

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 16th June 2021.

CO Comment

The successful grazing of crop paddocks is achieved through good management of people, cows, and the environment. The performance of your herd in the coming season relies on them calving in good health and being at the target body condition score. Cows must be transitioned onto winter crops to allow the gut bacteria to adjust to a new feed source. Transitioning onto brassicas (kale, swedes, turnips and rape) can be completed over a shorter time frame than fodder beet. Poorly managed transition can result in sick or dead cows.

It is important that cows are allocated enough feed to achieve their body condition score targets. Feed utilisation rates on crop-based diets are often lower than grazed pasture diets and must be taken into account when determining appropriate allocations.

Feed utilisation rate can be influenced by grazing management. Reduce trampling wastage by moving the fence once or twice a day rather than offering a few days feed at a time.

Crop is utilised more efficiently when long, narrow breaks, rather than wide breaks, are offered, as less of the crop is trampled. To ensure that all cows have access to the crop, there should be 0.7 metres of feed face per cow. If the paddock has a short feeding face, consider splitting the herd by condition score, and feeding both ends at the same time, rather than running the animals in one larger herd.

For more information around transitioning and common animal health conditions on crop, check out the [feeding and transitioning on to brassicas guide](#)

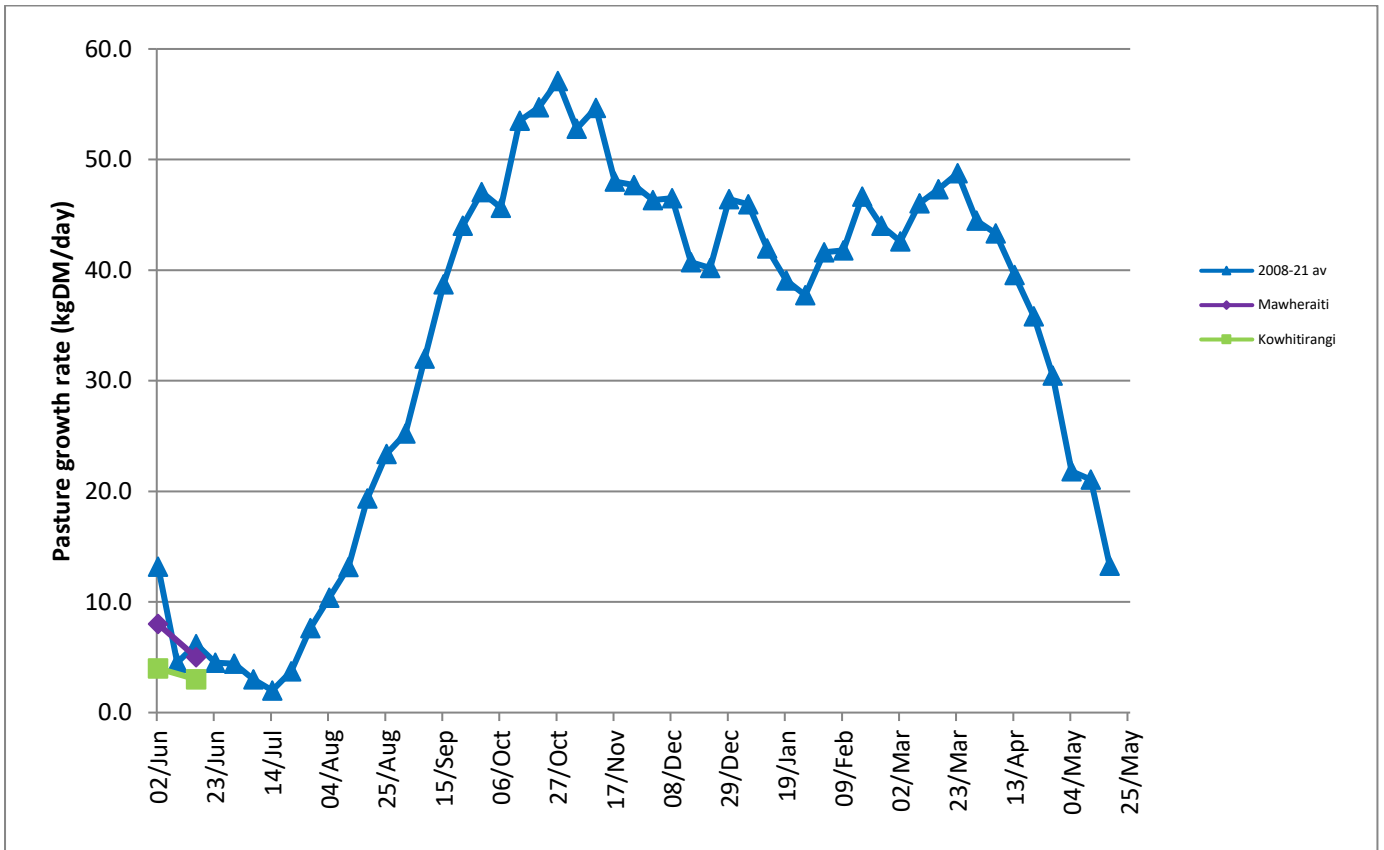
To determine the appropriate feed allocation for your cows, use the [Winter crop allocation calculator](#).

Farm Summary

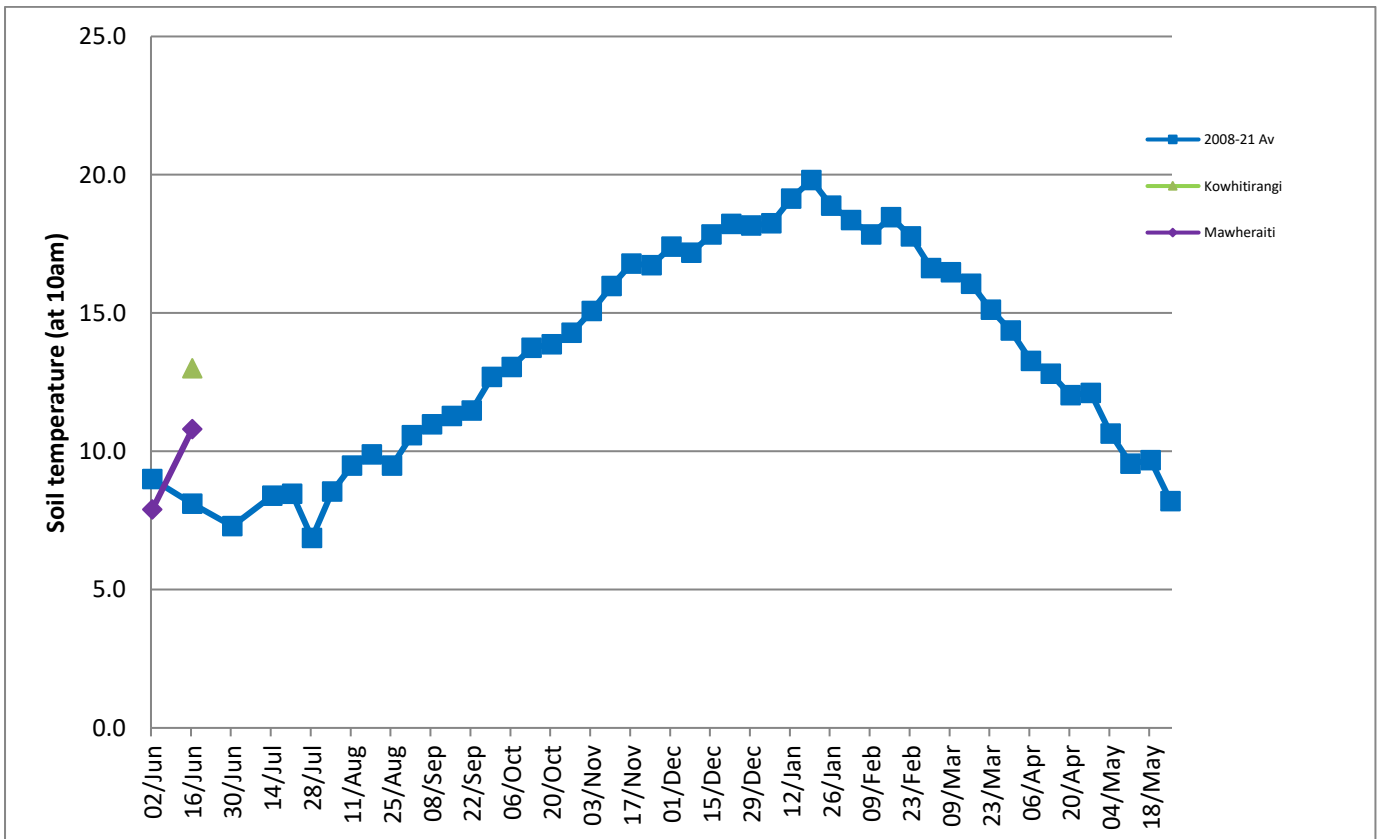
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2062	1921
APC (2 June)	1997	1888
Rotation length (days)		
Stocking rate		
Percentage in milk	0	0
Milksolids kg/cow		
Milksolids kg/ha		
MS/cow (season to date)		
MS/ha (season to date)		
N (kg/ha) year to date		
Current N application rate kg N/ha		
	31 May	12 April
DM%	11.8	9.8
Pasture ME	12.7	11.8
Pasture NDF	38.8	46.5
Pasture CP	33.2	26.0
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)		
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	13.5	12
Soil temperature (°C)	10.8	13
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	5	3
Rainfall	30	50
Conditions for farmwalk	Rain, been heavy, warm though	Fine at farm, but had been heavy rain, warm.
Notes:	<p>2 pdks sprayed for grass grub RARB. Farm and grass looking good.</p> <p>Drafted heifers and a few old cows out of mob to make 2 wintering mobs as having to compete too much. Using pdk 5 as second sacrifice pdk for them</p> <p>Mob size big cows 160, heifer 90</p> <p>Getting ready for trip to Taranaki next week.</p> <p>Workshop renovations finished outside but job still quite a lot of farm maintenance to do this winter, will be a challenge to get it all done.</p>	<p>Some big changes are about to happen at Hart's farm. Jeremy has bought farm next door, and I will try to add some to my walk.</p>

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

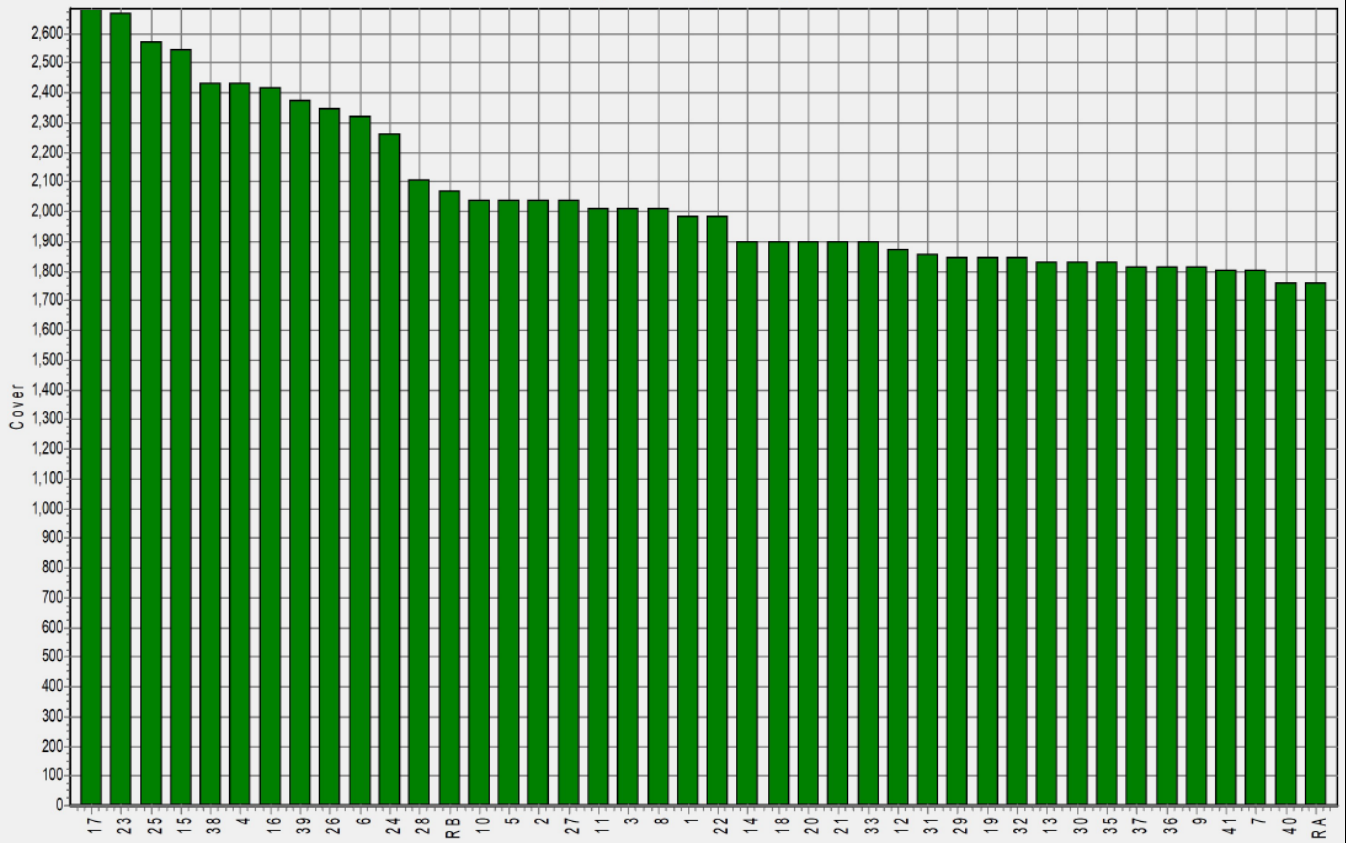
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



Weekly Soil Temperature



Mawheraiti



Kowhitirangi

