Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 7 October 2020

CO Comment

With mating upon us, it is important to be vigilant with heat detection if we are determined to get cows in calf early.
Monitor cow condition and take action to prevent cows losing excessive body condition. Cows that lose the most condition in early lactation OR are the thinnest at mating are less likely to be submitted for AI and less likely to become pregnant. More than 1 BCS unit loss post calving or cows at 3.5 at mating will result in 4-5% less cows pregnant at 6 weeks and 3 to 4% less pregnant at 12 weeks. This effect is likely to be more pronounced if cows are light and if action is not taken.

Taking pre-mating heats is a key strategy in achieving targets, as is identifying, and remedying any reasons for non-cycling. This means the person responsible for heat detection must be skilled, committed, and attentive to detail. Use any pre-mating data you are gathering to identify any problem cows and if necessary, carry out any interventions. One of the key factors in hitting target submission and conception rates is making sure the cows on heat are correctly identified. Missing cows that are on heat or wrongly identifying cows on heat can cost thousands of dollars each year through reduced in-calf rates and later calving patterns.

Remember, wet conditions mean cows display less evident signs they are cycling. Stress interferes with how cows express heat. When stressed, their heat signs are subtle which makes it harder to know if cows are cycling. Vigilance is required when monitoring both heat detection aids and animal behaviour to avoid missing cows for insemination. In difficult conditions use a combination of heat detection aids, for example both tail paint and a heat mount detector at the same time. Paddock checks of sexually active groups of cows can also improve heat detection. The definite sign of a cow on heat is that she stands to be mounted.

Be proactive and assess your mating stats each week and see if targets are being met. Heat detection tips can be found at https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/reproduction-and-mating/heat-detection/

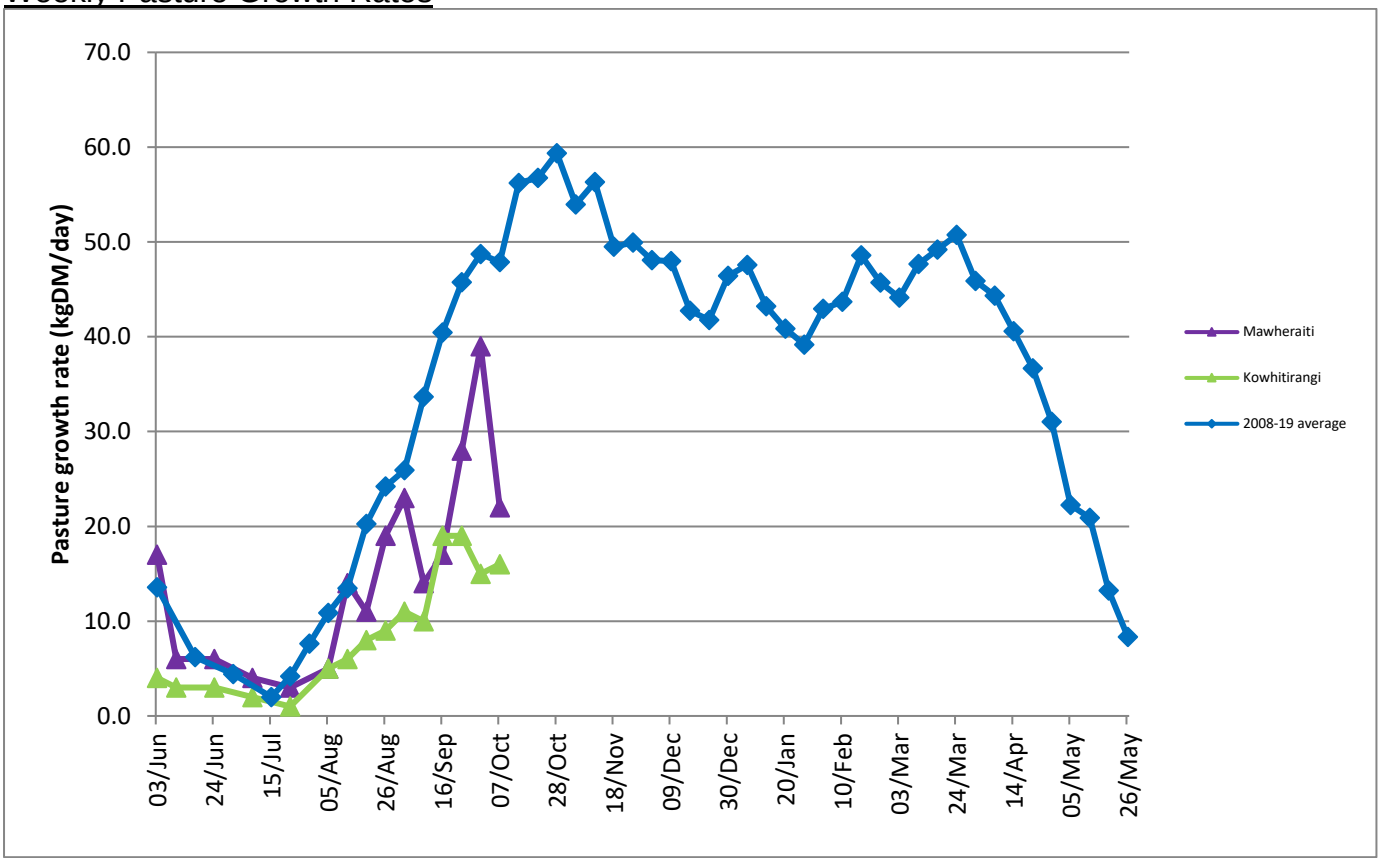
A reminder that the Dairy Industry Awards entries are open and if you or your staff are interested in entering now is the time to do it. Entries close at midnight on the 1st of December 2020. To find out more and enter visit https://www.dairyindustryawards.co.nz/

Farm Summary

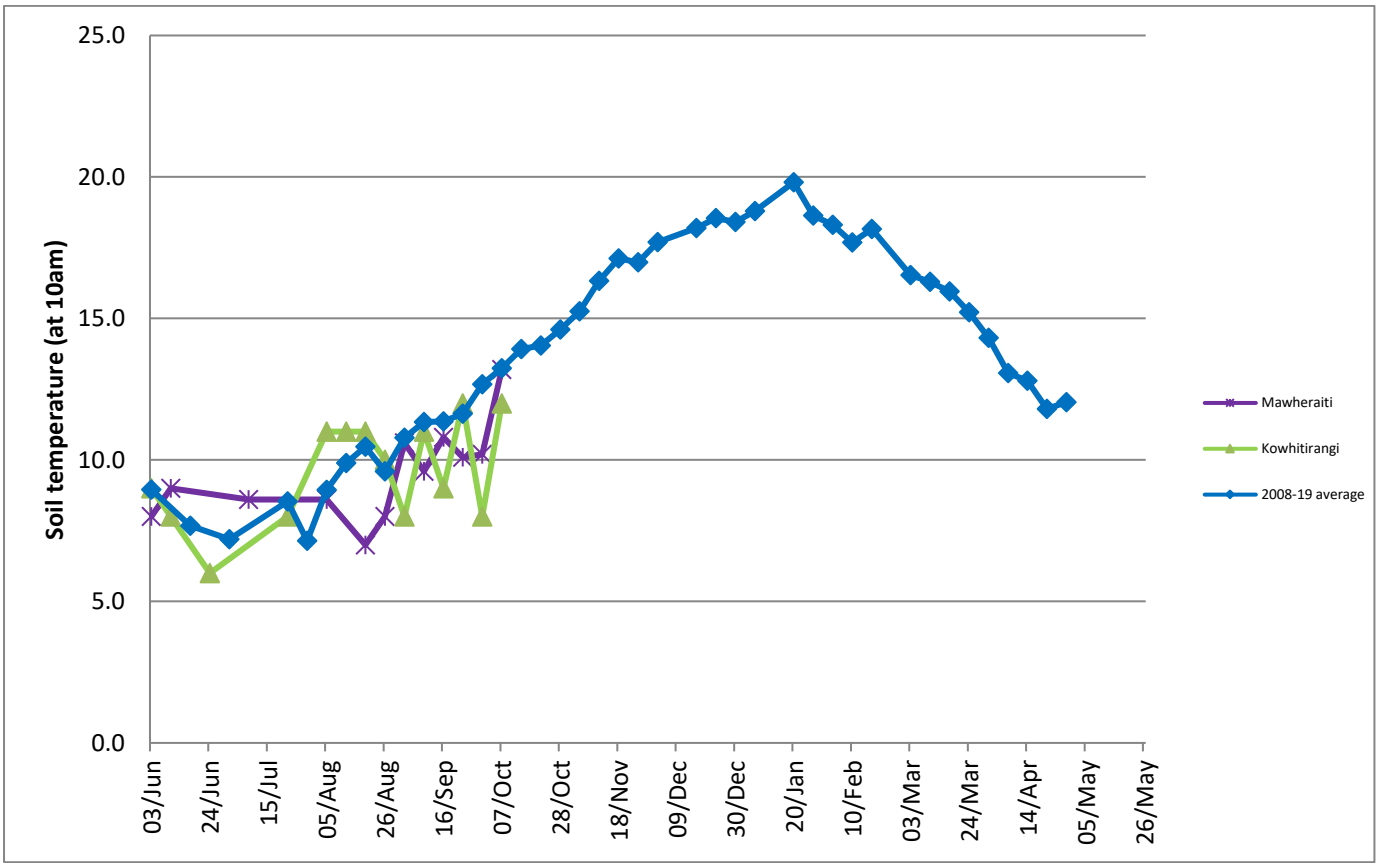
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2139	1930
APC (30 September)	*2242*	*1961*
Rotation length (days)	29	24
Stocking rate	2.2	2.1
Percentage in milk	93%	98%
Milksolids kg/cow	2.14	1.96
Milksolids kg/ha	4.6	4.1
MS/cow (season to date)	68	72
MS/ha (season to date)	173	161
N (kg/ha) year to date	63	31
Current N application rate kg N/ha	30	
	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)	1.1	4.5
Soil temperature (°C)	13.2	12.0
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	22	16
Rainfall	30	90
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine	Fine

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

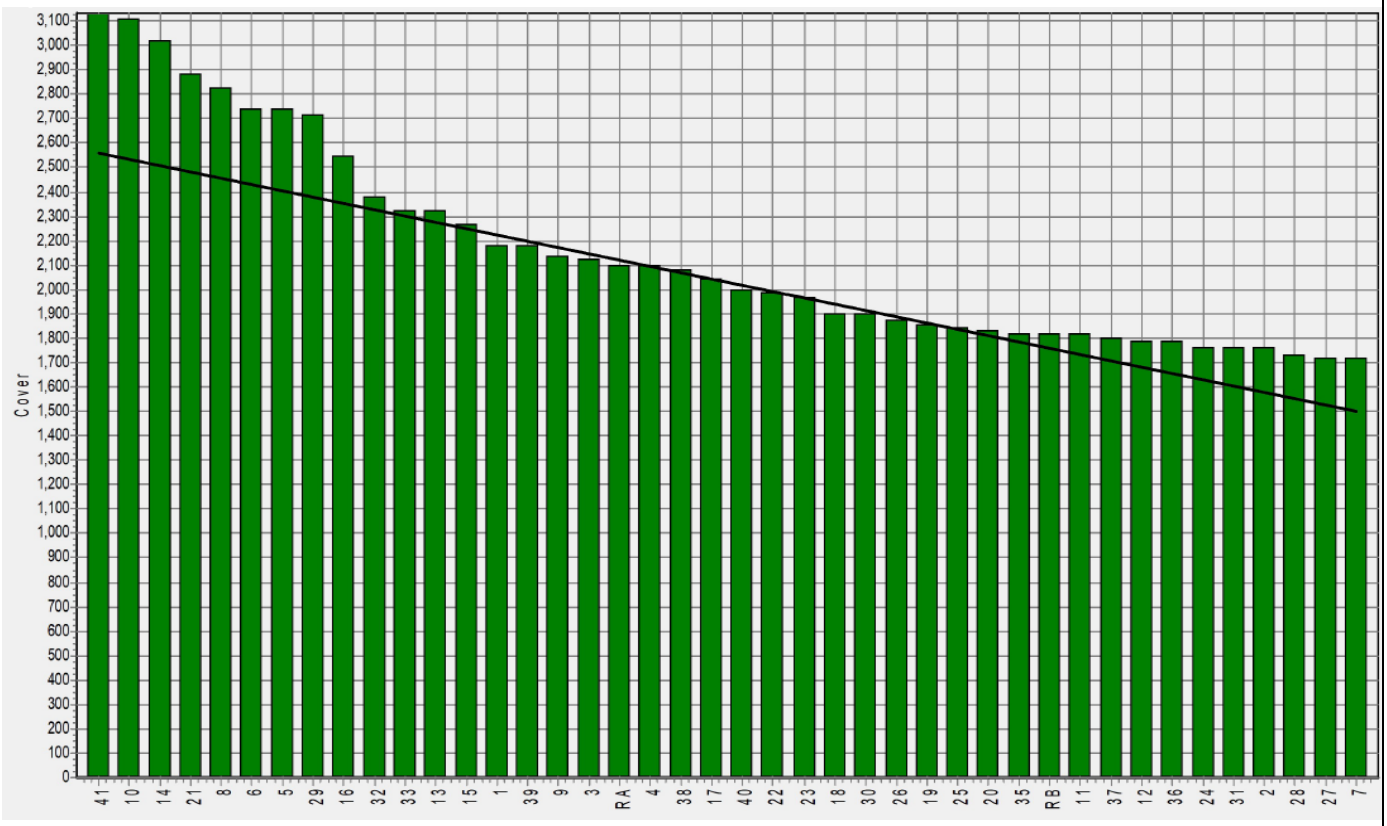
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



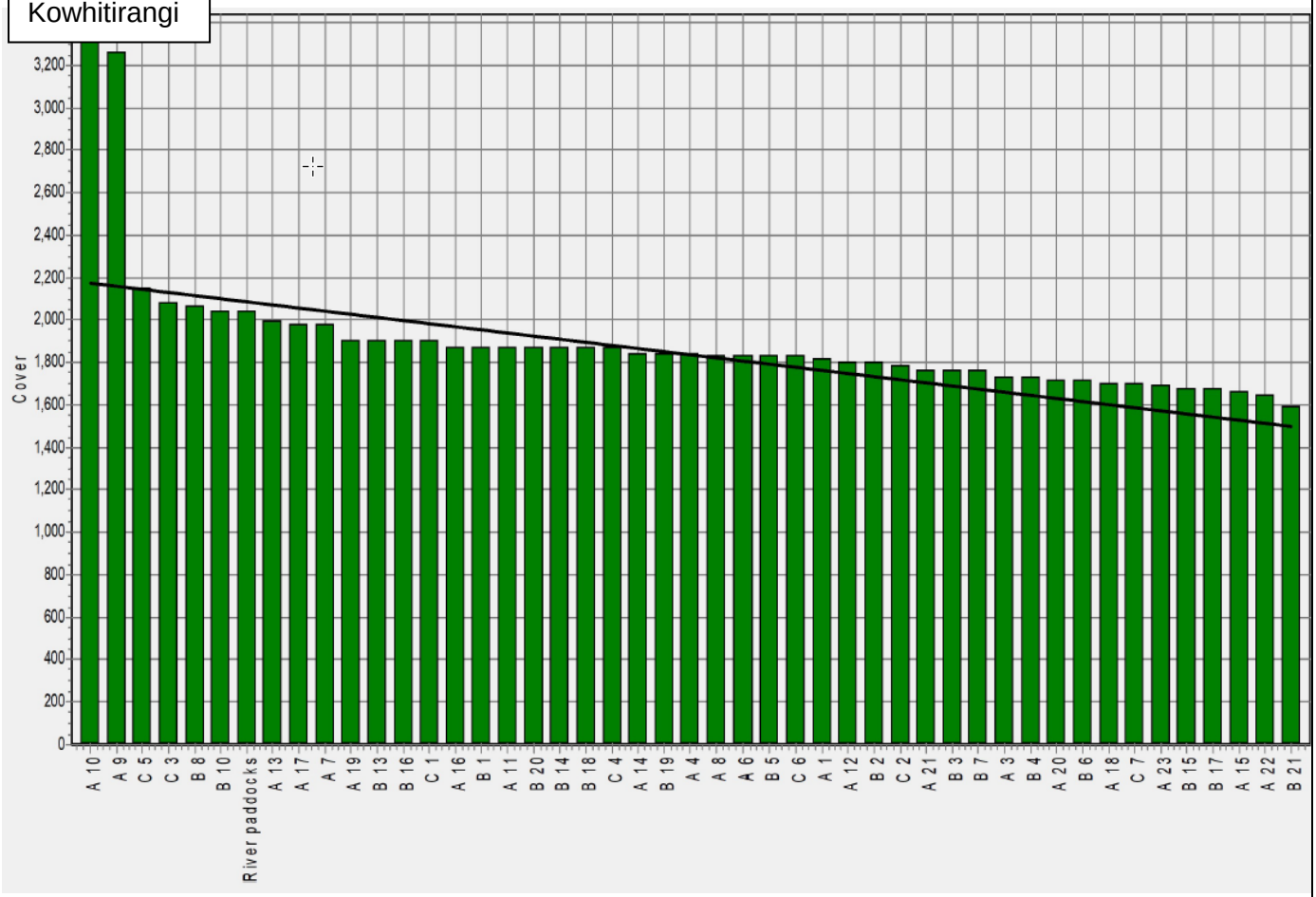
Weekly Soil Temperature



Mawheraiti



Kowhitirangi



Mawheraiti

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME/kg
Paddock 1	13/1/20	14.4	14.7	24.5	3.5	23.3	46.9	11.7	81.3	11.9
Paddock 24	3/2/20	10.8	13.2	25.0	3.4	25.3	47.1	5.7	79.8	11.6
Paddock 21	2/3/20	15.8	11.4	28.5	3.4	25.7	48.4	5.9	78.6	11.5
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

Kowhitirangi

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
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
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

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