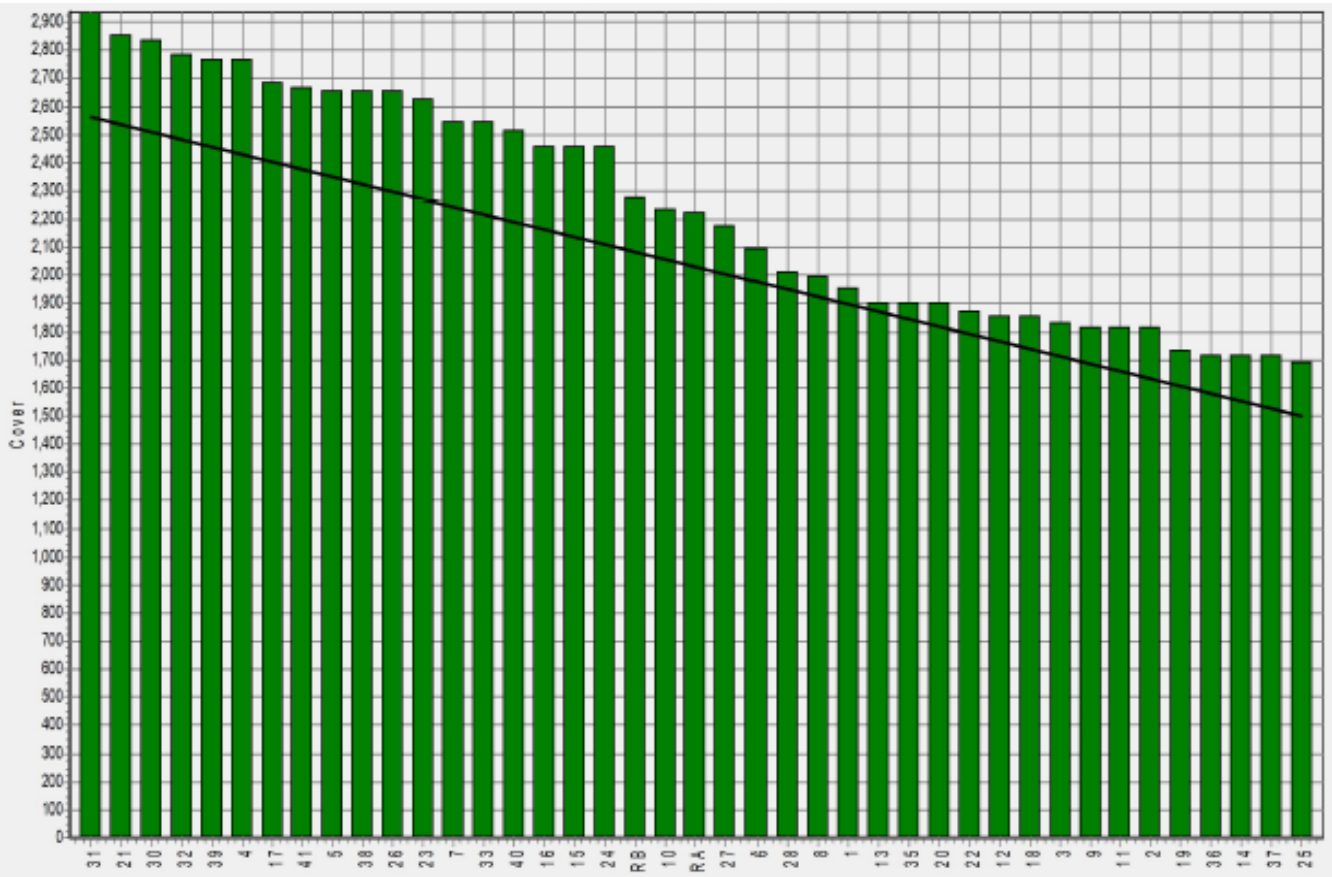
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



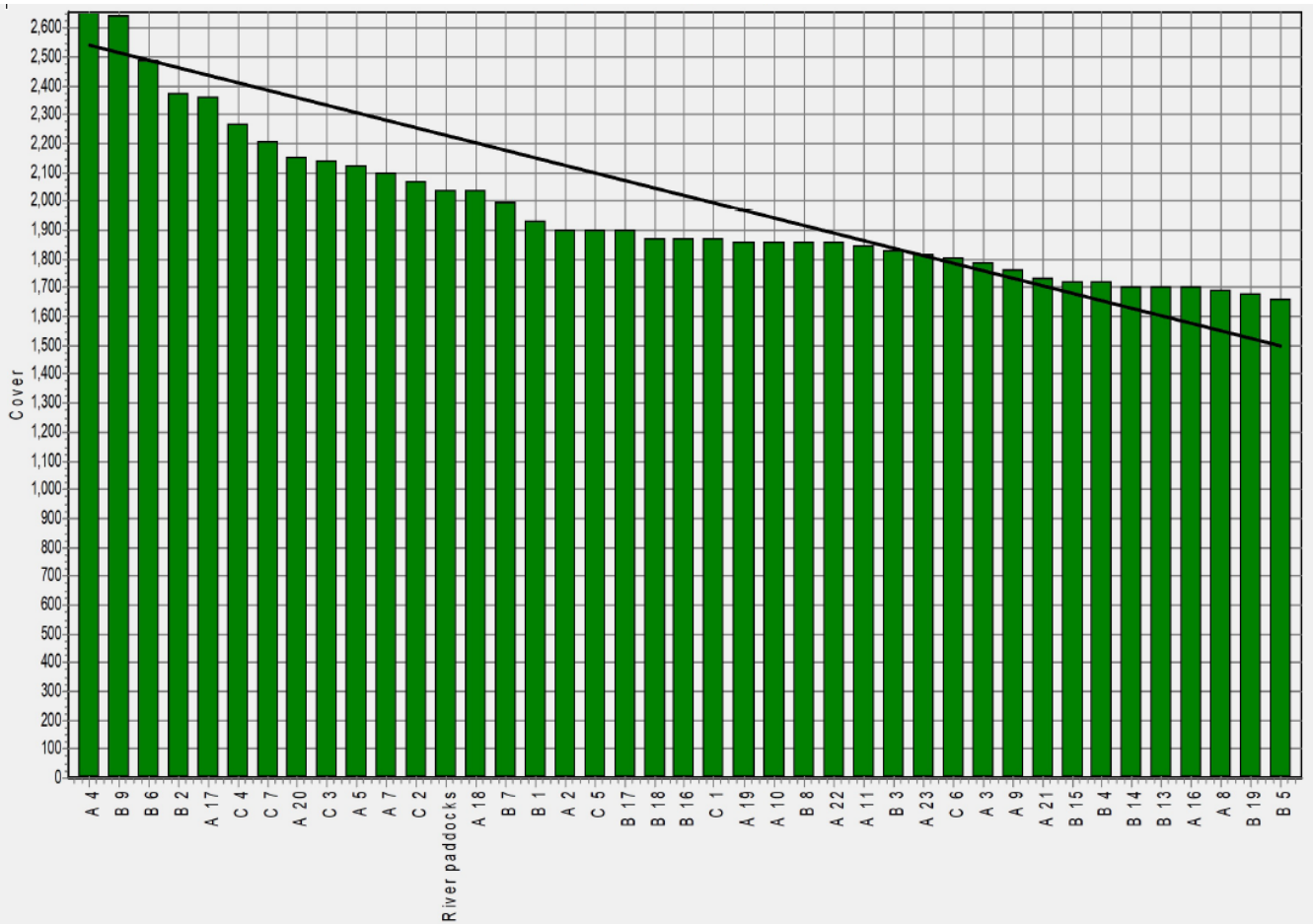
Weekly Soil Temperature



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
Paddock 11a	2/12/20	11.4	15.4	26.7	3.3	24.2	42.0	7.9	82.2	12.0
Paddock 16a	13/1/21	15.7	16.0	18.8	3.3	28.0	49.2	9.9	76.9	11.2
Paddock 9b	10/2/21	15.7	16.0	20.6	3.4	22.6	40.8	12.7	>85	12.5
Paddock A2	3/3/21	14.6	11.6	29.0	3.9	26.3	51.8	3.0	80.1	11.7
Paddock 10a	7/4/21	12.8	9.8	26.0	3.3	24.0	46.5	6.4	80.7	11.8

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