

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 23 September 2020

CO Comment

The weather has been quite variable of late with some heavy thunderstorms sprinkled with the odd patch of sunshine. This has resulted in lower than normal growth rates in many areas and cornering some farmers with a pinch now or just ahead. Consider filling the potential hole in the feed wedge by feeding some form of supplement to ensure round length is held for a little while longer until pasture growth rates come away.

This rain has also made coming into the second round of grazing challenging with the potential of having to visit paddocks with lower than ideal pasture covers less than ideal.

Calving is approaching the end stragglers now. Most farms have achieved good heifer replacement rates for this spring.

Tail paint, observe and record pre-mating heats, have bull power calculated and booked for young stock and tailing off herds for those that do. Recommended rate of 1 bull per 20 animals not in-calf for ultimate bull fertility power.

Cows calved in the first six weeks of calving are more likely to become pregnant in the first six weeks of mating. Later calving cows have a reduced probability of being an early calving cow next season. Making sure that everything is in place for the planned start of mating is critical.

Cow health: If you are considering metrichecks or blood tests, these should be completed early so action can be taken if needed.

Staff training: A refresher for staff in heat detection and the farm heat detection policy will be a good use of time to make sure all new and existing staff are on the same page to achieve the desired outcomes.

Feeding: A fully fed, well-conditioned animal is best placed to achieve reproductive performance.

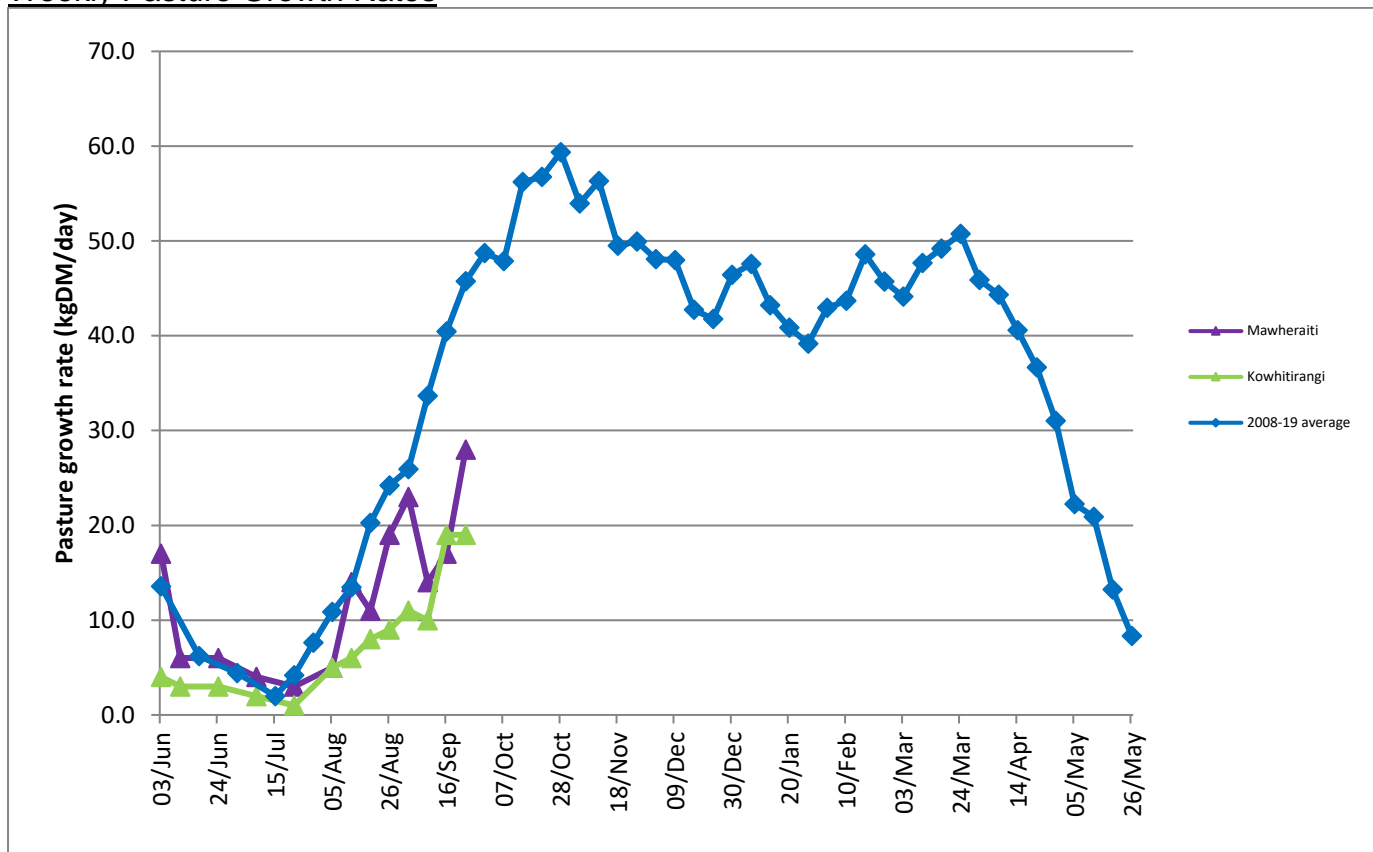
It is important to monitor mating in real time against targets. If targets are not being met some analysis and action may be required.

Farm Summary

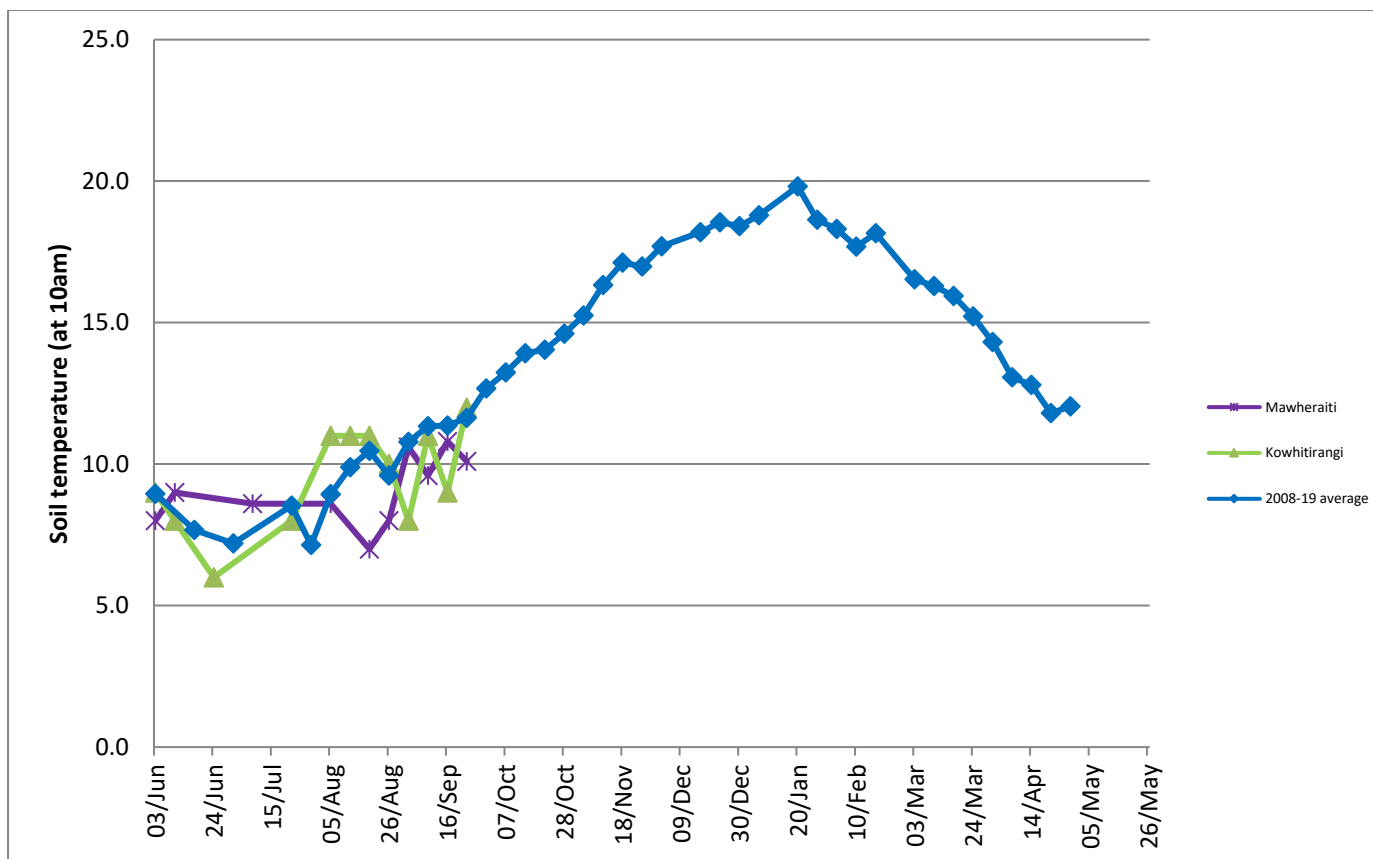
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2215	1977
APC (16 September)	2244	1962
Rotation length (days)	60	22
Stocking rate	1.9	2.0
Percentage in milk	85%	96%
Milksolids kg/cow	2.01	2.00
Milksolids kg/ha	3.8	4.0
MS/cow (season to date)	44	48
MS/ha (season to date)	112	106
N (kg/ha) year to date	50	31
Current N application rate kg N/ha	30	9.0
	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)	0	3.0
Soil temperature (°C)	10.1	12.0
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	28	19
Rainfall	90	170
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine	Farm flooded, unable to walk, all readings estimated

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

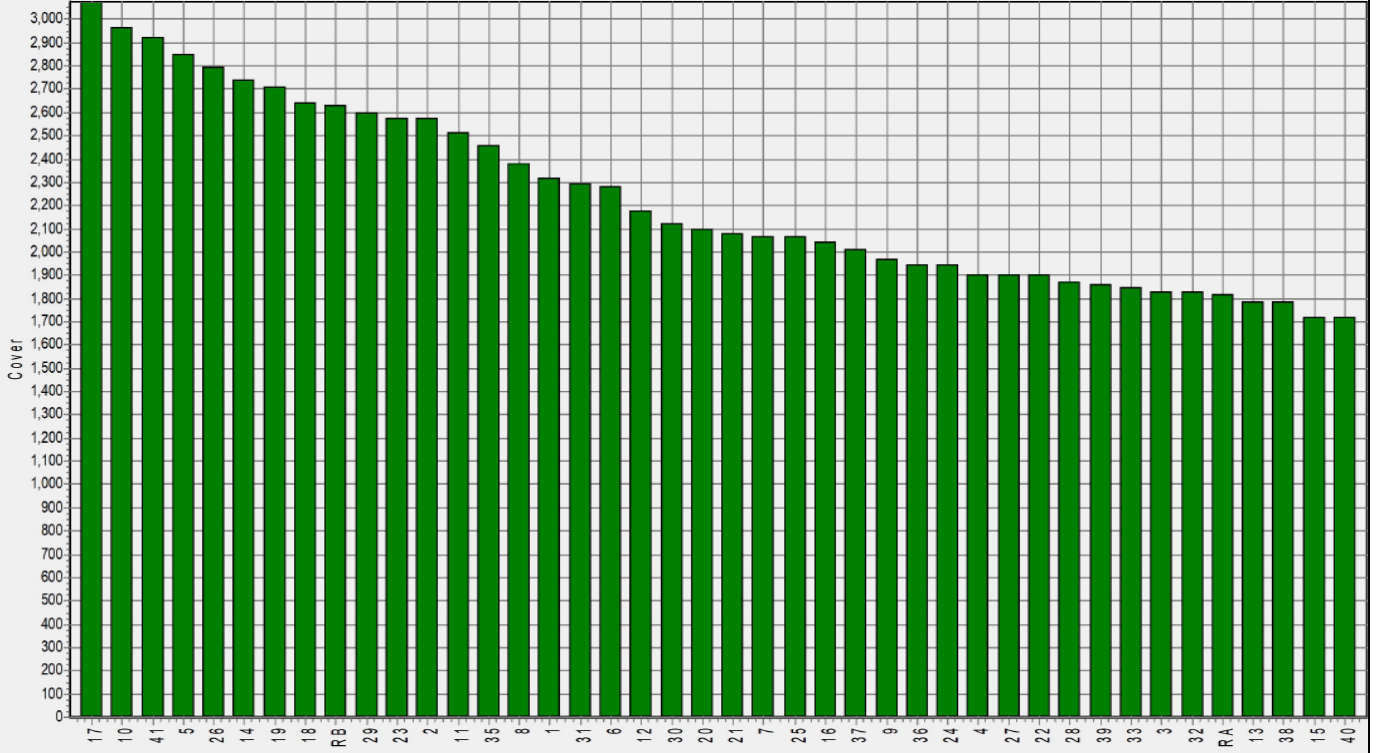
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



Weekly Soil Temperature



Mawheraiti



Kowhitirangi

