Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update

CO comment

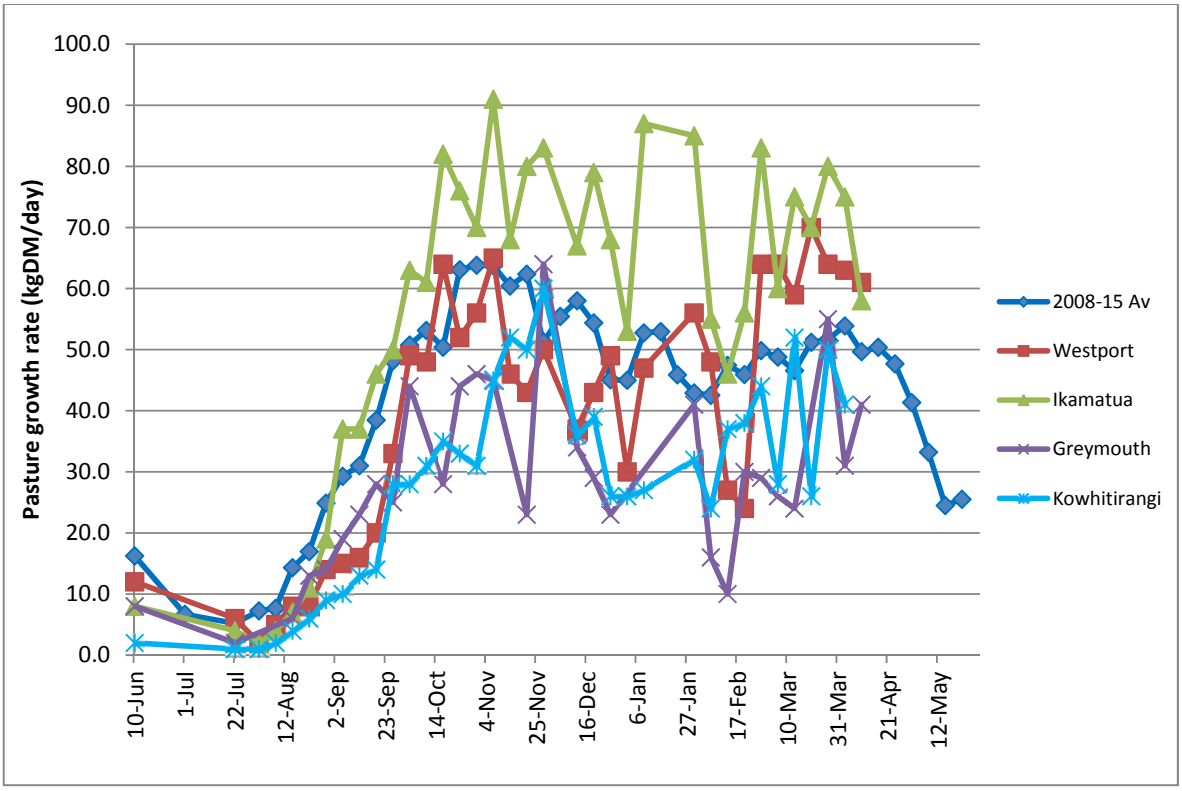
Buoyant growing conditions over the past month has resulted in some later harvests of supplement and delayed sowing dates of new pastures, but the utopia will end sometime - maybe with a crunch! The important factors remain – cows need to be close to target calving body condition by drying off (BCS 5 for mixed aged cows and 5.5 for rising 2 and 3 year olds) and average pasture cover (APC) sufficient to achieve pasture cover requirements at calving. There is no magic number as the amount required will be dependent on your wintering system. If wintering off the milking platform, on a support block or crop, APC at dry off can be lower as growth during June and July will contribute 350-450 kg DM/ha based on previous winter growth rate monitoring. If you are wintering on the milking platform, APC at dry off needs to be close to that required at calving. Think about these factors, assess the current situation on your farm and develop a plan for the next 8 weeks, including a feed budget, to ensure your body condition and pasture targets are achieved. Management changes put in place now will be far more subtle and easier to implement than those that might be required this time next month

Farm Summary

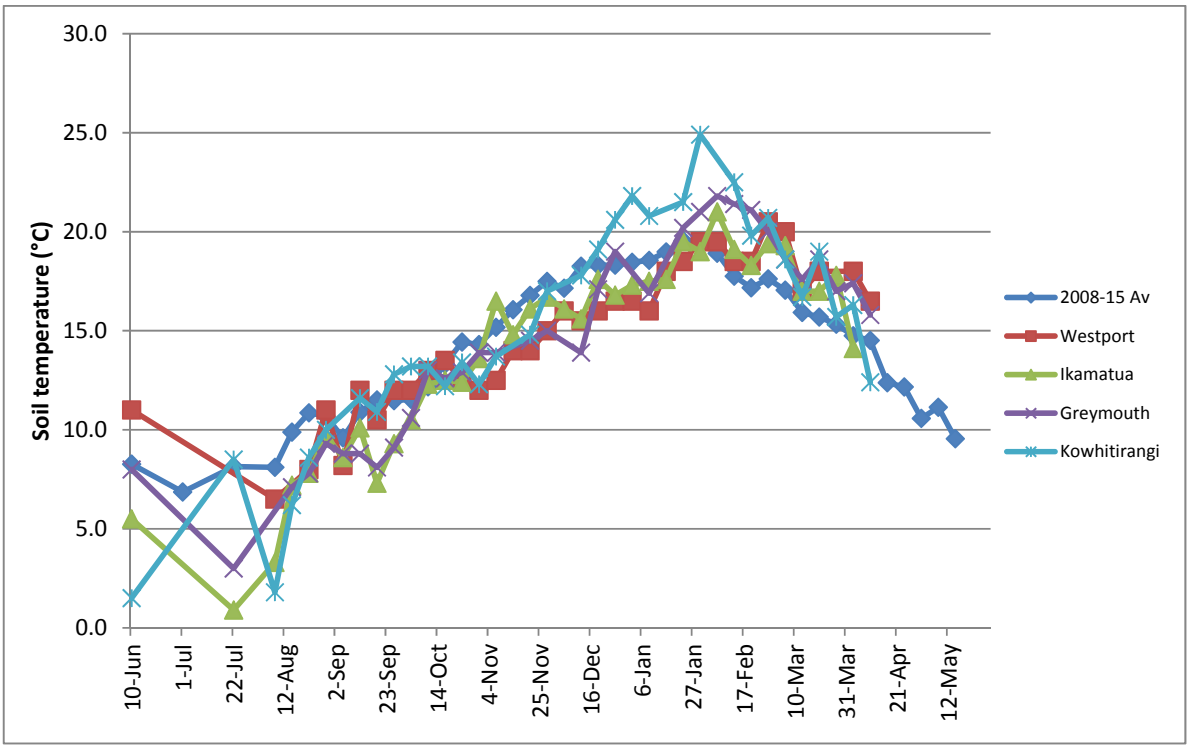
	Westport	Ikamatua	Greymouth	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2276	2301	2217	2184
APC (7 April)	2285	2420	2217	2104
Rotation length (days)	24	25	23	33.3
Stocking rate	2.4	2.6	2.1	2.3
Percentage in milk	83	96	82	97
Milksolids kg/cow	1.43	1.36	1.26	1.19
Milksolids kg/ha	3.4	3.4	2.5	2.8
MS/cow (season to date)				
MS/ha (season to date)	1065	881	907	648
N (kg/ha) year to date	203	300	310	119
Current N application rate kg N/ha	15-20	30	20	None
	18/3	18/3		18/3
DM%	13.6	11.8		13.3
Pasture ME	12.5	11.8		12.1
Pasture NDF	47.1	47.4		46.3
Pasture CP	29.4	33.3		34.4
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	18	18	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	1.0	1.2		
Soil temperature (°C)	16.5		15.8	12.4
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	61	58	41	43
Rainfall	15		19	133.5
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine warm	Showers		Fine warm cold start
Comments				

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

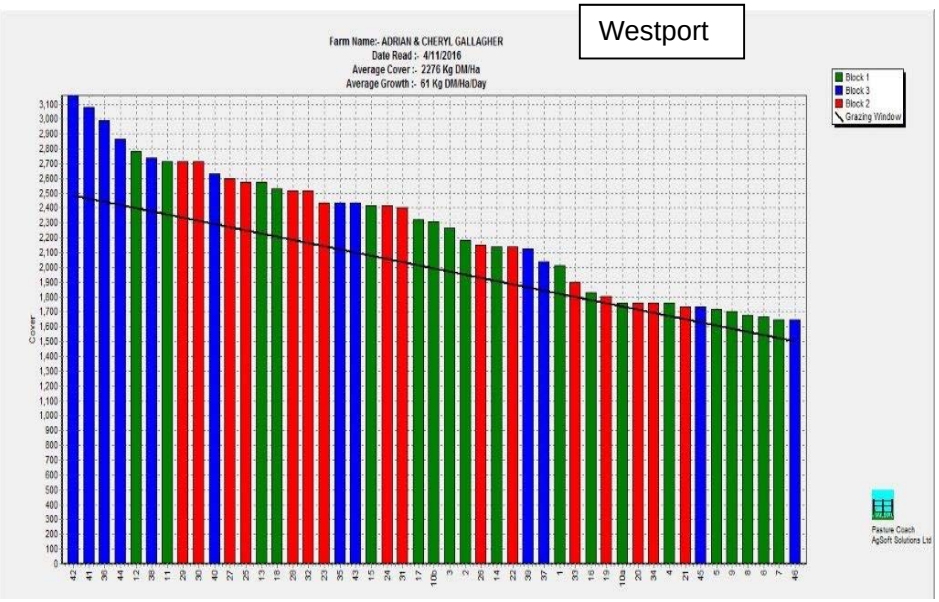
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



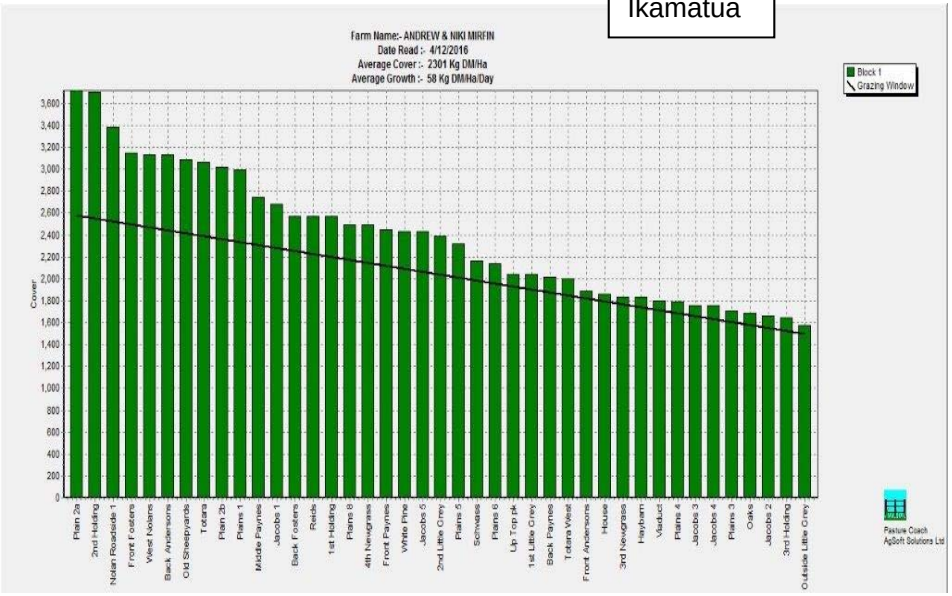
Weekly Soil Temperature



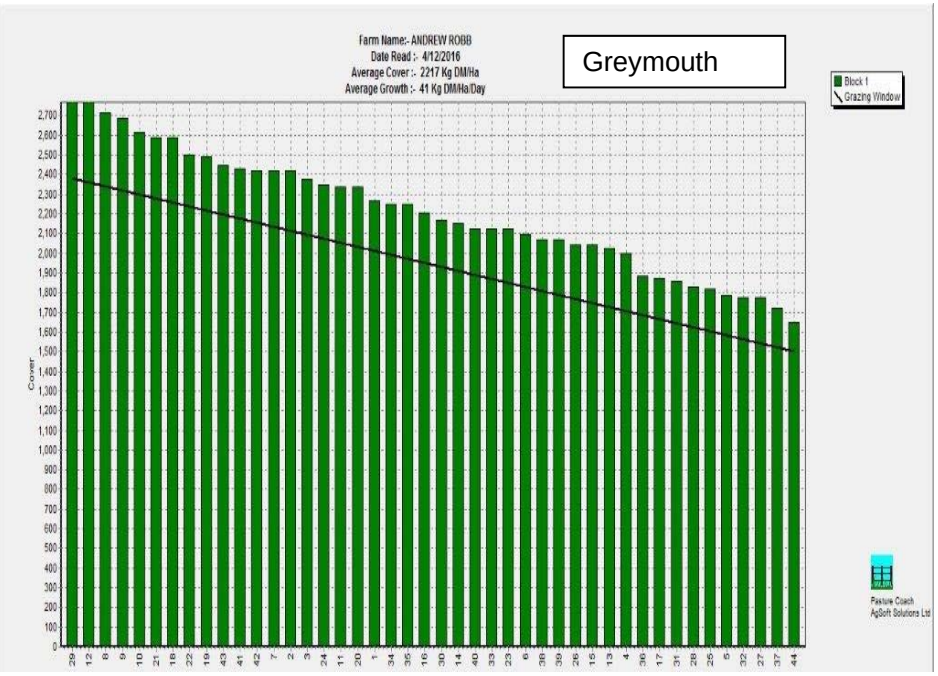
Westport



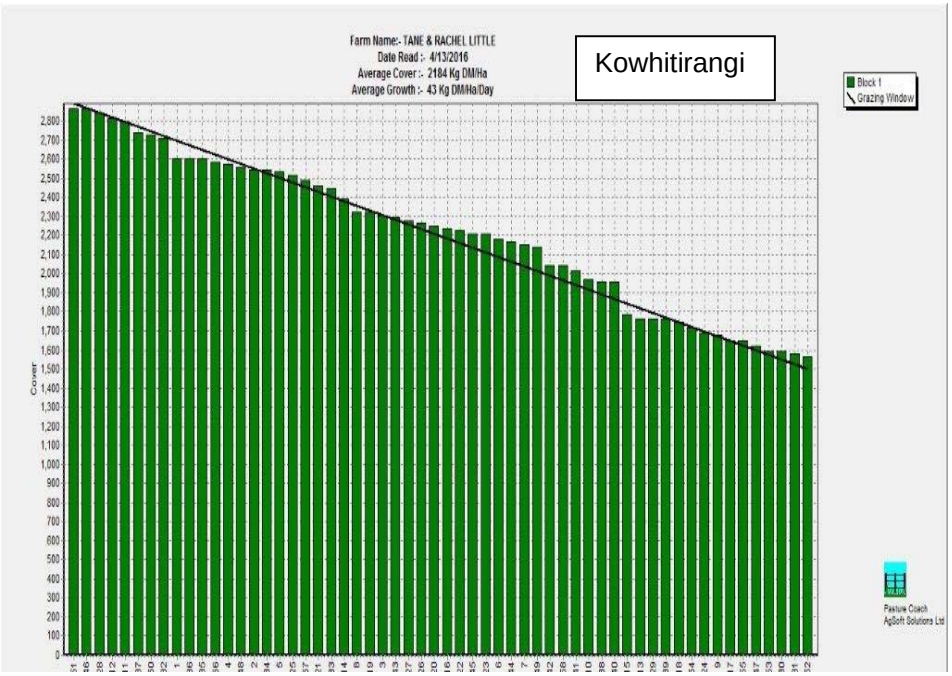
Ikamatua



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 25	20/7/15	18.3	19.9	22.9	3.9	23.6	39.7	18.6	85	12.7
Pdk 42	21/8/15	14.0	20.2	25.6	5.2	22.3	43.3	17.0	85	12.6
Pdk 22	15/9/15	12.6	13.9	32.1	3.4	21.7	39.8	9.5	85	12.7
Pdk 46	9/10/15	11.3	12.8	38.9	4.2	22.5	42.4	13.9	>85	>12.7
Pdk 6	6/11/15	14.0	13.8	23.1	4	23.7	42.8	14	>85	12.6
Pdk 39	7/12/15	9.5	13.1	28.0	3.8	29.1	49.0	2.2	80.9	11.8
Pdk 36	29/1/16	14.7	11.9	26	3.4	25.5	55.5	4.2	84.9	12.4
Pdk 27	26/2/16	13.7	13.1	28.2	4.6	25.7	46.6	6.8	82.1	12.0
Pdk 44	18/3/16	10.4	11.8	33.3	4.4	24.9	47.4	1.9	81.1	11.8

Ikamatua

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME/ kg
Jacobs	20/7/15	10.8	15	23.3	4.5	21.9	34.7	20.7	85	12.7
Old sheep yards	21/8/15	9.1	16.7	26.6	5.0	22.6	38.7	18.1	85	12.7
4 New Grass	15/9/15	12.8	13.8	37.6	3.5	20.6	34.7	9.2	85	12.7
Back Anderson	9/10/15	10.0	14.5	26	5.4	23.2	39.6	17	83.5	12.2
White pine	6/11/15	16.6	16.3	24.1	4.9	23.6	39.1	14.4	>85	>12.7
Viaduct	7/12/15	13.0	14.4	29	4.3	24.8	44.9	7.6	84.9	12.4
Totara East	29/1/16	16.7	13.4	26.8	4.7	22.7	51.4	7.8	>85	12.7
Front Anderson	26/2/16	14.8	13.1	28.2	4.6	25.7	46.6	6.8	82.1	12
Reid	18/3/16	15.0	13.3	34.4	4.9	23.2	46.3	2	82.8	12.1

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 19	21/8/15	9.0	15.6	25.8	4.9	22.9	45.4	15.7	85	12.7
Pdk 30	15/9/15	9.9	17.6	28.0	4.0	21.1	38.4	14.2	85	12.7
Pdk 34	9/10/15	13.0	15.8	22.3	4.6	23.2	44.9	17.7	>85	12.6
Pdk 20	6/11/15	13.8	19.8	18.1	4.4	21.3	35	23.1	>85	>12.7
Pdk 25	7/12/15	13.4	12.3	27.4	4.7	26.5	46.4	3.5	81.7	11.9
Pdk 8	29/1/16	14.5	13.4	23.4	3.4	26	53.9	6.5	82.4	12
Pdk 8	26/2/16	14.5	13.8	24.3	3.3	26.5	51.4	5.1	78.7	11.5
Pdk 8	18/3/16	14.6	13.8	24.3	3.3	24.3	47.1	5.5	>85	12.5