Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 27 January 2021

CO Comment

The West Coast experienced a few days of very hot weather and whilst it may not have been an extensive period it is a reminder to think about how our cows cope with this.

Many people believe that the West Coast does not get hot enough to have an effect on our cows. DairyNZ monitoring suggests that our region gets between 25-45 days where temperatures are high enough to reduce milk production. The loss equates to anything between 1-2.8 kg/MS/cow each summer.

Heat stress in cows reduces cow feed intakes, impacting production and cow condition. It is not an appealing sight, seeing cows standing in the hot sun with no shade and is likely to become more of an animal welfare, public perception, and customer requirement issue.
Reducing milking frequency and keeping milking times away from hot afternoons is a low-cost and popular option.

A 'plan for the future' to provide all farm animals protection from the hot sun maybe required. Mitigation options may include significant planting of suitable shade trees which are a good idea when planning your environmental plantings.

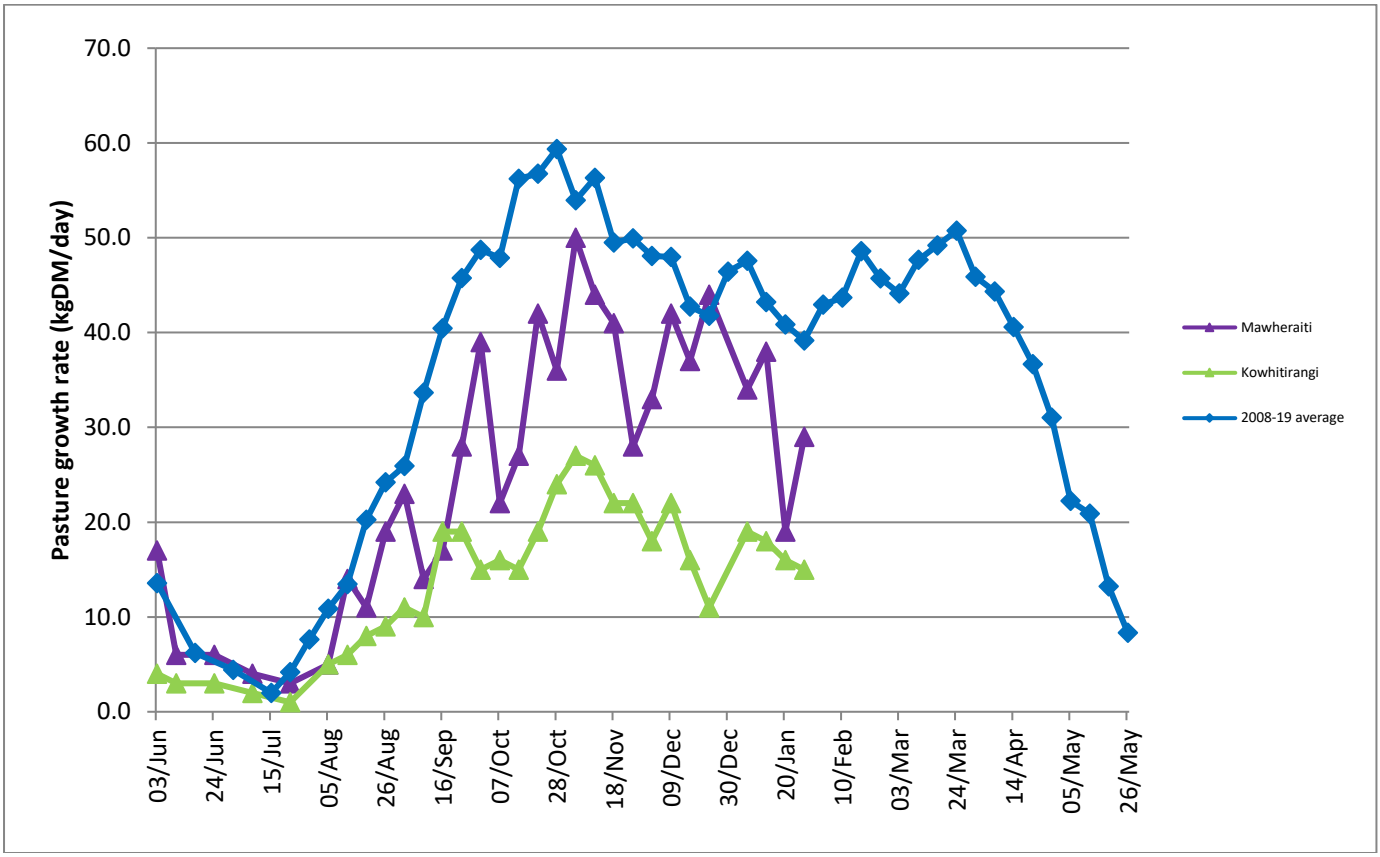
For more information on heat stress or to sign up to the weekly regional update on heat stress visit https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/cow-health/heat-stress/.

Farm Summary

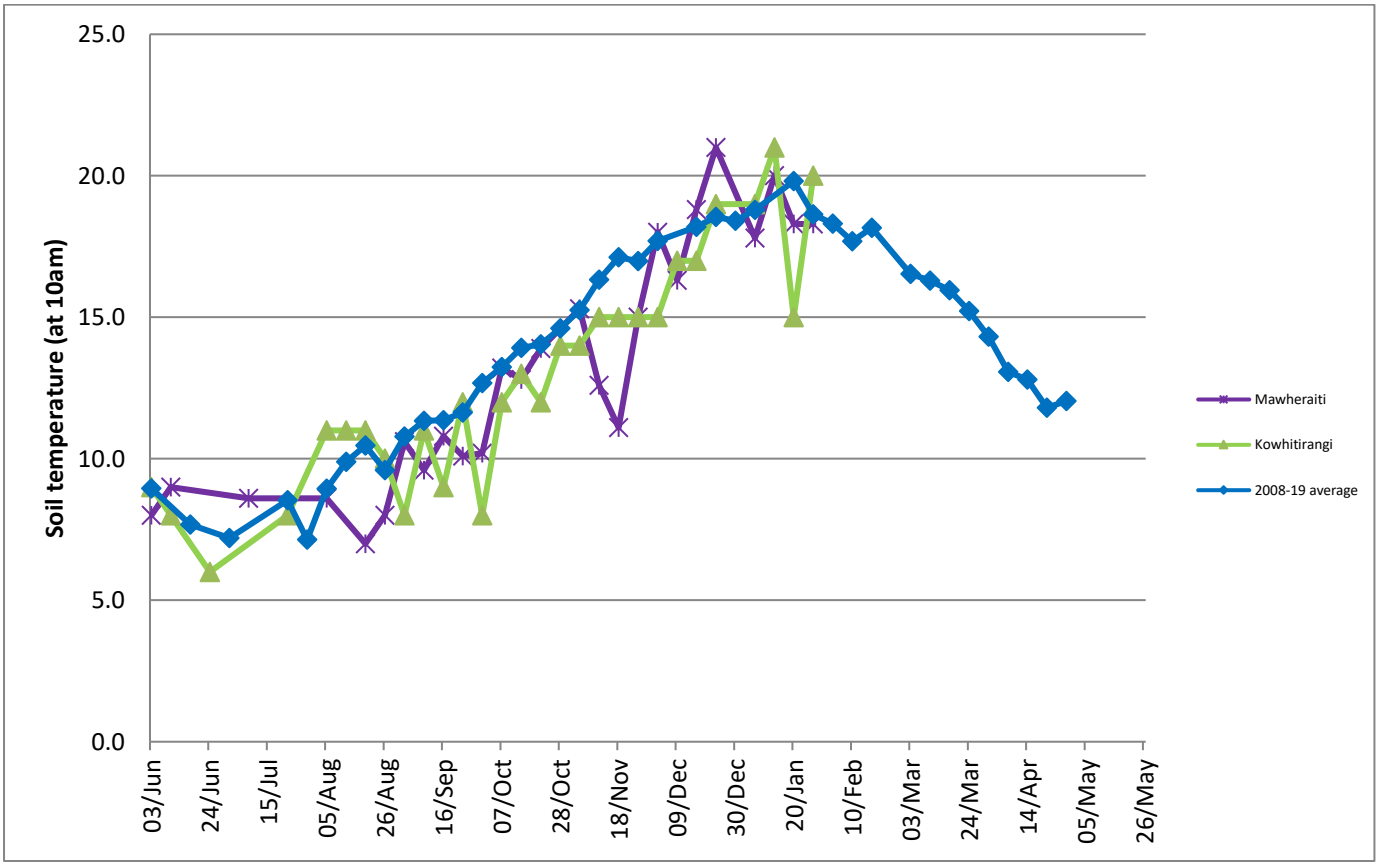
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	1989	1924
APC (20 January)	*1999*	*1973*
Rotation length (days)	26	25
Stocking rate	2.3	2.4
Percentage in milk	100%	100%
Milksolids kg/cow	1.72	1.74
Milksolids kg/ha	4.0	3.7
MS/cow (season to date)	289	274
MS/ha (season to date)	678	589
N (kg/ha) year to date	22	-
Current N application rate kg N/ha	163	176
	11 Jan	13 Jan
DM%	17.0	16.0
Pasture ME	11.6	11.2
Pasture NDF	45.9	49.2
Pasture CP	16.6	18.8
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	2.0	2.4
Soil temperature (°C)	18.3	20.0
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	29	15
Rainfall	110	95
Conditions for farmwalk	Hot	Hot
Notes:	Lots of rain, snow on hills. Grass tight, feeding pk almost finished then will switch to silage if needed. Lime on most of farm, wally's silage a bit past best.	

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

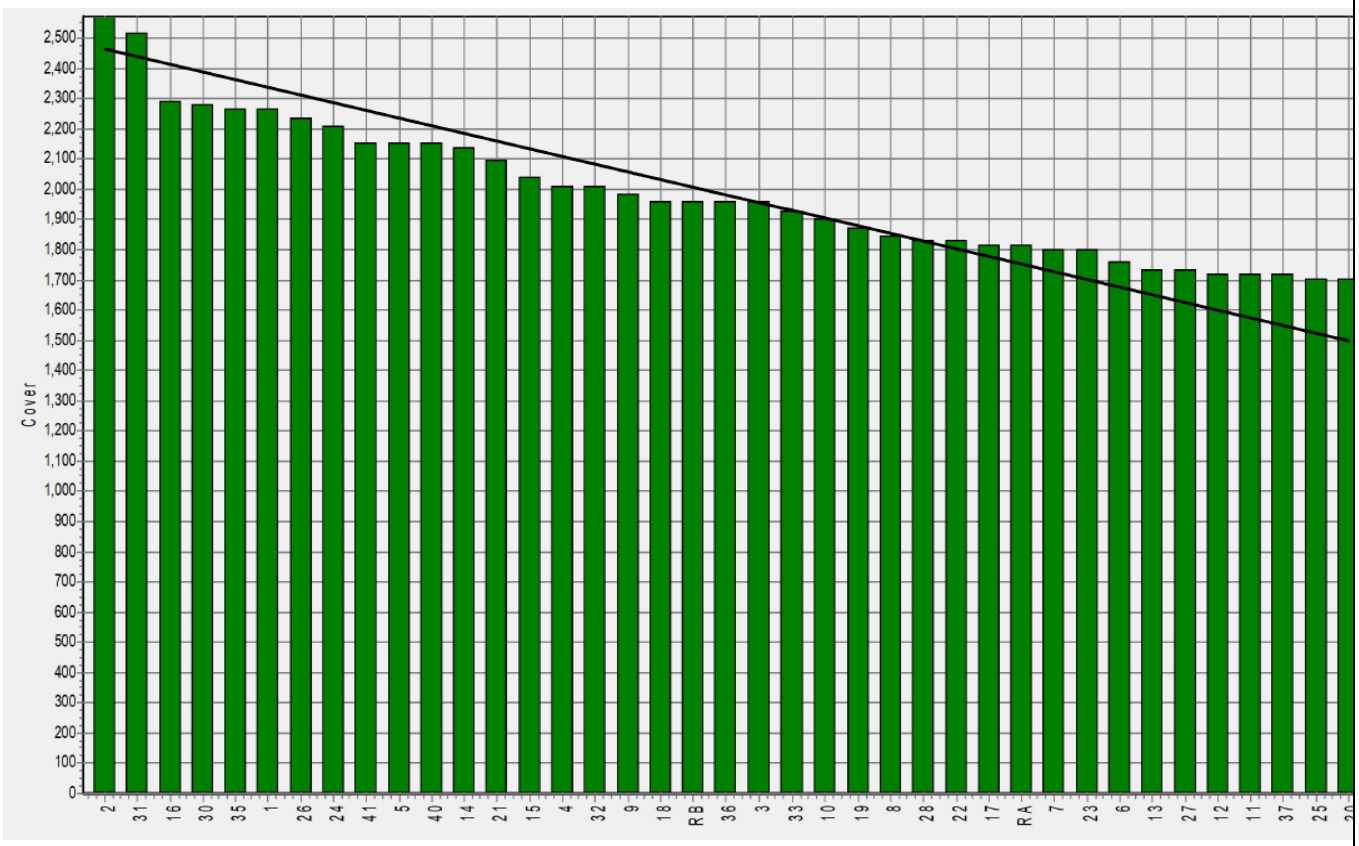
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



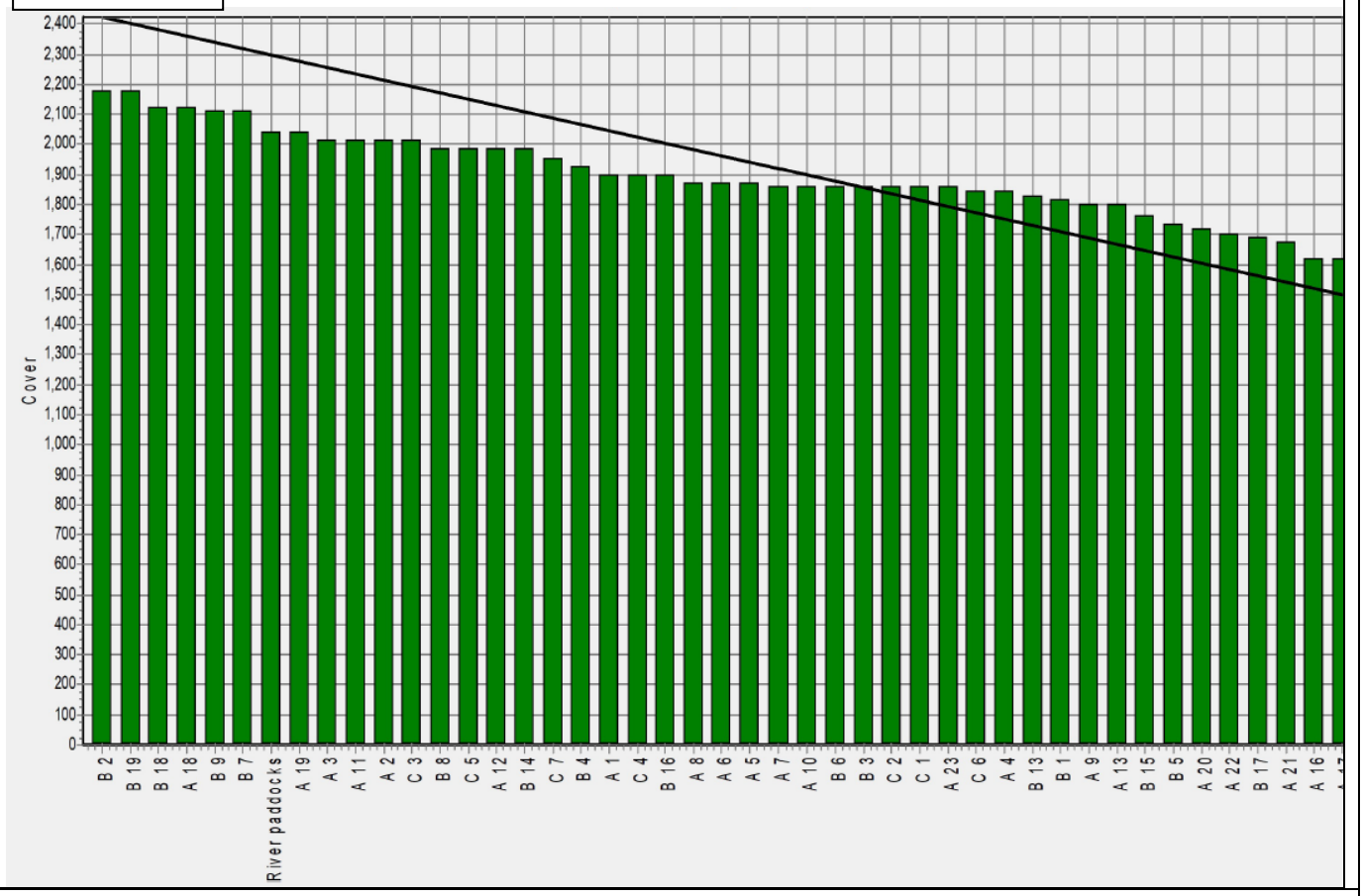
Weekly Soil Temperature



Mawheraiti



Kowhitirangi



Mawheraiti

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME/kg
Paddock 29	8/6/20	16.8	12.8	26.1	3.7	18.7	41.5	14.7	86.7	12.7
Paddock 6	6/7/20	13.6	14.8	24.2	3.7	19.3	37.1	17.5	86.3	12.6
Paddock 23	3/8/20	12.8	12.4	31.7	4.2	23.2	43.4	5.5	82.5	12.0
Paddock 5	31/8/20	14.0	15.0	29.6	3.2	22.4	44.9	9.4	82.7	12.1
Paddock 8	5/10/20	16.6	14.9	24.7	3.6	24.9	47.0	8.8	78.5	11.5
Paddock River A	2/11/20	14.0	13.6	24.6	3.6	26.3	51.1	6.0	78.1	11.4
Paddock 17	30/11/20	14.4	16.3	19.3	2.9	26.0	44.5	13.8	81.2	11.9
Paddock 13	11/1/21	10.8	17.0	16.6	3.0	25.6	45.9	13.9	79.5	11.6

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

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