

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 3rd June 2020

CO Comment

With all supplying herds now dry it is time to implement the principles of winter grazing. 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.

This is achieved by lengthening the rotation in late autumn and winter, beyond the time taken to grow three new leaves.

Moist, cool conditions mean tiller death is low. Ryegrass is forgiving of stress, such as severe grazing, except where high soil moisture leads to pugging damage.

Good management to improve persistence involves:

- Grazing at the 3-leaf stage.
- Use the spring rotation planner (SRP) to manage the transition from winter to spring and ensure appropriate covers are reached in spring. You can find the SRP at <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/feed/seasonal-management/early-spring-management/>
- Winter is the time of year where grazing below 1500 kg DM/ha does not appear to damage ryegrass growth.

Poor management that will reduce persistence includes:

- Pugging as it reduces tiller density and allows weed ingress and reduces subsequent pasture production. Consider standing cows off.
- Grazing at high stock density on wet soils can reduce subsequent pasture production by up to 45% the following year.
- High farm covers in August leads to shading and loss of tiller density.

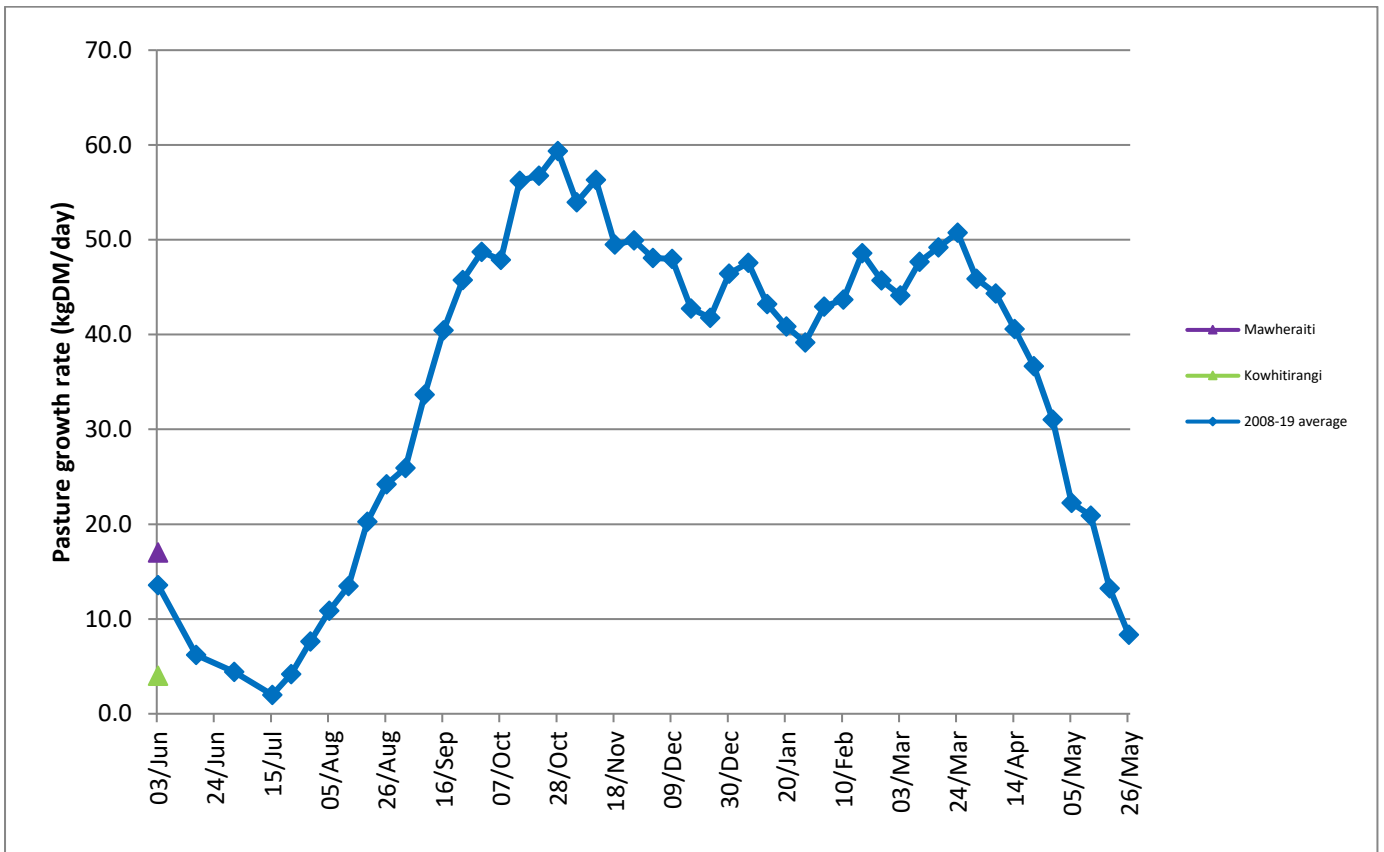
Being mindful to protect soils and pasture over the winter/spring period will put you in the best place not only through spring but for the subsequent grazing rotations throughout next season.

Farm Summary

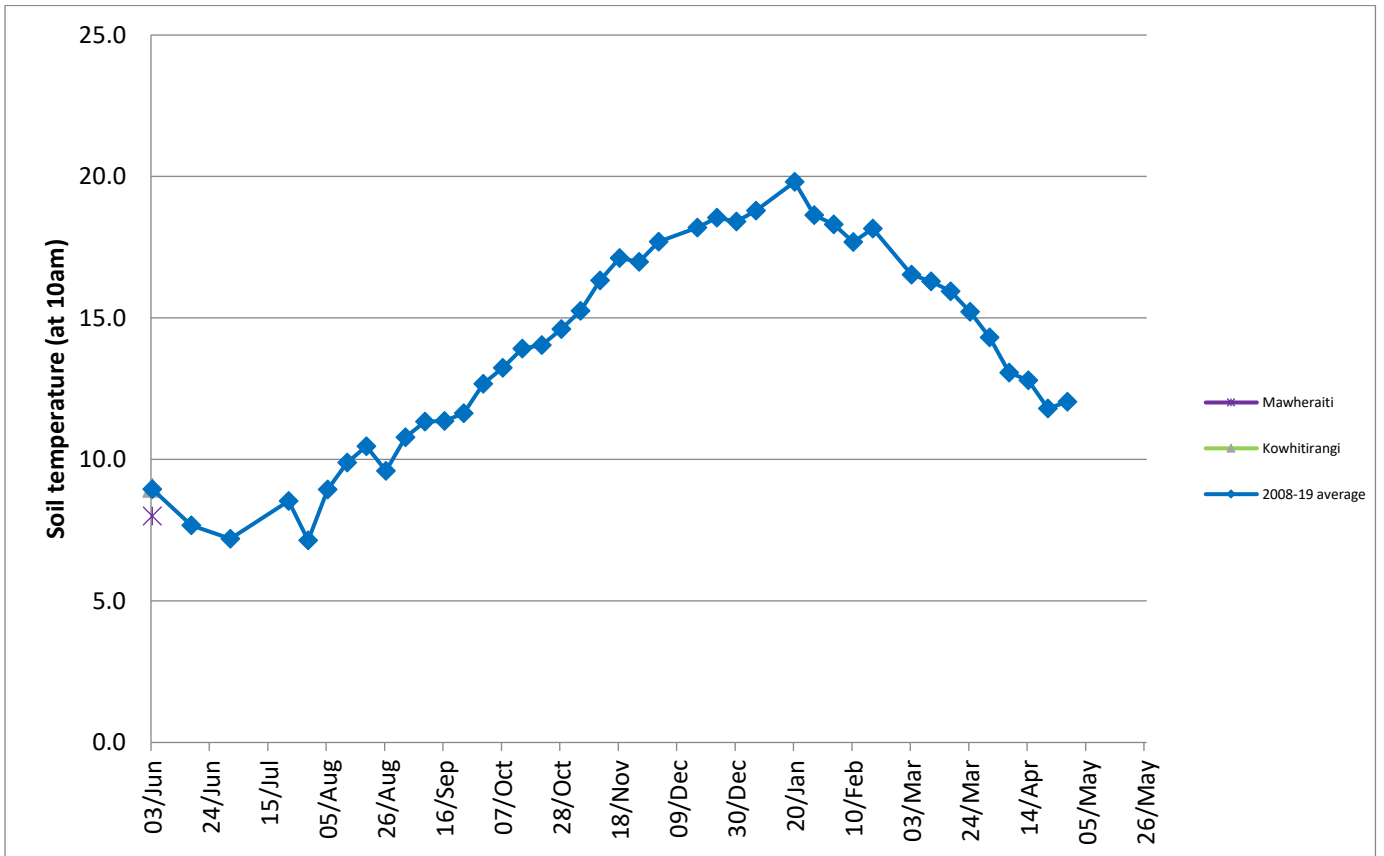
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	1952	1867
APC (27 May)	1986	1876
Rotation length (days)	35	57
Stocking rate	1.9	
Percentage in milk		0
Milksolids kg/cow	1.15	-
Milksolids kg/ha	2.2	-
MS/cow (season to date)	6	-
MS/ha (season to date)	16	-
N (kg/ha) year to date	25	
Current N application rate kg N/ha	25	-
	2 Mar	4 Mar
DM%	11.4	11.6
Pasture ME	11.5	11.9
Pasture NDF	48.4	45.0
Pasture CP	28.5	29.5
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	17	
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	6.6	
Soil temperature (°C)	8	9
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	17	4
Rainfall	0	0
Conditions for farmwalk		

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

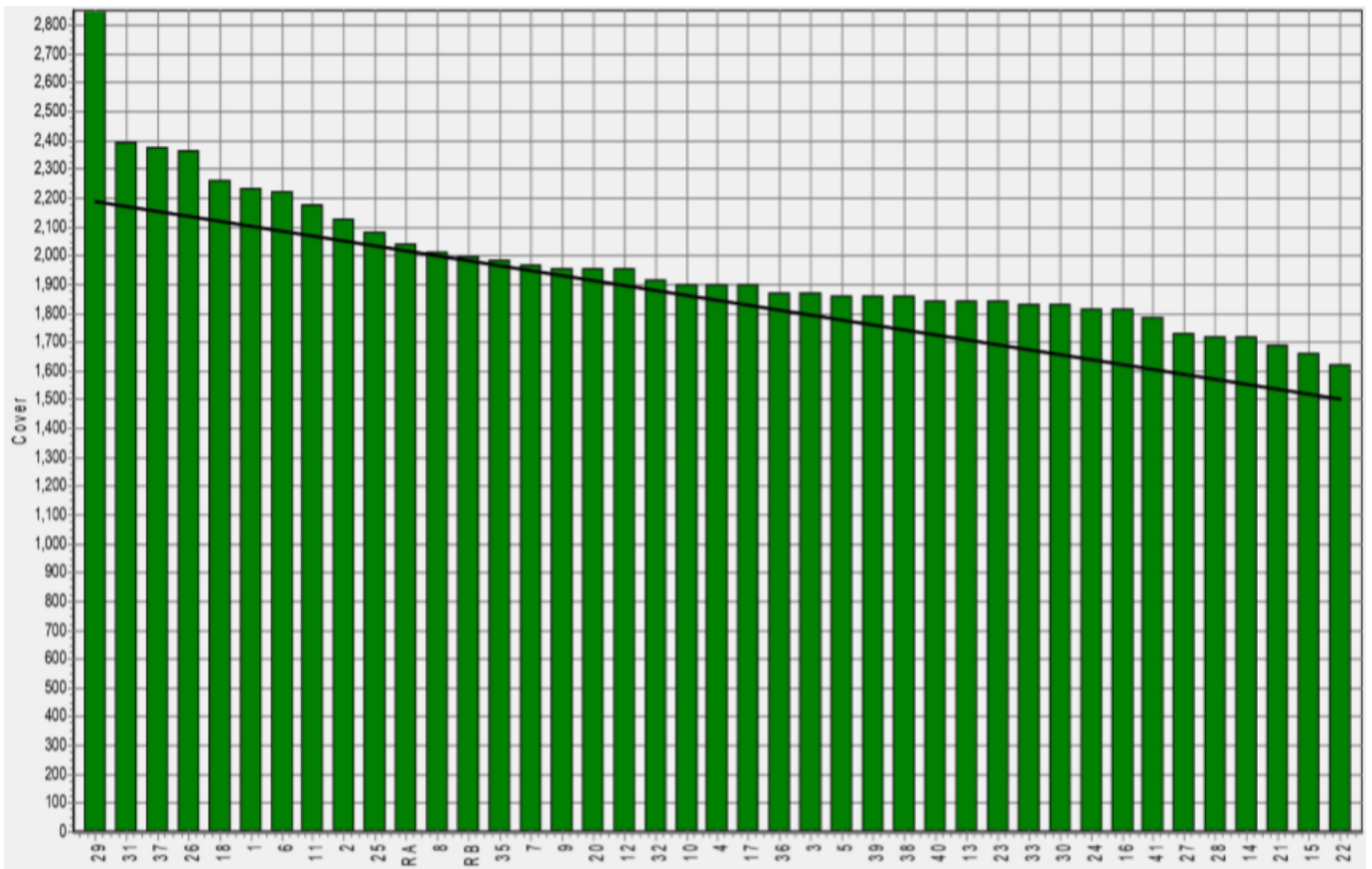
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



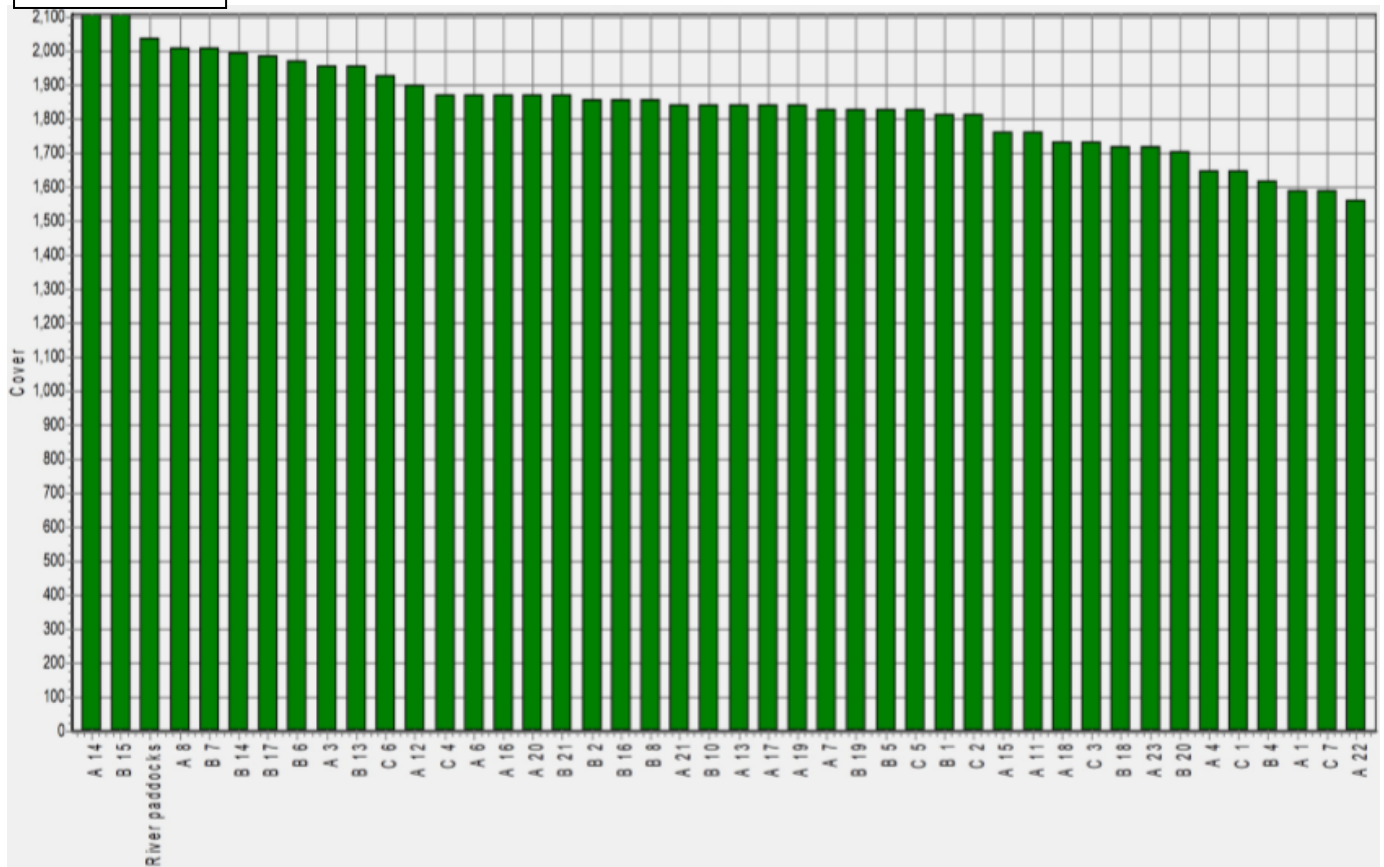
Weekly Soil Temperature



Mawheraiti



Kowhitirangi



Kowhitirangi

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
Paddock 5b	17/07/19	13.8	14.3	24.3	3.9	18.4	43.1	14.2	85.2	12.4
Paddock 3c	4/09/19	10.8	17.3	24.0	3.5	15.7	36.1	21.1	>85	12.6
Paddock 9b	9/10/19	8.9	15.0	25.6	3.3	22.3	45.2	10.5	83.3	12.2
Paddock 15a	6/11/19	9.0	13.5	23.7	3.8	20.4	43.8	12.2	>85	12.5
Paddock 13a	4/12/19	13.3	11.5	29.4	3.2	24.5	43.3	6.4	85.0	12.4
Paddock 13b	15/1/20	10.0	19.5	18.8	3.4	24.1	44.7	13.8	76.8	11.2
Paddock 4a	5/2/20	13.8	9.9	24.8	3.3	30.5*	53.1	2.1	76.0	11.1
Paddock 14a	4/3/20	16.0	11.6	29.5	3.3	22.9	45.0	6.4	81.7	11.9

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