Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update 1 December 2016

CO comment

Man, it's been wet for such a long time it's hard to remember when it wasn't! The continuing wet conditions underfoot are certainly making effective stock and pasture management difficult. Pasture growth rates, whilst not quite at the levels we'd expect for this stage of the season, are generally in excess of stock demands, so the pasture surpluses continue to accumulate. The key thing to remember through this period is to minimise pasture damage as much as possible. The main issue with wet spells is the impact on the pasture and soil, through pugging damage. Damage to soil over wet periods can severely reduce pasture yield between 20 – 80% for up to eight months. If the soil is pugged, water will pond on the surface for longer. Therefore, the soil will remain softer and wetter and subsequent grazings by the herd will result in further damage. Damage to the pasture will make it less palatable to stock and difficult to eat, reducing utilisation. This will reduce cow intake at the time of grazing and the quality of the feed offered to the cows in subsequent grazings. If pasture covers are high cows will be consuming their requirements within a four-hour period. The cows can then be taken off pasture and held on a stand-off facility to minimise any further damage to the soil and pasture. Removing the cows via different exit points will also reduce damage caused to the gateway areas. With AB getting close to completion for some, some consideration could be given to an early cull of cows that may end up being later calvers next season, or those that are already on the culling list. Reducing the herd size will make it easier to feed the remainder of the herd. Whatever strategy you end up adopting to get through this current challenge, make sure you monitor stock and pasture regularly to ensure that neither is suffering and the planned strategies are working.

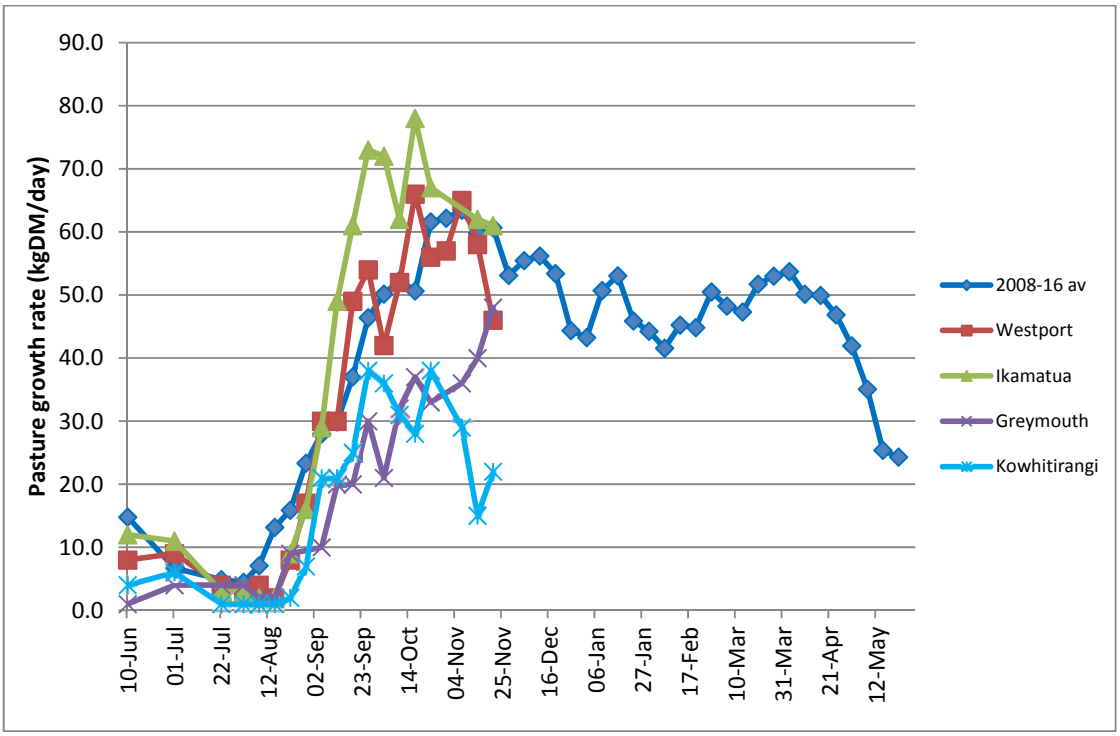
Farm Summary

	Westport	Ikamatua	Greymouth	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2095	2172	1960	1771
APC (24 November)	*2162*	*2148*	*1933*	*1792*
Rotation length (days)	20		20	
Stocking rate	2.8		2.5	
Percentage in milk	100	100	100	100
Milksolids kg/cow	1.90		1.94	
Milksolids kg/ha	5.3		4.9	
MS/cow (season to date)	165		201	
MS/ha (season to date)	471		446	
N (kg/ha) year to date	73		116	
Current N application rate kg N/ha	15		20	
	7 Nov	7 Nov	7 Nov	7 Nov
DM%	14.7	13.8		14.4
Pasture ME	>12.7	>12.7		12.3
Pasture NDF	42.5	45		47.5
Pasture CP	21.8	26.4		23.3
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18		21	
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	1.5		5.0	
Soil temperature (°C)	13.0		11.9	16.1
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	46	61	48	22

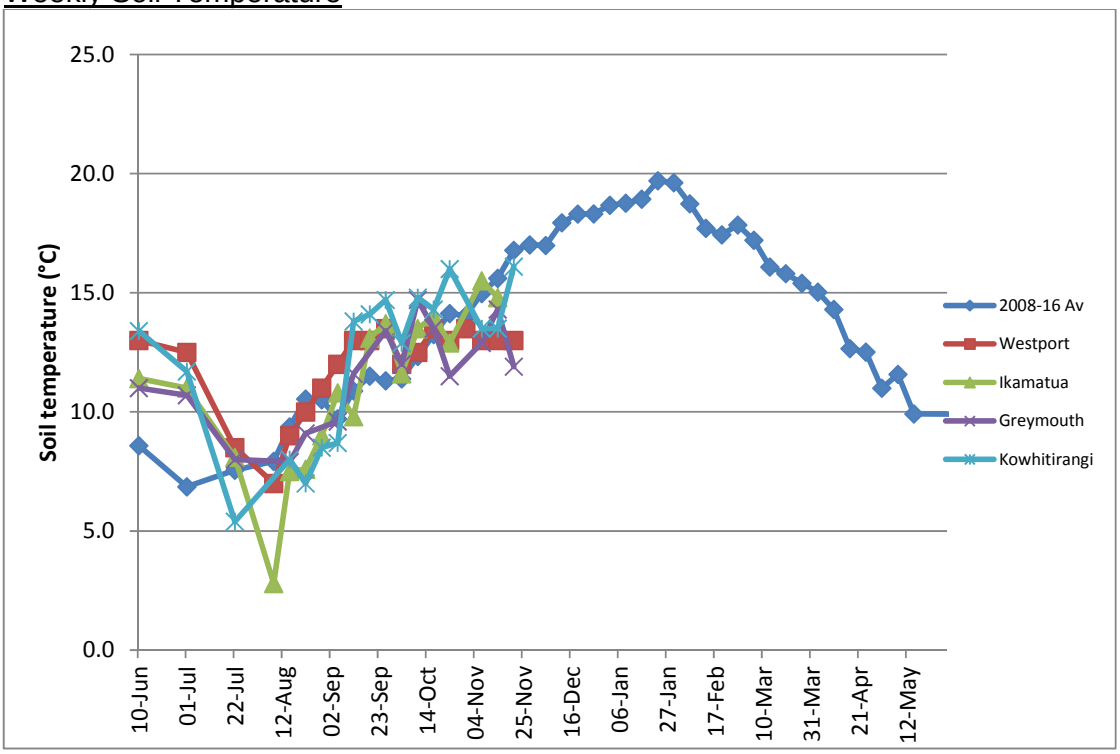
Rainfall	56		67.5	
Conditions for farmwalk	Hail rain wind cold sun !!!! farm very wet	Rain ..		Beautiful fine day but farm still very wet first fine day for ages !!
Comments				

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

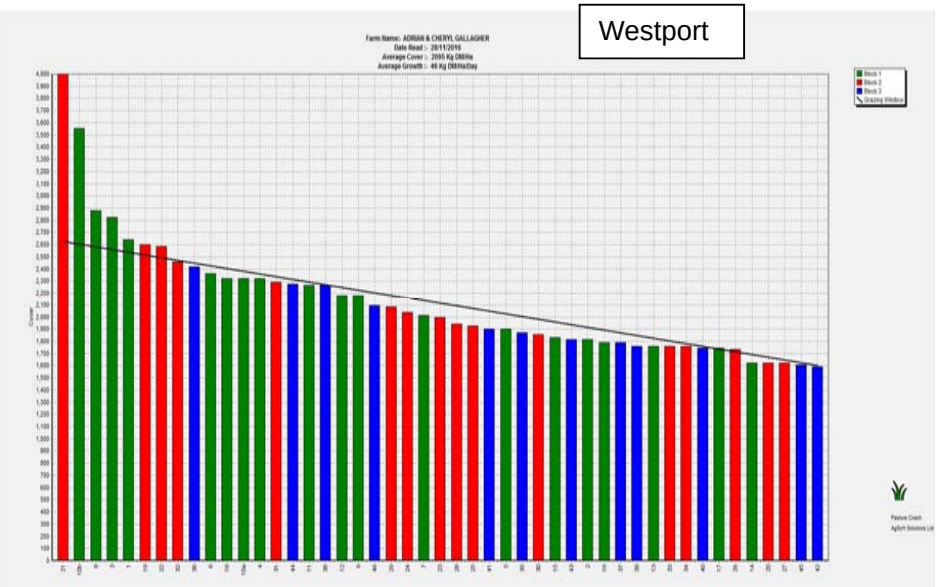
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



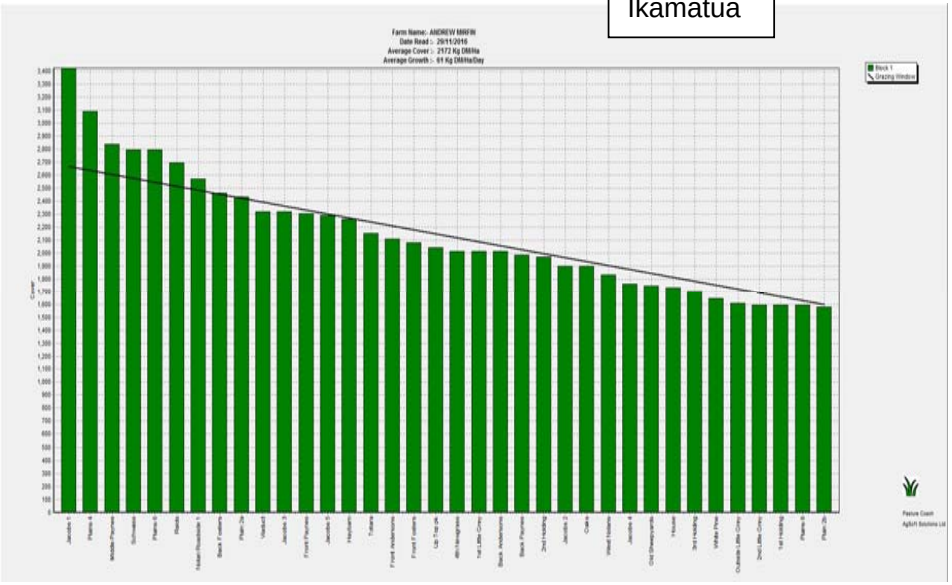
Weekly Soil Temperature



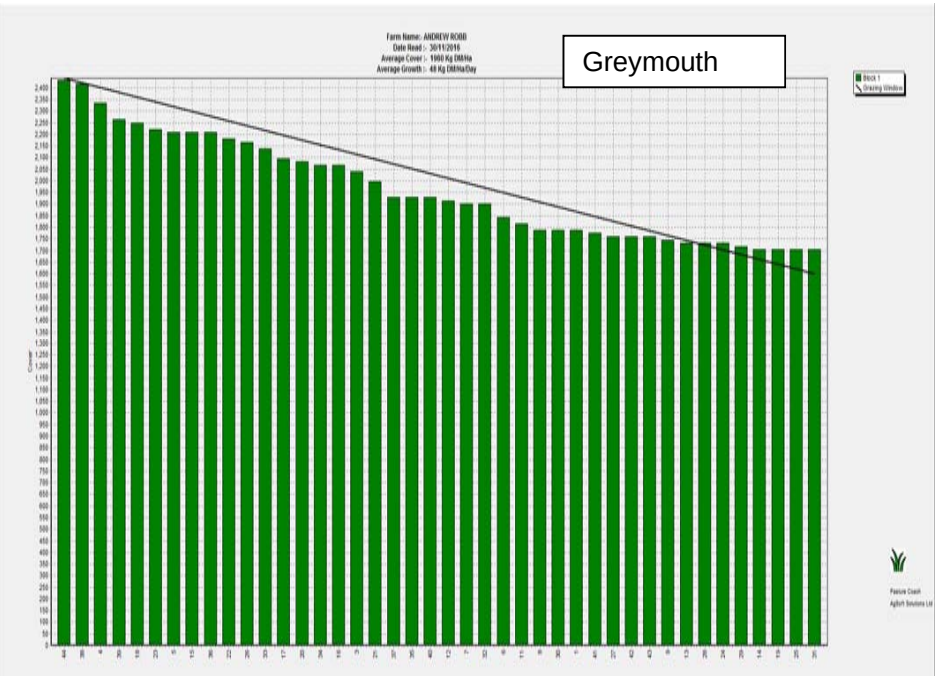
Westport



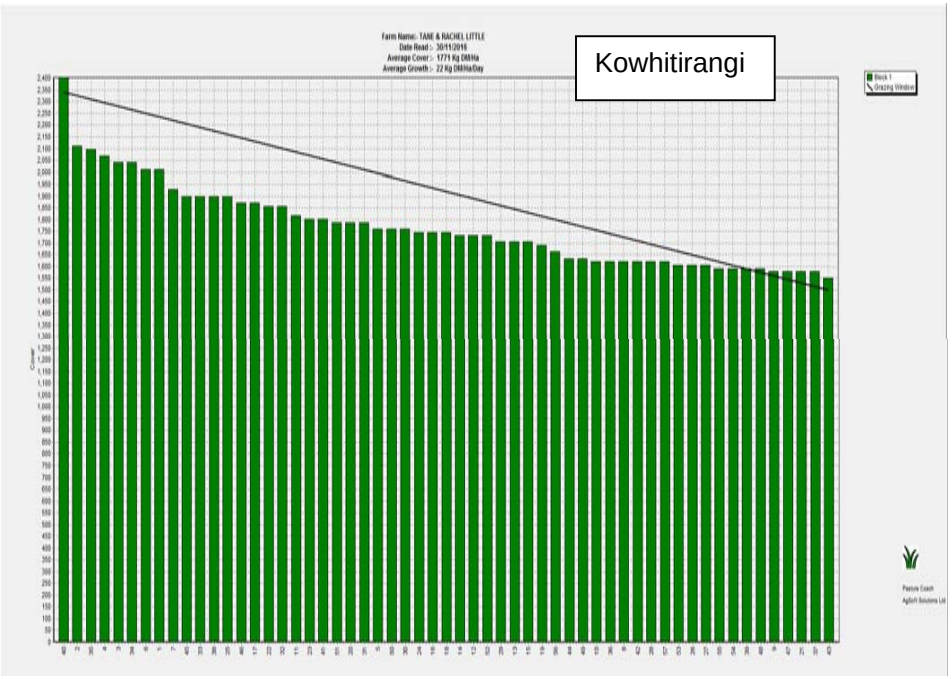
Ikamatua



Greymouth



Kowhitirangi



Pasture Quality

NOTE: We sample the paddocks immediately in front of the milkers, to height of 3.5cm (7 clicks on the rising plate meter). The RPM data in the table is the pre-grazing clicks recorded on the day of sampling.

Westport

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
Pdk 38	20/6/2016	13.6	12.3	28.2	3.3	24.4	42.9	10.4	85	12.7
Pdk 30	8/8/2016	13.3	19.1	23.3	4.6	24.3	46.2	11.8	82.6	12.1
Pdk 32	5/9/2016	11.2	13.2	34.3	4.2	22.2	41.7	6.7	85	12.7
Pdk 5	10/10/2016	14.8	16.9	32.7	4.1	23.8	46.2	7.6	85	12.7
Pdk 26	7/11/2016		14.7	21.8	3.5	9.3	42.5	17.4	>85	>12.7

Ikamatua

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME/ kg
Hold	21/6/2016	12.8	11.7	26.4	4.7	21.7	33.5	14.7	85	12.7
Baleage runoff	29/6/2016		29.4	17.4	4.9	27.6	41.2	2.5	77.3	11.3
Plain	9/8/2016	7.2	17.8	18.3	4.4	22.0	35.7	24.1	85	12.7
Pdk 4	6/9/2016		14.8	29.3	5.2	21.1	40.3	10.6	85	12.7
Old Sheep yards	11/10/2016	17.0	12.9	27.3	4.0	22.0	42.2	12.0	85	12.7
Jacobs	7/11/2016		13.8	26.4	4.6	21.7	45	10.6	>85	>12.7

Greymouth

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

Kowhitirangi

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME/kg
Pdk 22	22/6/2016	8.0	16.5	25.1	4.8	20.9	30.4	22.1	85	12.7
Pdk 40	10/8/2016	10.8	21.1	17.6	3.5	23.5	37.3	25.4	85	12.7
Pdk 1	7/9/2016	11.8	12.4	34.7	5.1	20.6	44.1	4.4	85	12.7
Pdk 6	12/10/2016	14.2	12.8	25.5	4.2	21.1	42.3	12.2	85	12.7
Pdk 5	7/11/2016		14.4	23.3	4.2	25.3	47.5	9	84.4	12.3