Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update 16 December 2016

CO comment

A new addition to the Monitor farm programme this season has been the assessment of Body Condition Scores at several critical times during the season. The first assessment has recently been carried out and the herd averages and ranges are as follows: Kowhitirangi 4.0 (3.5-4.5); Greymouth 4.2 (3.5-5.0); Ikamatua 4.1 (3.5-5.5); Westport 4.2 (3.5-5.0). The climatic challenges all farmers have had this season would have undoubtedly affected BCS this season, but typically a mature mixed age cows, calving at a target BCS of 5.0 should have a BCS of around 4.3 at this stage of the season. Managing body condition score is all about managing your herd's nutrition and lactation programme. Condition scoring your cows at critical times throughout the year lets you know if you need to consider changing herd nutrition or shortening the lactation of some cows. It's common to find a lot of variation in the condition score of cows within the herd. Rising 3-year olds and early calving cows tend to calve in poorer condition than the rest of the herd. These groups need extra protection during late lactation and in the dry period if they are to achieve target condition score at calving. The purpose of calculating (and graphing) your herd's average condition score is to ensure herd condition score is following a critical path towards achieving targets. The range of condition score within your herd is used to assess what percentage of the herd you need to do something about. For example, what percentage of cows should get preferential feeding, or how many cows should you be thinking about drying off.

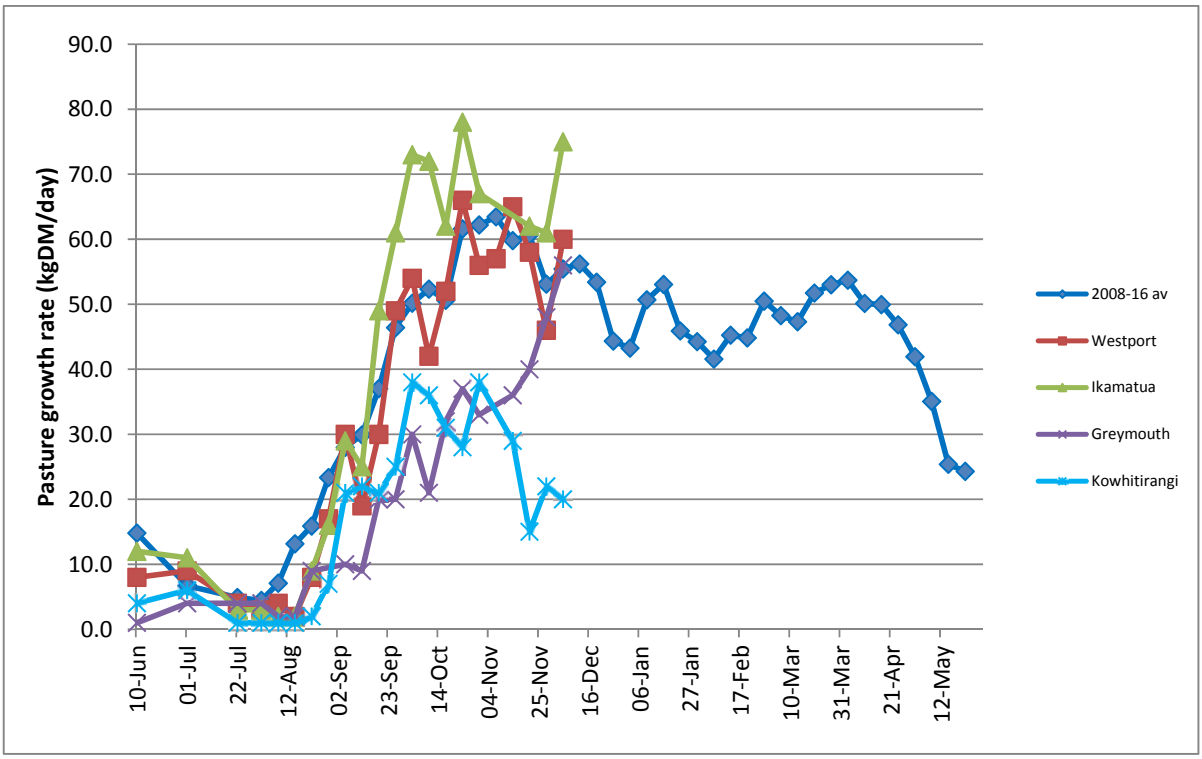
If you are interested in viewing the full summary of monitoring results, follow this link West Coast Monitor Farm Full Summary

Farm Summary

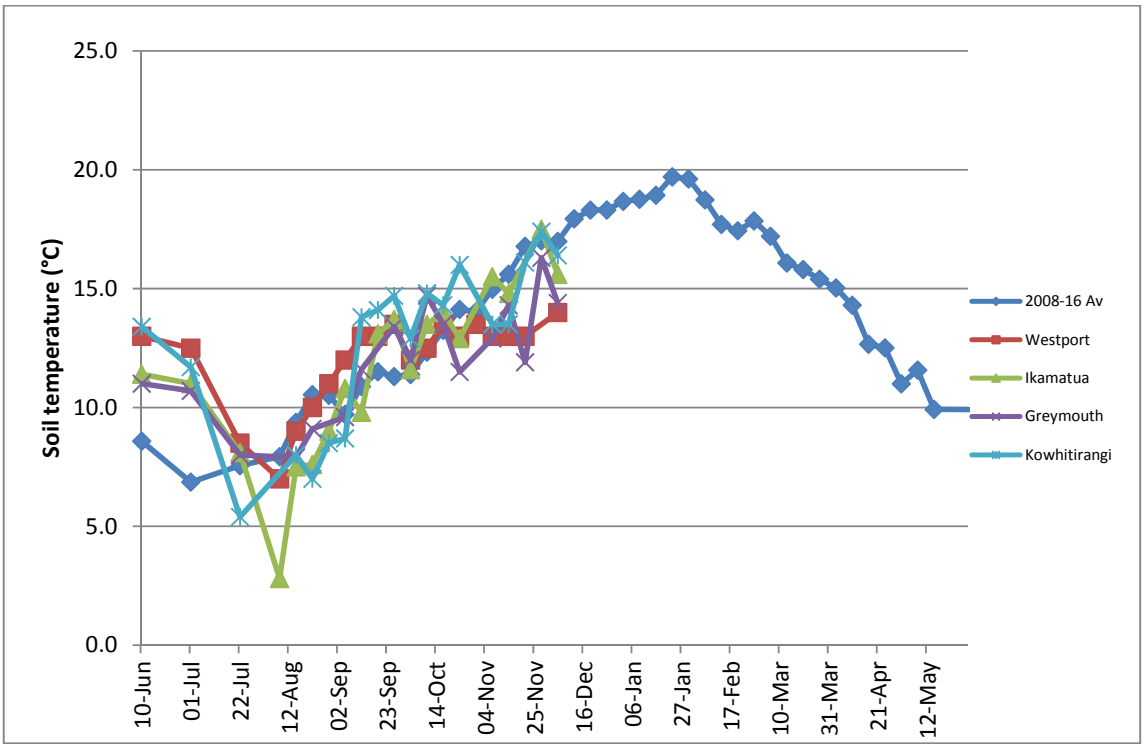
	Westport	Ikamatua	Greymouth	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2034	2135	1967	1807
APC (8 December)	*2022*	*2070*	*1968*	*1771*
Rotation length (days)	17	22	20	
Stocking rate	2.8		2.5	
Percentage in milk	100	100	100	100
Milksolids kg/cow	1.83		1.75	
Milksolids kg/ha	5.1		4.4	
MS/cow (season to date)	186		230	
MS/ha (season to date)	532		510	
N (kg/ha) year to date	83		133	
Current N application rate kg N/ha	20		20	
	5 Dec	6 Dec	30 Nov	7 Dec
DM%	17.7	16.8	15.3, 18.2	12.9
Pasture ME	>12.6	>12.7	>12.7, 12.2	12.6
Pasture NDF	43.8	43.7	43.2, 46.8	41.0
Pasture CP	29.4	23.6	29.4, 21.8	29.0
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	20	20	
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	1.0	2.5	3.1	
Soil temperature (°C)	14.0	15.6	14.4	16.4
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	60	75	56	20
Rainfall	89	60	50.5	
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine, cold, wet underfoot	Fine		Very wet
Comments				

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

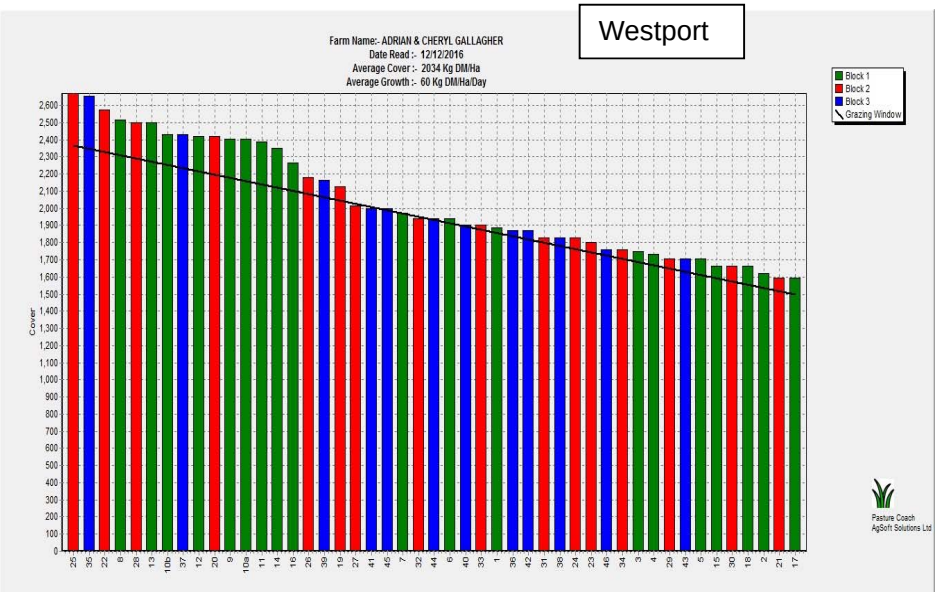
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



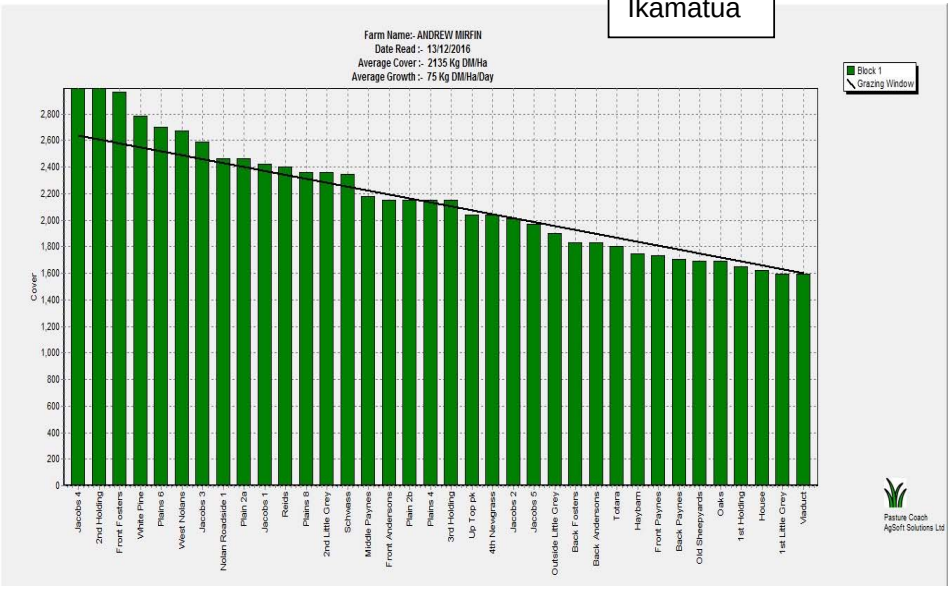
Weekly Soil Temperature



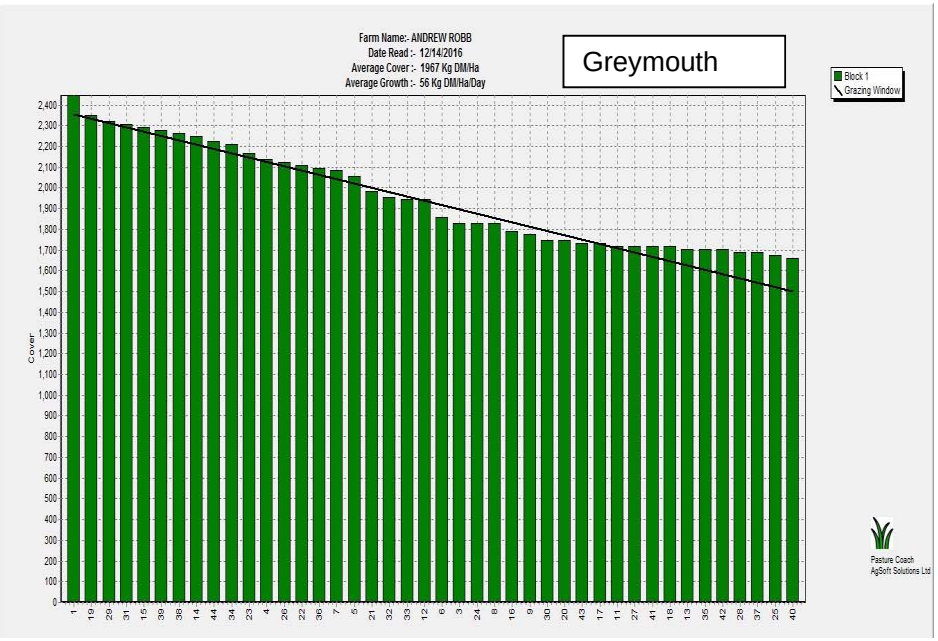
Westport



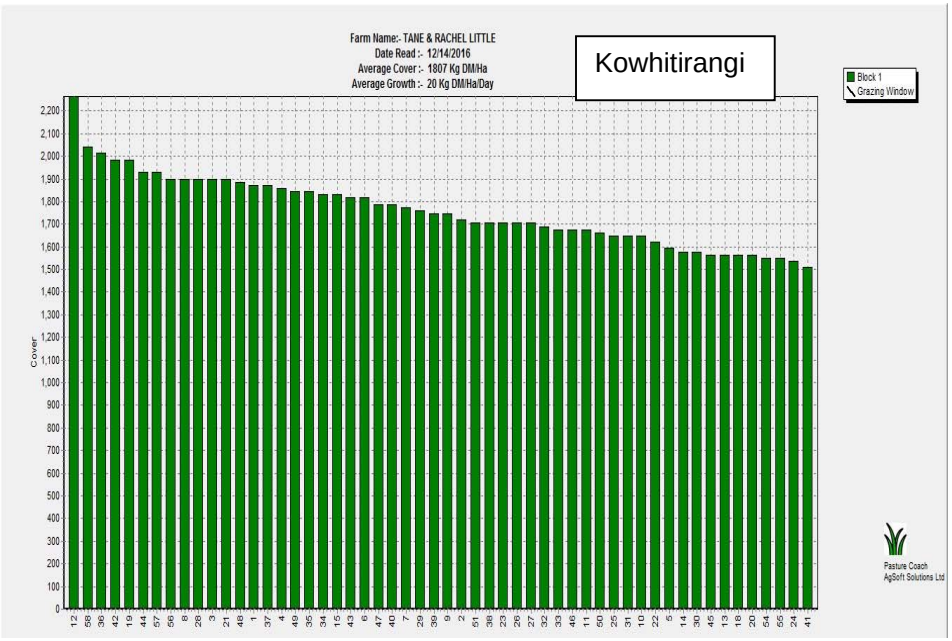
Ikamatua



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	8.2	14.7	21.8	3.5	9.3	42.5	17.4	>85	>12.7
Pdk 17	5/12/2016	10.7	17.7	29.4	4.0	23.1	43.8	9.4	>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	12.7	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	8/11/2016		13.8	26.4	4.6	21.7	45	10.6	>85	>12.7
Back Anderson	6/12/2016	14.3	16.8	23.6	4.0	23.1	43.7	18.9	>85	>12.7

Greymouth

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
Pdk 38	30/11/16	13.7	15.3	29.4	4.5	22.8	43.2	12.3	>85	>12.7
Pdk 44	30/11/16	13.8	18.2	21.8	3.7	26.4	16.8	12.7	83.8	12.2

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
Pdk 6	7/12/2016	14.7	12.9	29.0	4.4	25.0	41.0	7.7	>85	12.6