

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update as at week ending Wednesday 29th September 2021.

CO Comment

Another very wet week and I can tell that it is 'wearing a bit thin!'. Most people are nearing the end of calving now and both monitor farms will be in single digits left to calve by the time this goes out.

The Maweraiti monitor farm noted again this week about Porina damage so be vigilant and have a look around your own farm for damage. These guys have also reviewed their crop paddocks and changed the plan about where the maize will be planted. This is due to the fact that paddocks initially chosen are subject to flood risk now. This is a timely reminder to consider our choices for cropping paddocks. It is a crucial part of planning for winter. Critical source areas, waterways, shelter, water troughs and being prepared for prolonged weather events all need to be taken into account when selecting a paddock. There are a number of tools and resources available at <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/feed/crops/wintering/planning-september-to-december/> to help you plan your wintering system for 2022.

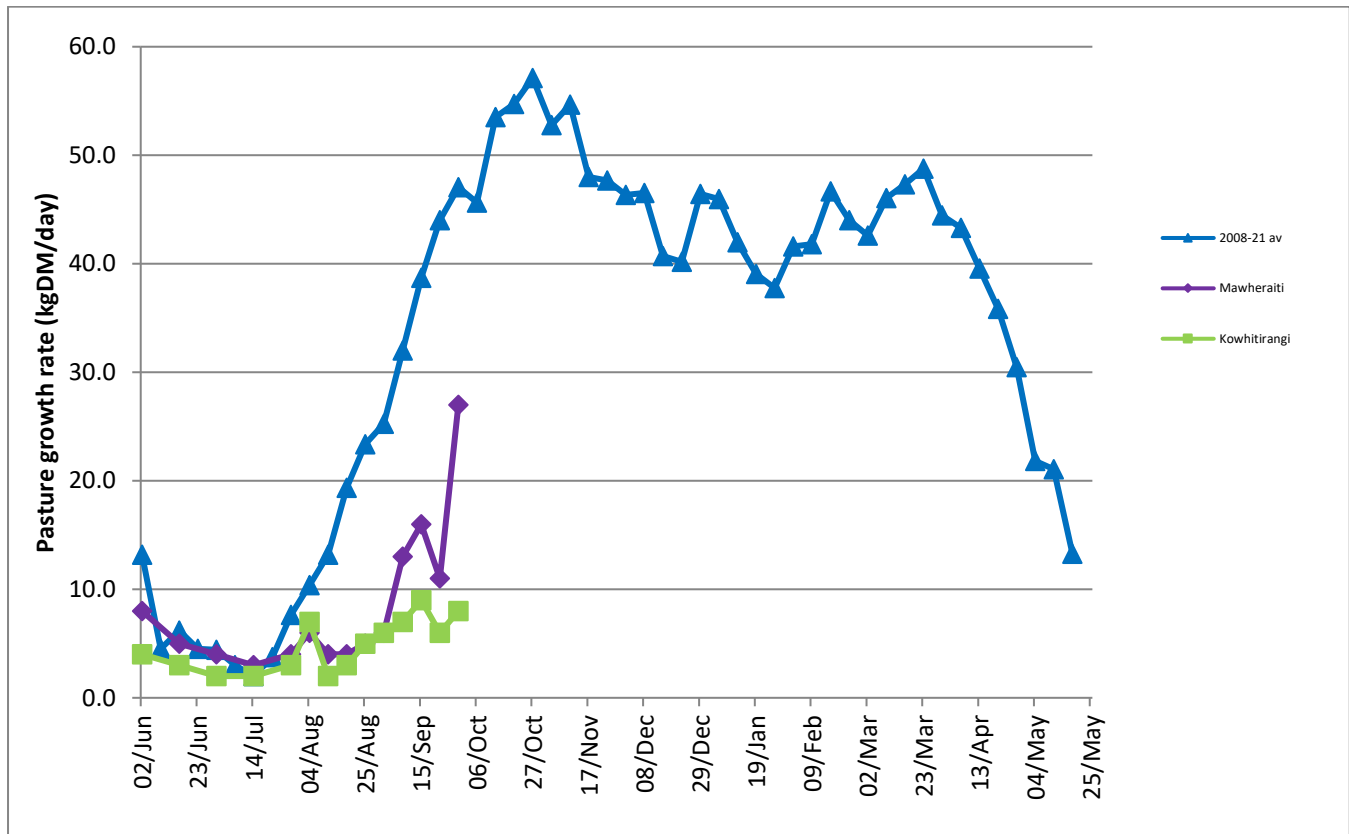
The Kowhitirangi monitor farm noted it was too wet to get fertiliser on. Even if you can defy the physical logistics of getting a tractor and spreader across a paddock without getting stuck or making a mess, remember the response you get from Nitrogen will be influenced by soil temperature, the rate the plant is growing (the faster the growth, the more immediate the response), soil moisture and the amount of N in the soil. More is not always better and there is a diminishing response at application rates greater than 50 kg N/Ha. To learn more about the principles of managing N fertiliser visit <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/feed/pasture/growing-pasture/managing-nitrogen-fertiliser/>

Farm Summary

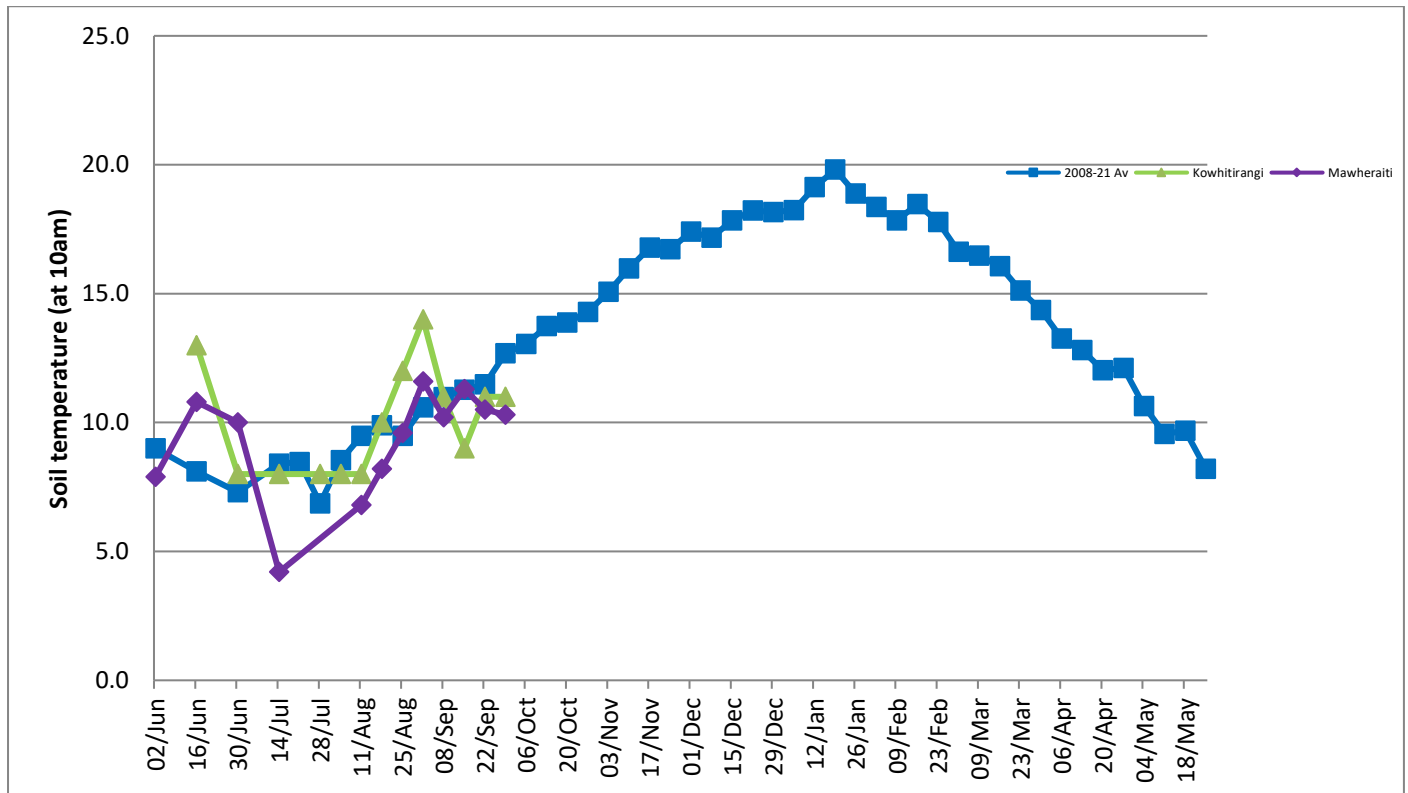
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	1985	1813
APC (22 September)	1947	1826
Rotation length (days)	31	25
Stocking rate	2.5	2.0
Percentage in milk	97% calved	95% calved
Milksolids kg/cow	1.94	1.88
Milksolids kg/ha	4.5	3.8
MS/cow (season to date)	61	51
MS/ha (season to date)	149	101
N (kg/ha) year to date	7	24.8
Current N application rate kg N/ha	18	
	2 August	4 August
DM%	13.1	15.9
Pasture ME	12.0	12.1
Pasture NDF	44.4	44.8
Pasture CP	25.2	31.6
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	Mob 1 – 3.9	3.5
Soil temperature (°C)	10.3	11
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	27	8
Rainfall	65	64
Conditions for farmwalk	Cold, fine day	Pouring down, cold sleet
Notes:	<p>Very wet again, flooding has become a weekly event now. New (old) digger arrived.</p> <p>Cows on Spring rotation length now grass a bit short started pk and feeding balage again. 11 cows left to calve. Will have to change maize pdk from pdk 5 to pdk 12 due to flood risk. Big mob of calves out on farm. Quite bad porina damage in some pdks</p>	<p>3 in 2 milking all season 107 Calves, 55 moved to runoff and rest still on home farm Very wet, no growth still cold Sprayed 2 crop paddocks for weeds Calving cows slowed down and now into SGL 18 to calve Not working crop paddocks till it warms up Too wet to get fert on last week.</p>

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

Weekly Pasture Growth Rates

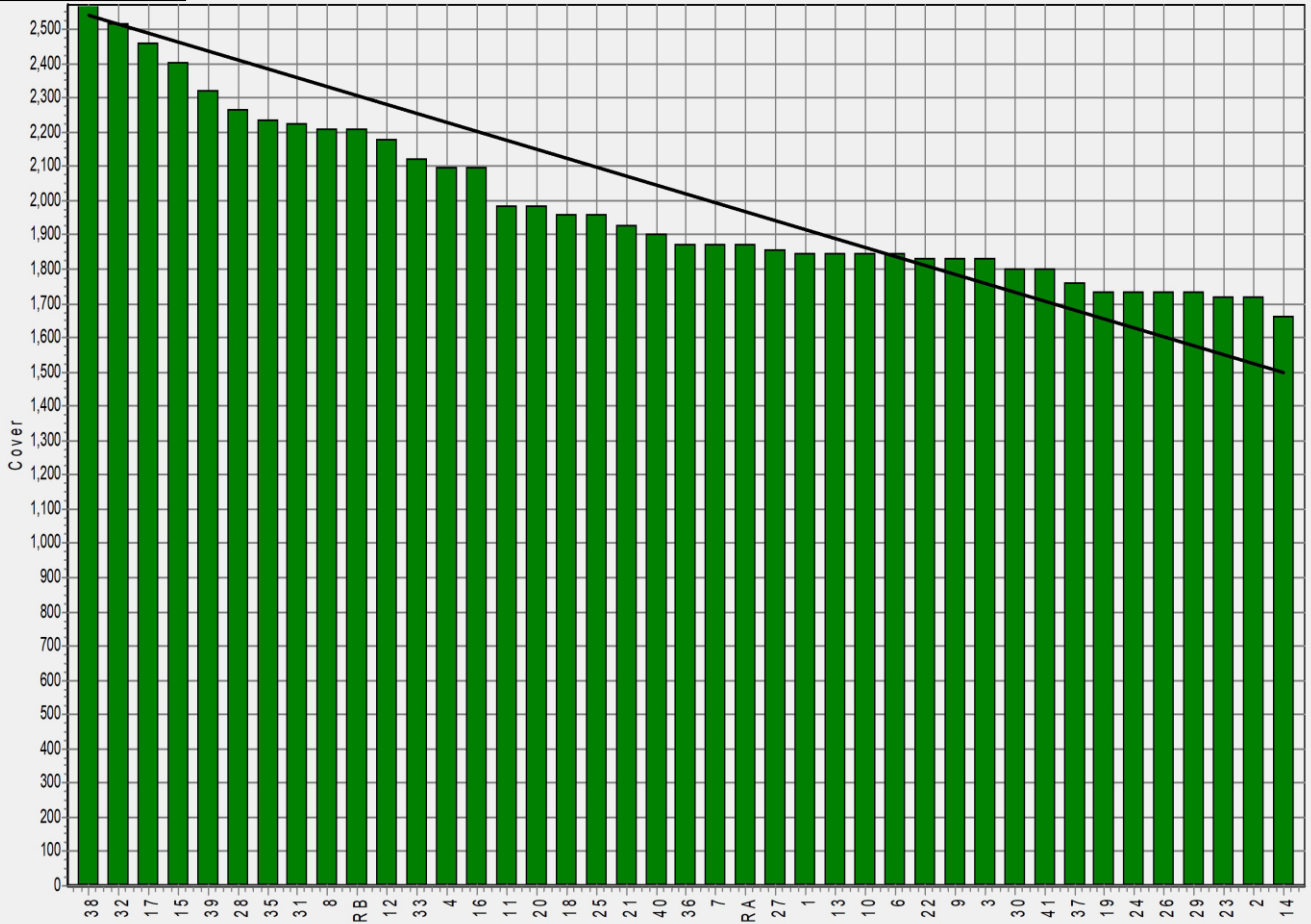


Weekly Soil Temperature

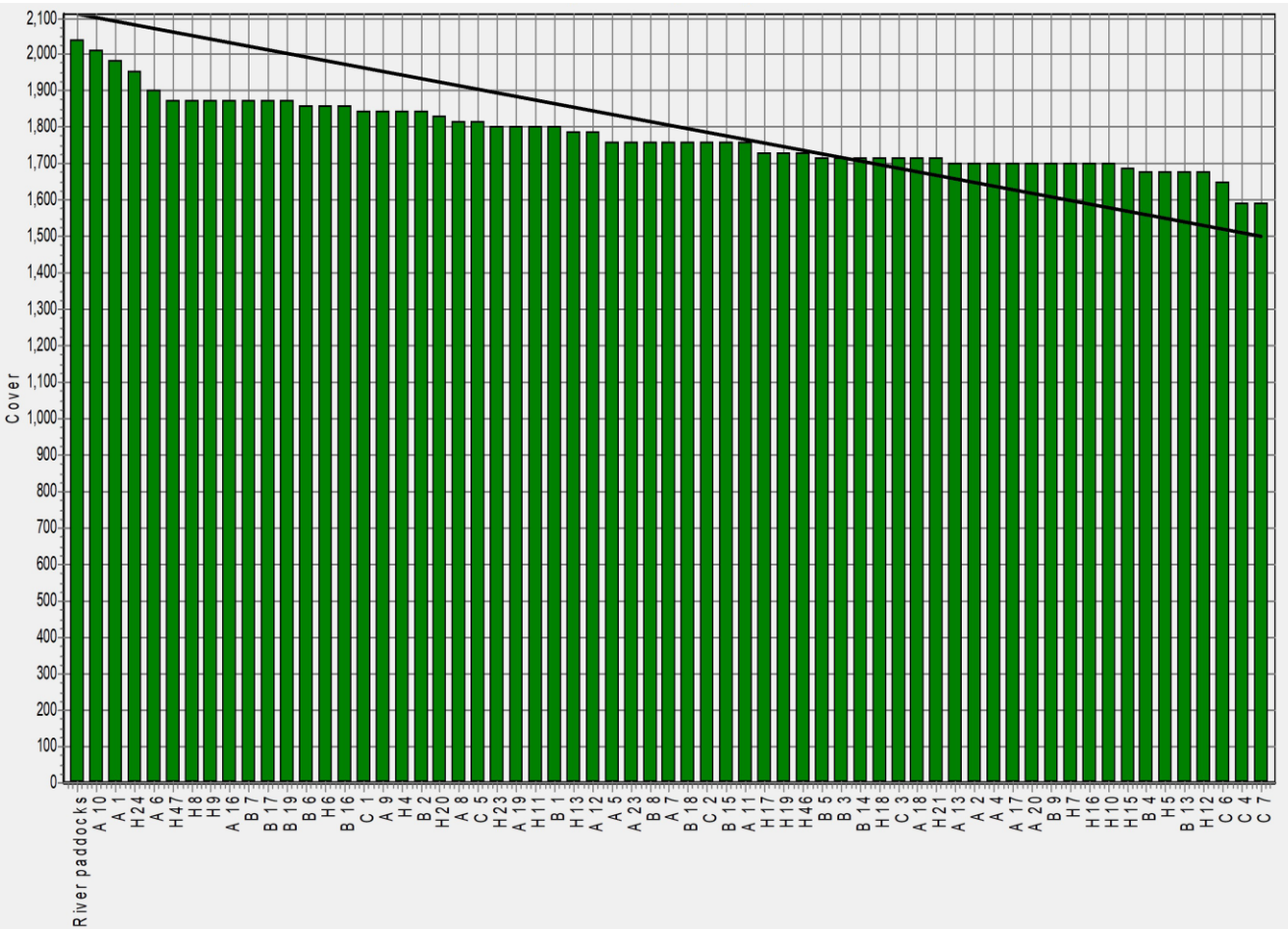


Mawheraiti

Average Growth: 27 Kg DM/ha/day



Kowhitirangi



Kowhitirangi

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
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
Paddock 10a	7/4/21	12.8	9.8	26.0	3.3	24.0	46.5	6.4	80.7	11.8
Paddock 19 new block	4/8/21	10.0	15.9	31.6	4.2	25.1	44.8	6.5	82.7	12.1

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