

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 26th May 2021

CO Comment

With many having dried off or in the process of, now is the time to start reflecting on the season that has been. This will allow the focus to shift to planning for next season. Determining what worked well and planning to implement those things into next season will set the stage for a more efficient workplace. Also looking at what didn't go so well can allow a plan to be made to avoid some of the pitfalls that may have been encountered this season.

Some elements are out of your control, but by focusing on what you can control, a plan can be made which will impact your business in a positive way.

Grazing management during winter is about transferring autumn and winter grown pasture into early spring to achieve target average pasture cover (APC) at calving and meet the feed requirements of the milking herd. Use the [Spring Rotation Planner \(SRP\)](#) to manage the transition from winter to spring and ensure appropriate covers are reached.

Moist, cool conditions mean tiller death is low. Winter is the time of year where grazing below 1500 kg DM/ha does not appear to damage ryegrass growth but grazing at high stock density on wet soils can reduce subsequent pasture production by up to 45% the following year.

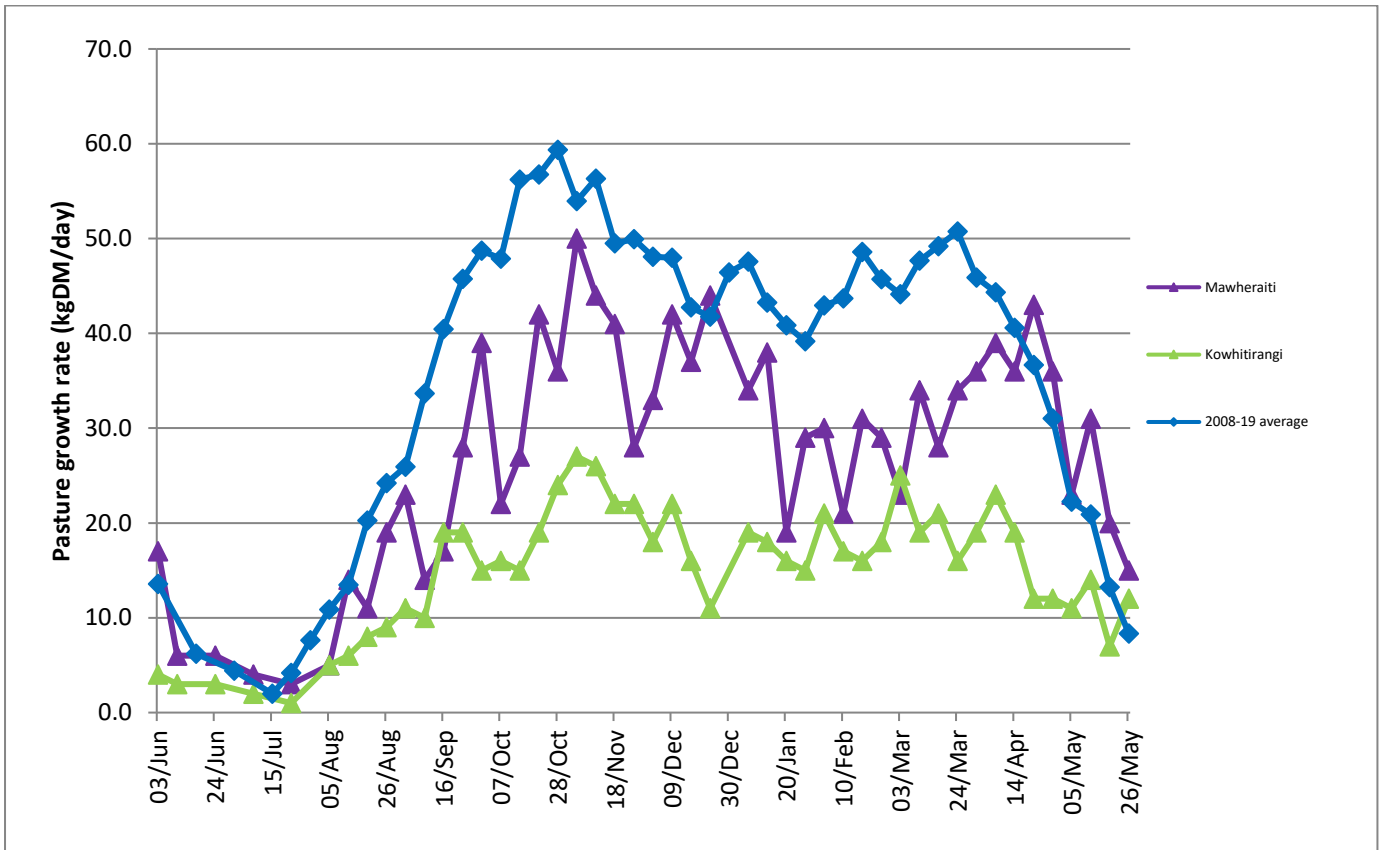
Protect your soils and pasture over the winter/spring period by implementing your [Winter Grazing Plan](#) which will put you in the best place not only through spring but for the subsequent grazing rotations throughout next season.

Farm Summary

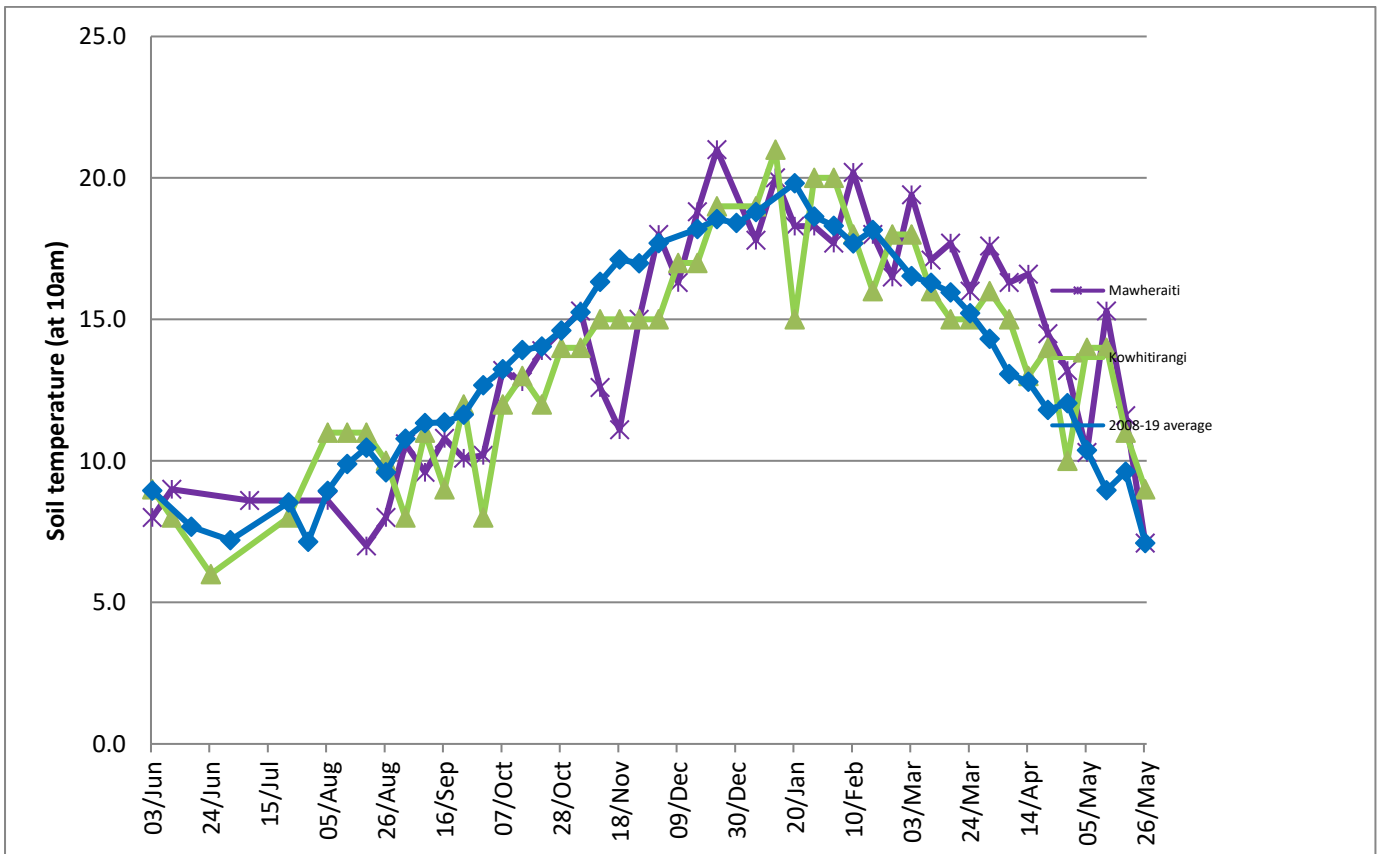
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	1982	1900
APC (19 May)	2043	1857
Rotation length (days)	30	
Stocking rate	2.3	
Percentage in milk	91	0
Milksolids kg/cow	1.16	
Milksolids kg/ha	2.5	
MS/cow (season to date)	463	432
MS/ha (season to date)	1096	931
N (kg/ha) year to date	252	212
Current N application rate kg N/ha		
	3 May	12 April
DM%	9.6	9.8
Pasture ME	12.5	11.8
Pasture NDF	44.1	46.5
Pasture CP	27.1	26.0
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	7.1	7.4
Soil temperature (°C)	7.1	9
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	15	12
Rainfall	35	20
Conditions for farmwalk	Frosty, fine day	Frosty, fine day. Everyone loving the fine weather to dry the cows off
Notes:		

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

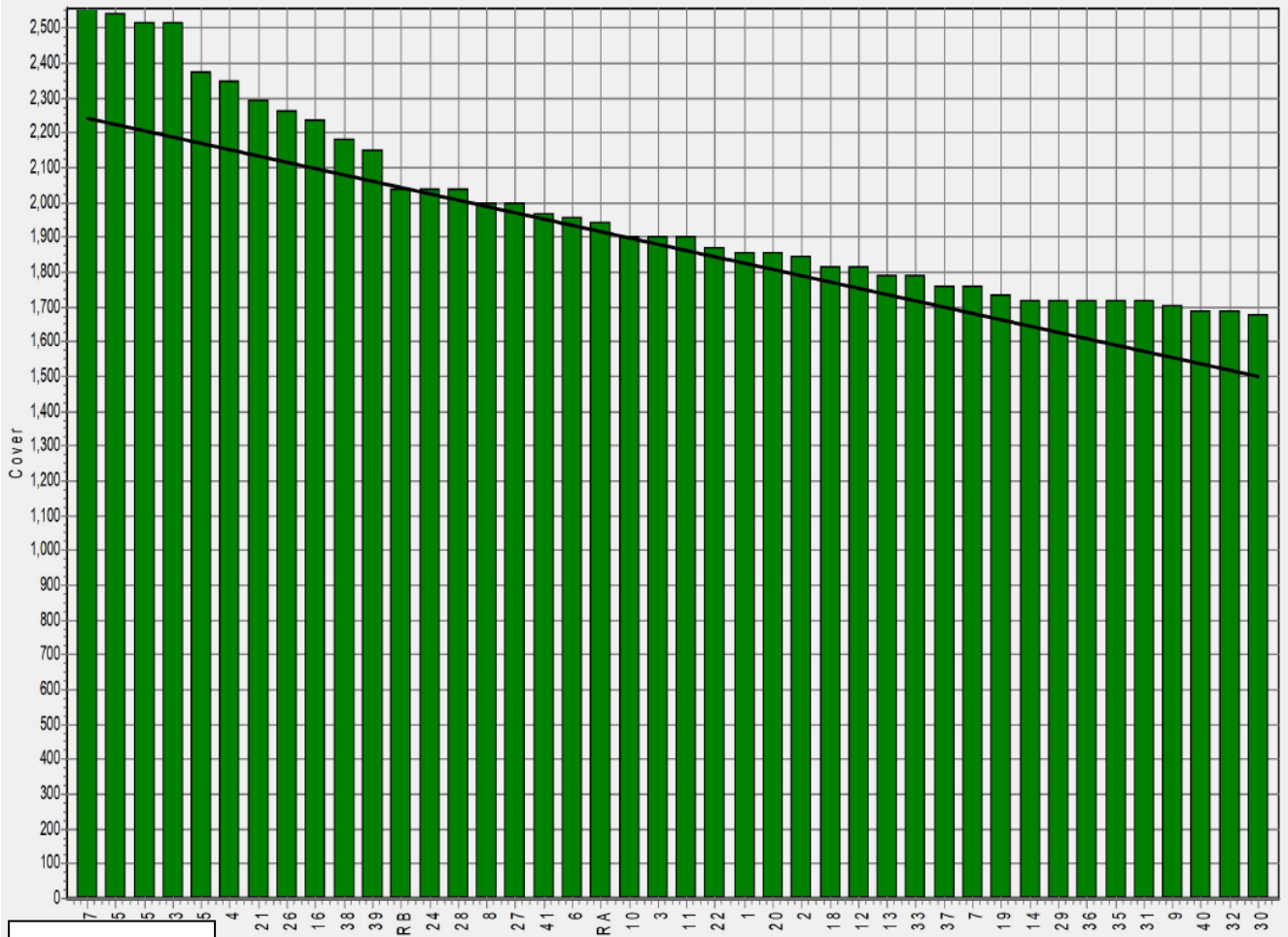
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



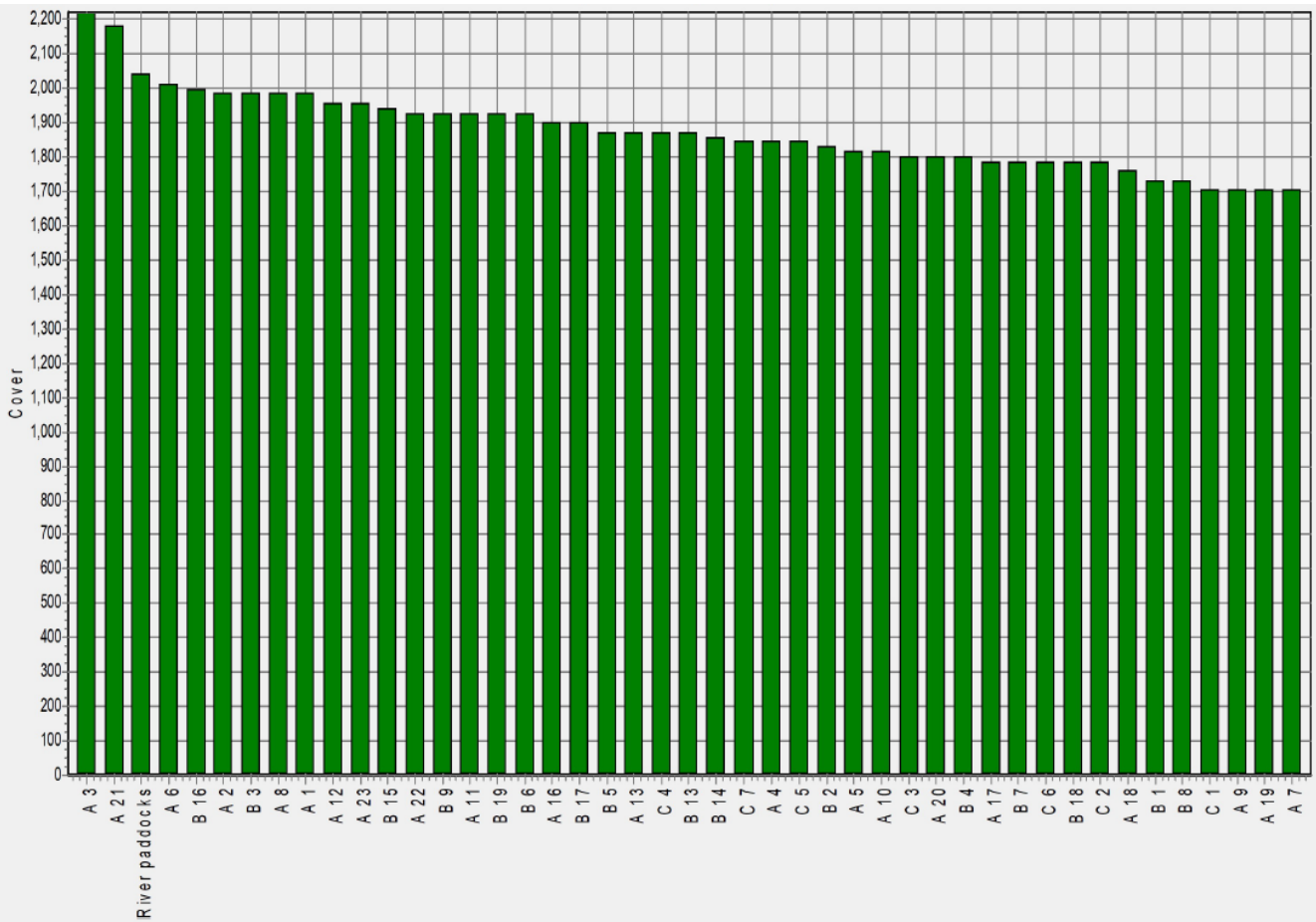
Weekly Soil Temperature



Mawheraiti



Kowhitirangi



Kowhitiranqi

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.