

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 31 March 2021

CO Comment

Now is a critical time for setting up the farm, and in particular the cows, to achieve production and reproduction targets next season. Make sure to start transferring pasture into autumn-winter by slowing the round length and implementing the necessary management (i.e. use supplements if it is needed, de-stocking, etc). Identify any lighter conditioned cows and either priority feed them, decrease the milking frequency further or dry them off in order to achieve the desired body condition score targets at calving (mixed age cows at 5.0 and 3 year olds and first calving heifers at 5.5).

Don't forget the young stock – they are the future of the herd. Stick to the recommended drenching programme and vaccination schedule to ensure they maintain adequate growth rates and achieve target liveweight before entering the herd.

Energy is only partitioned to BCS when maintenance, activity, pregnancy and milk production demands are already met.

Cows need time to gain BCS. They gain almost no BCS in the month before calving and often lose BCS in the two weeks following drying off. Even well-fed cows will not gain more than 0.5 BCS unit in a month.

Lower BCS cows must be dried off earlier to reach target BCS at calving.

To achieve these BCS targets, cows must:

- have sufficient feed to eat above the requirements for maintenance, milk production, pregnancy and activity, and
- have enough time to increase BCS.

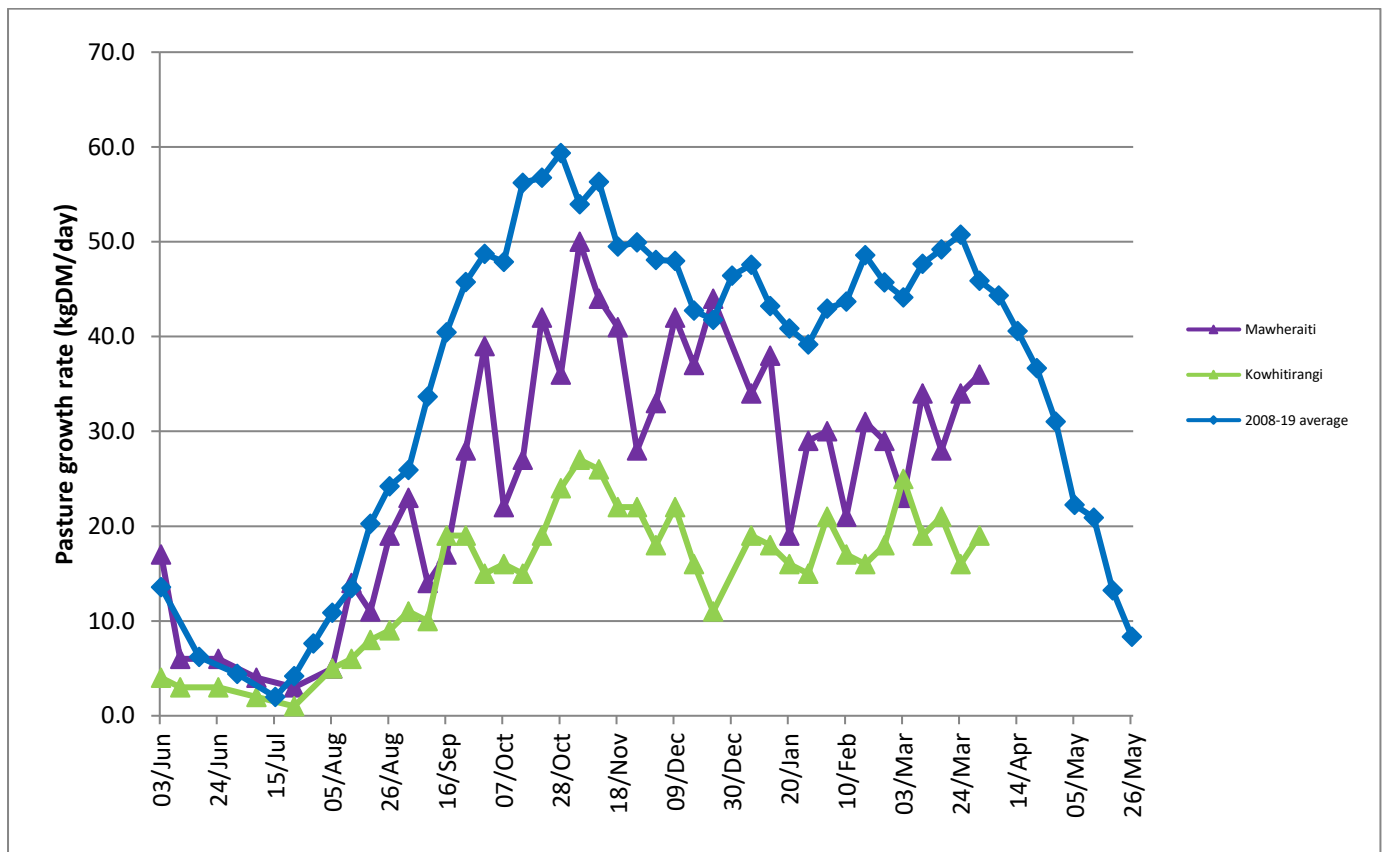
The fact that cows require a certain amount of feed to gain one BCS unit is clearly understood, however the amount of time needed is often forgotten. Modern dairy cows and, in particular, the thinnest cows, do not partition much energy to BCS while milking.

Farm Summary

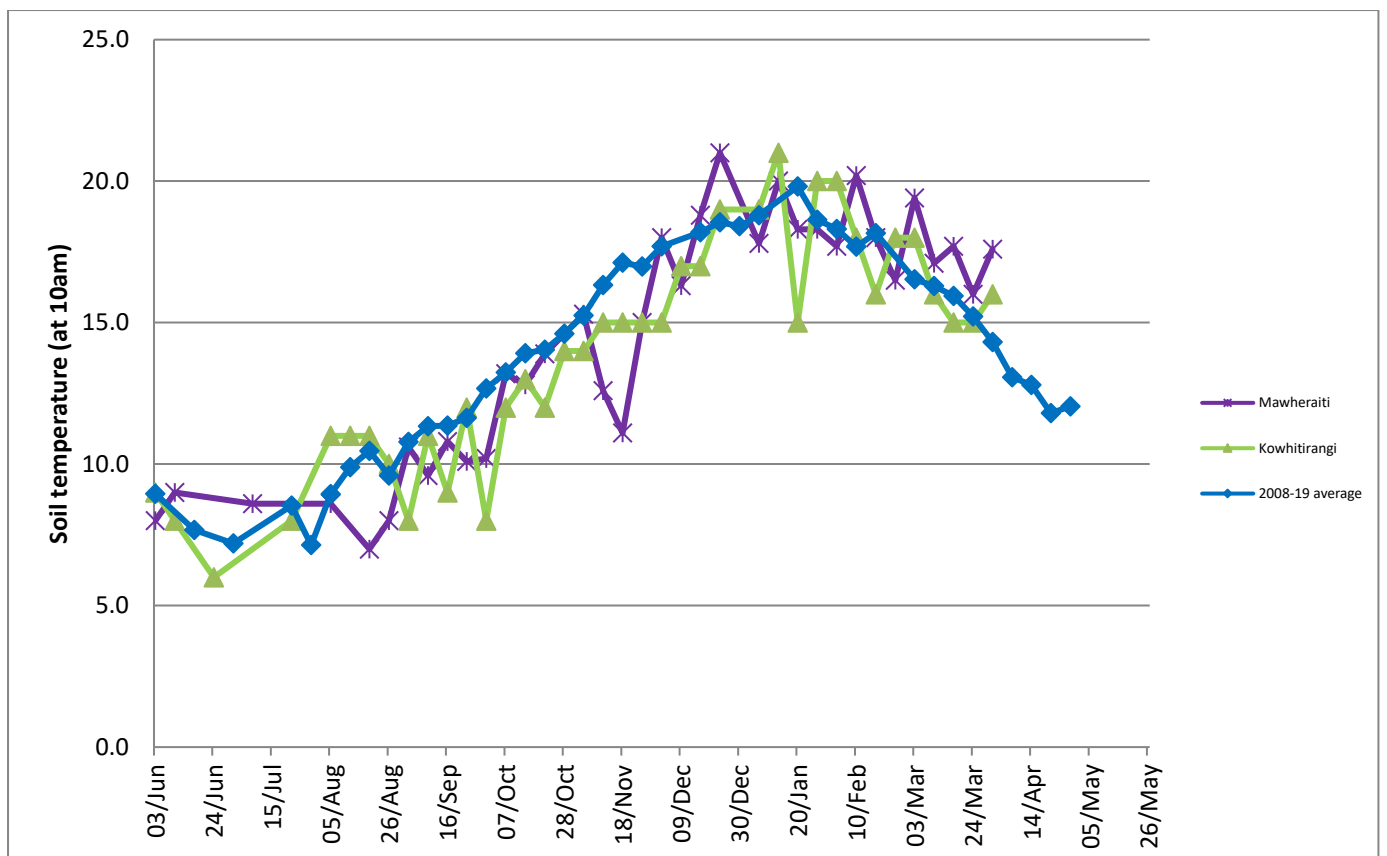
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2135	2001
APC (24 March)	2065	1980
Rotation length (days)	27	30
Stocking rate	2.5	2.2
Percentage in milk	100%	100%
Milksolids kg/cow	1.54	1.47
Milksolids kg/ha	3.6	3.4
MS/cow (season to date)	389	368
MS/ha (season to date)	917	792
N (kg/ha) year to date	220	194
Current N application rate kg N/ha	22	0
	1 March	3 March
DM%	13.4	11.6
Pasture ME	11.4	11.7
Pasture NDF	47.3	51.8
Pasture CP	27.2	29.0
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	0	2.4
Soil temperature (°C)	17.6	16.0
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	36	19
Rainfall	12	104
Conditions for farmwalk	Showers, warm	Beautiful, sunny day
Notes:	Farm needed the rain. Culls going. 12.5 % mt after recheck.	Jeremy working hard on his new bridge across the Murray Creek.

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

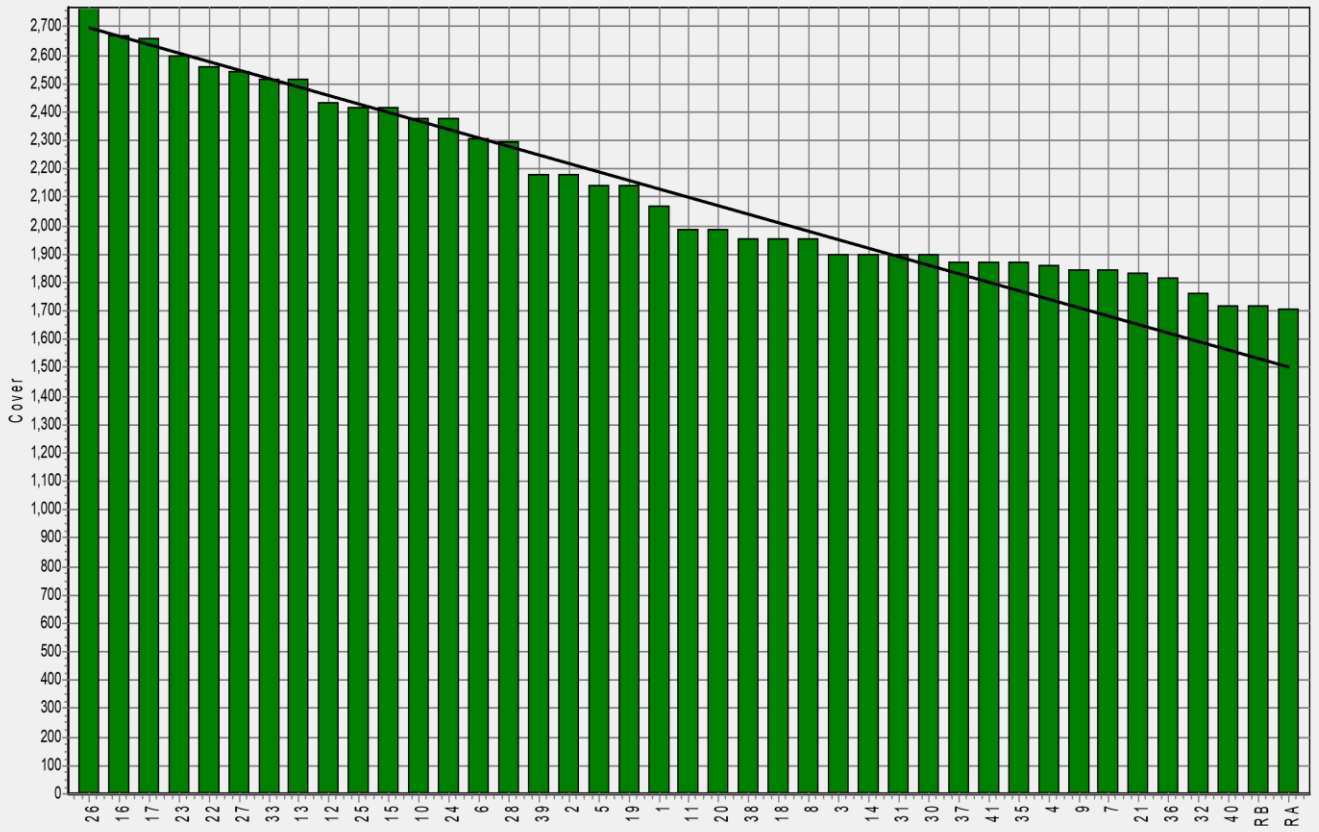
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



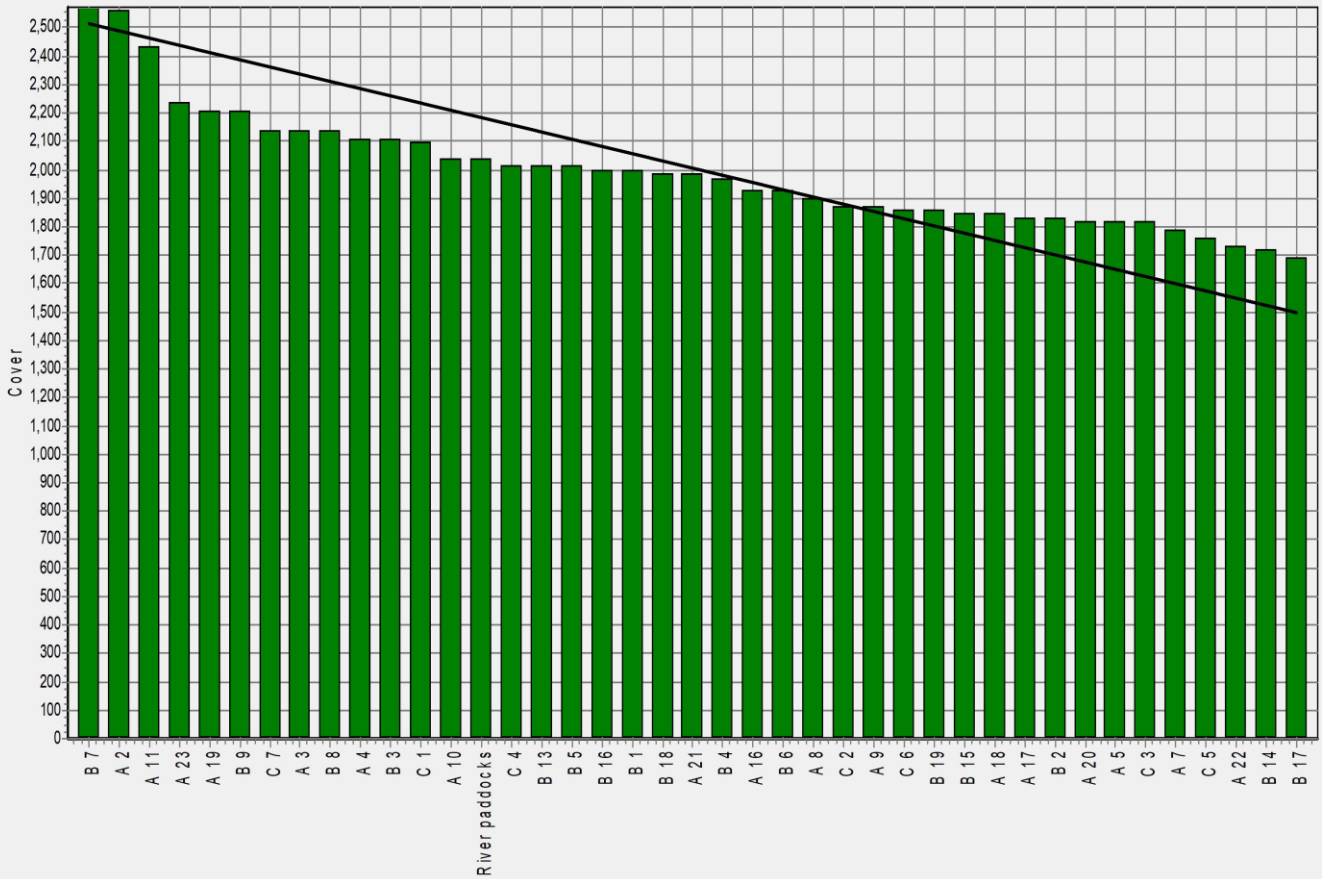
Weekly Soil Temperature



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

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