

# Westland Monitor Farm Project

**Weekly Update** as at week ending Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

## CO Comment

With the continued wet weather and mating just around the corner we need to be as mindful as ever about monitoring our animals to achieve the best results this mating. 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 isn't taken.

Taking pre-mating heats is a key strategy in achieving targets, as is identifying, and remedying any reasons for non-cycling. There is still time to implement change to improve potential outcomes. 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.

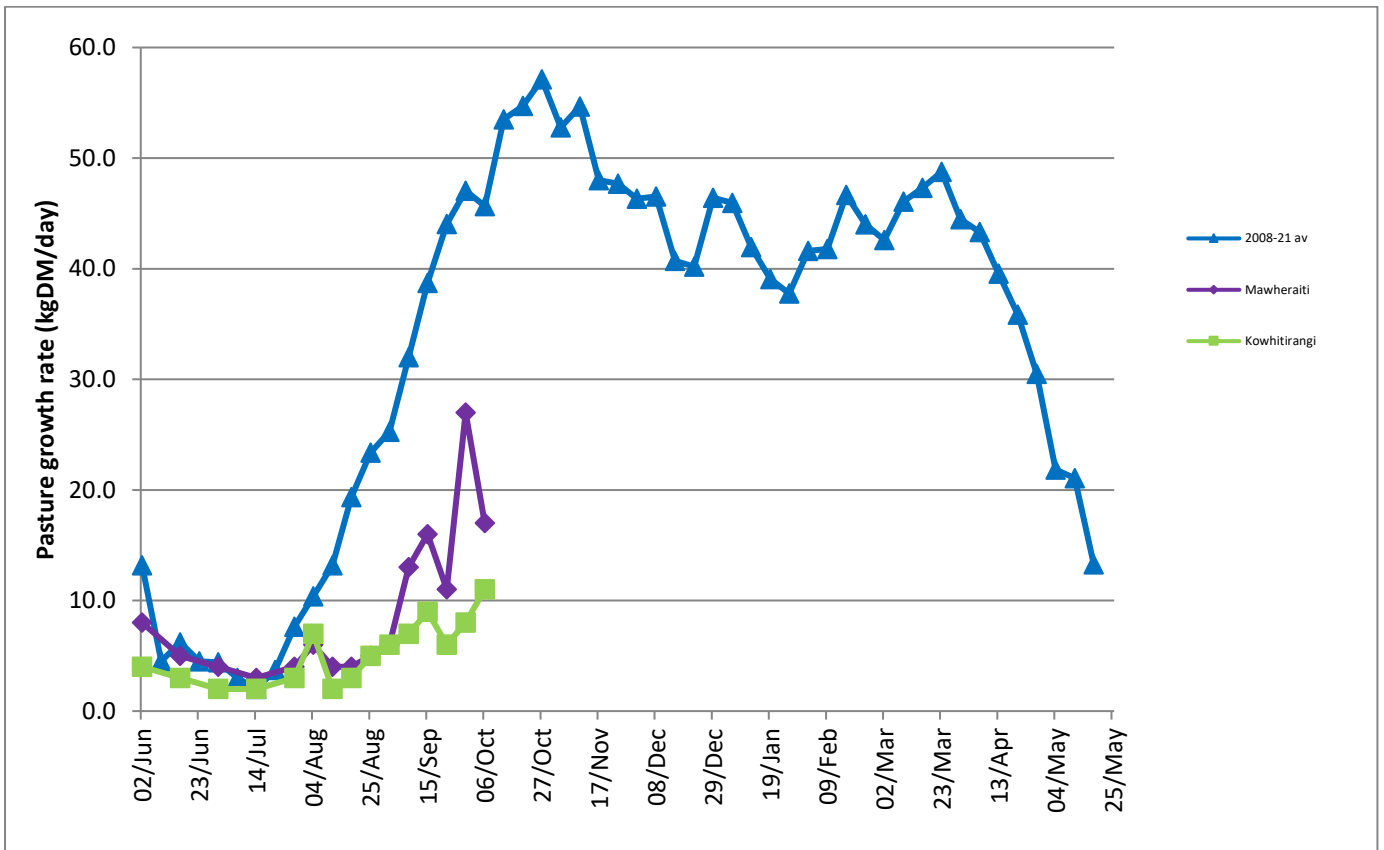
One of the key factors in hitting target submission and conception rates is making sure the cows on heat are correctly identified. Missing cows that are on heat or wrongly identifying cows on heat can cost thousands of dollars each year through reduced in-calf rates and later calving patterns. The wet conditions mean cows display less evident signs they're cycling. Stress interferes with how cows express heat. When stressed, their heat signs are subtle which makes it harder to know if cows are ready to be inseminated. 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.

## Farm Summary

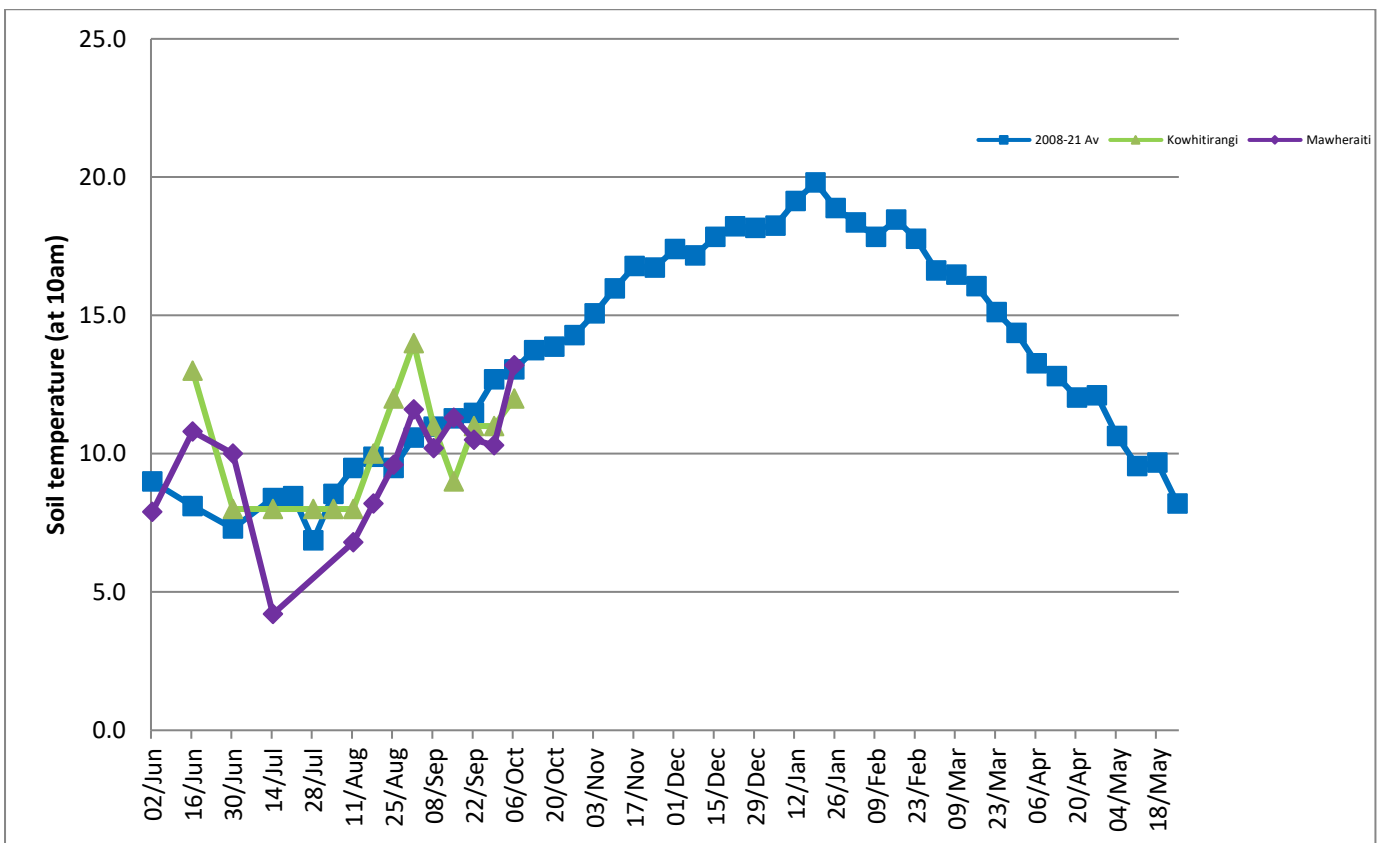
	Mawheraiti	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	1940	1807
APC (29 September)	1985	1813
Rotation length (days)	26	25
Stocking rate	2.5	2.0
Percentage in milk	99% calved	97% calved
Milksolids kg/cow	1.98	2.04
Milksolids kg/ha	4.7	3.6
MS/cow (season to date)	74	64
MS/ha (season to date)	183	126
N (kg/ha) year to date	11	36
Current N application rate kg N/ha	18	24
	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 – 4.4	3.5
Soil temperature (°C)	13.2	12.0
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	17	11
Rainfall	25	57
Conditions for farmwalk	Rain	Heavy rain
Notes:	<p>2 cows left to calve Cut right back on supplement, grass looking quite good. Maize pit finished. Started tidying up gravel washed out from stop-bank. Re-opened blocked drain full of stop-bank gravel.</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 Pulling out fences on new farm make paddocks bigger Calving cows slowed down and now into SGL 11 to calve Not working crop paddocks till it warms up Managed to get fert on 90ha @ 80kg / ha Nrich Ammo 30</p>

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

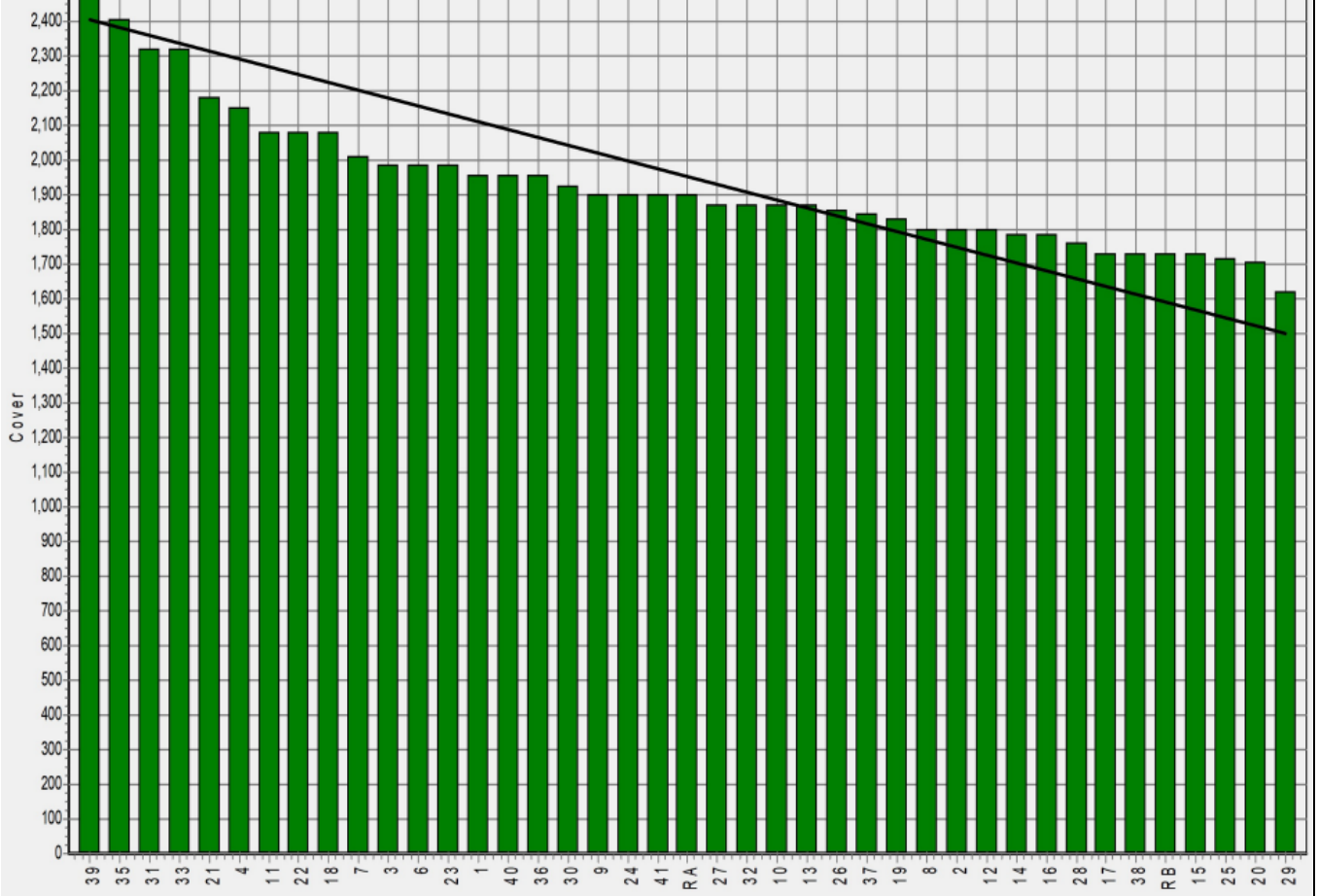
## Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



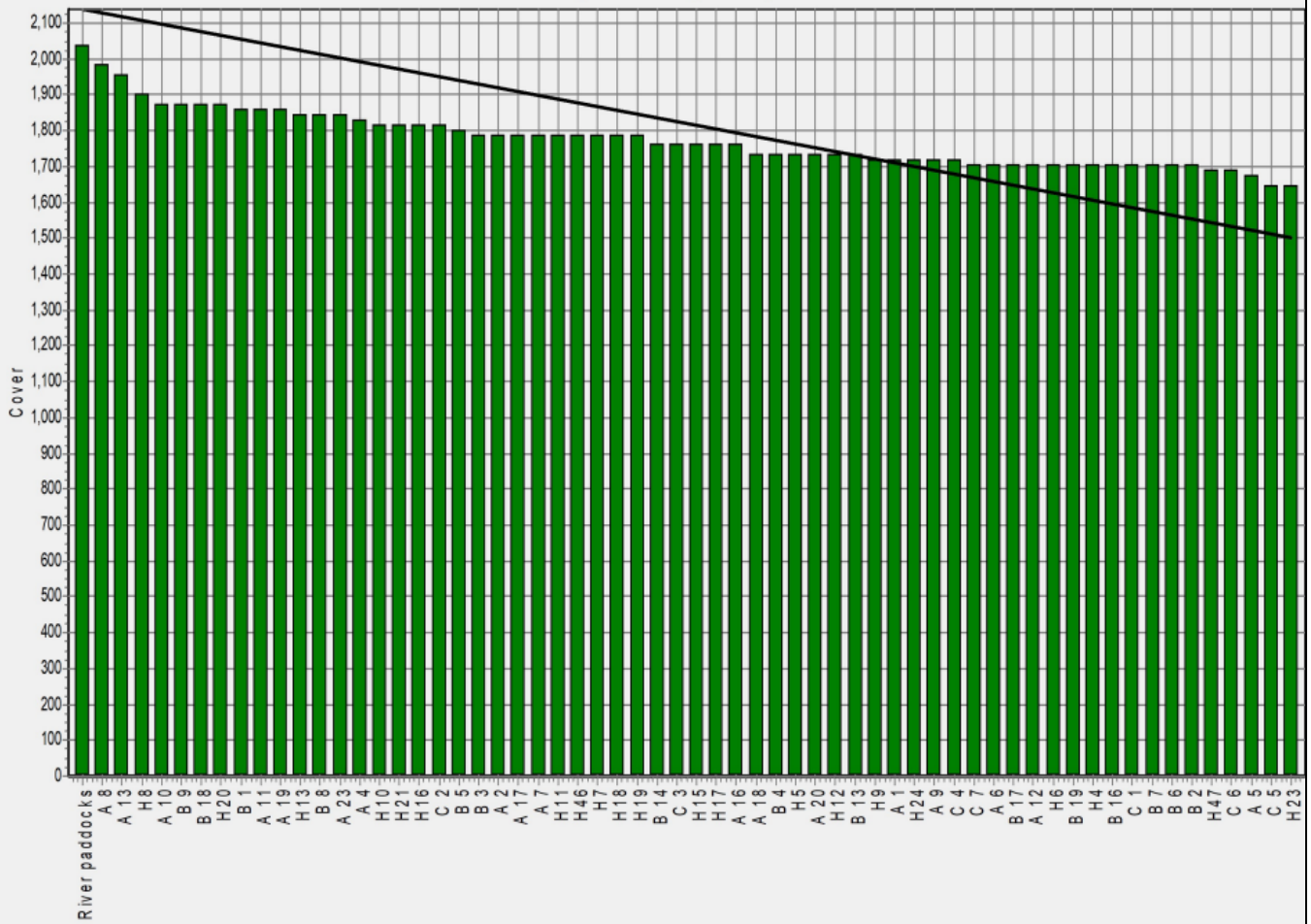
## Weekly Soil Temperature



### Mawheraiti



### Kowhitirangi





Kowhitirangi

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