Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update 20 April 2017

CO comment

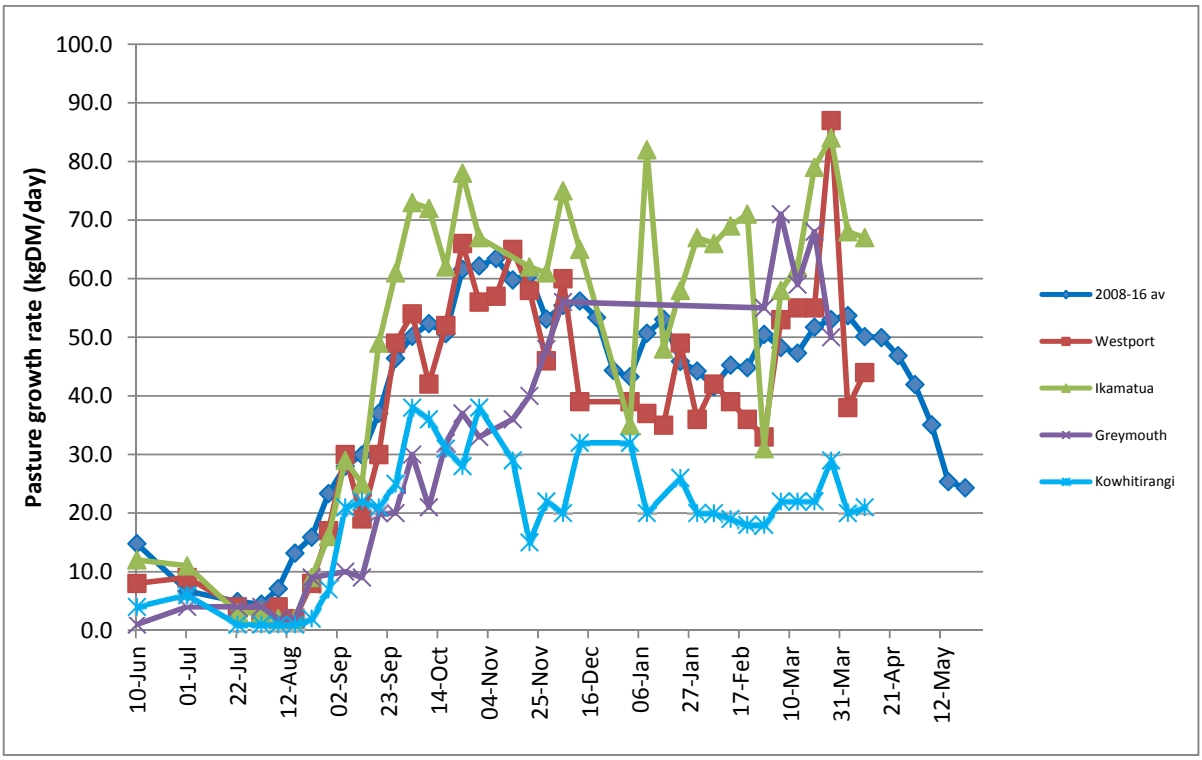
The progression into autumn has been marked by cooler growing conditions, increasing the need to focus firmly on the end of this lactation and getting some solid plans in place for the start of the next lactation. In many cases, the on-farm pasture position is looking good, but don't be deceived by the surge in average pasture cover. Pasture growth rates will be likely to decline through the rest of April and May. Capitalise on the current above average pasture growth rates and longer grazing rotations to push pasture forward for feeding in early winter. If wintering cows on the milking platform, the rotation length needs to be well in excess of 30 days now (and heading towards 40 days by the end of April) and all culls should be off the farm to reduce the stocking rate and daily feed demand. Continue to update your feed budget regularly as pasture covers change. All early calving cows (and more particularly second calvers) less than BCS 4 should have been dried off by now. These early calving cows have the less time to increase body condition prior to calving. Remember cows will not put on body condition in the last in the first 10 days after drying off and in the 4 weeks before calving. If you are interested in viewing the Expanded Weekly Summary of the monitoring results, follow this link West Coast Monitor Farm Full Summary

Farm Summary

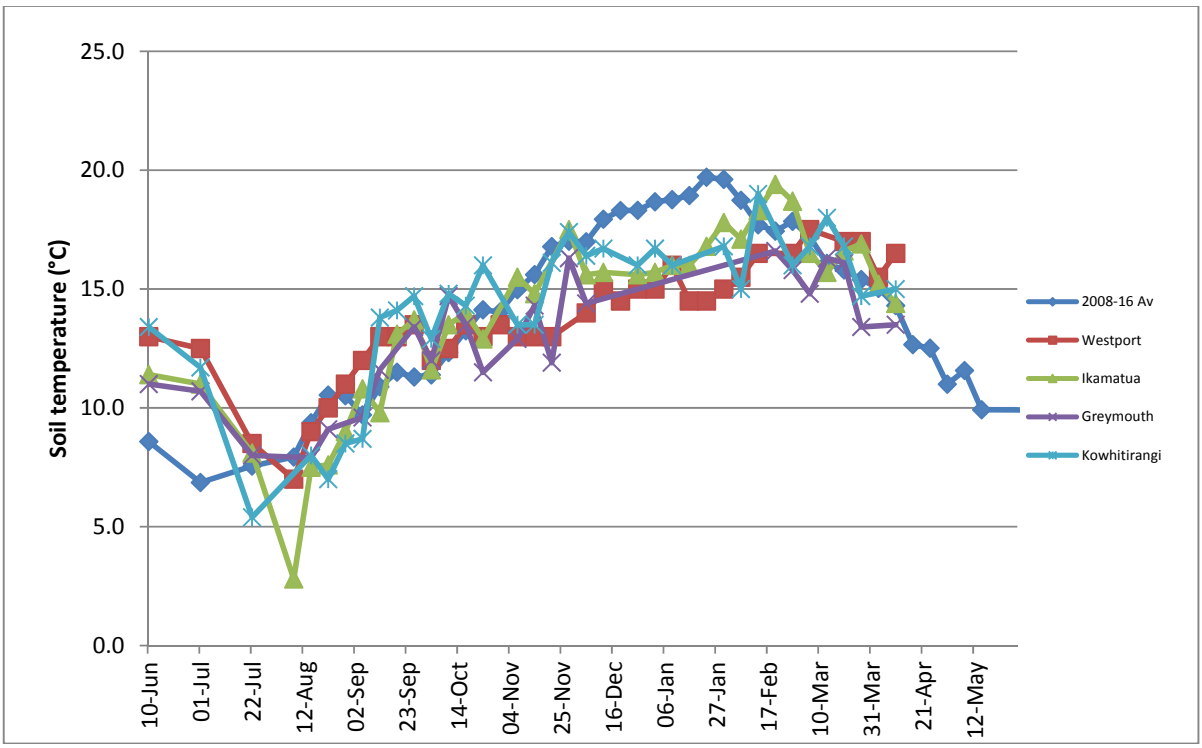
	Westport	Ikamatua	Greymouth	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2072	2148	2290	1964
APC (13 April)	*2161*	*2219*		*1992*
Rotation length (days)	23	25	23	43
Stocking rate	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.0
Percentage in milk	88	94	92	85
Milksolids kg/cow	1.43	1.52	1.20	1.13
Milksolids kg/ha	3.7	3.8	2.8	2.3
MS/cow (season to date)	396	383		317
MS/ha (season to date)	1161	1021		758
N (kg/ha) year to date	161	221	195	50
Current N application rate kg N/ha	15	25	25	None
	3 April	4 April		5 April
DM%	15.1	11.7		15.1
Pasture ME	12.1	>12.7		12.1
Pasture NDF	52.2	48.1		52.2
Pasture CP	27.6	33.9		27.6
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	18	18	16
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.0
Soil temperature (°C)	16.5	14.4	13.5	15.0
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	44	67		21
Rainfall	172	90	113	88
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine and warm	Fine and warm		Fine and warm. Tane doing drains, ditches etc
Comments				

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

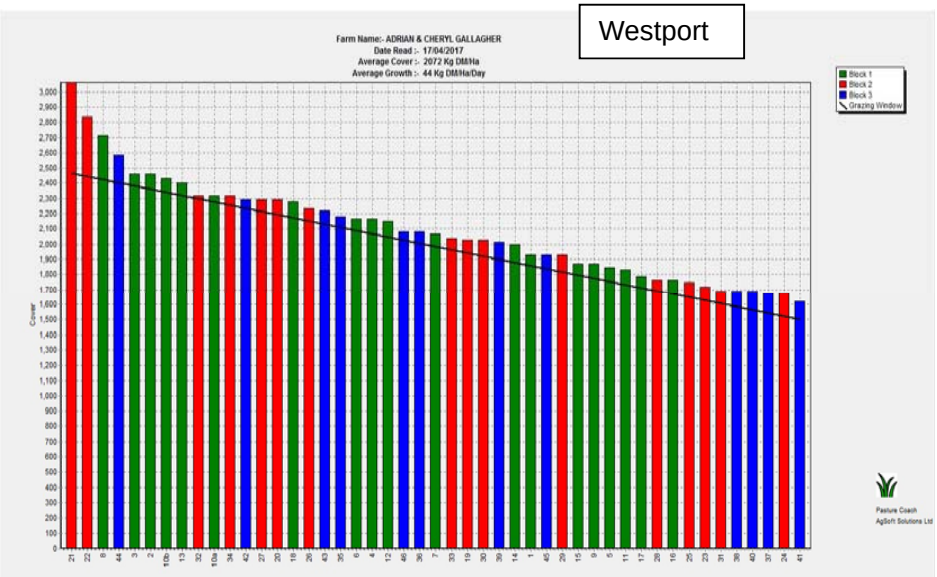
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



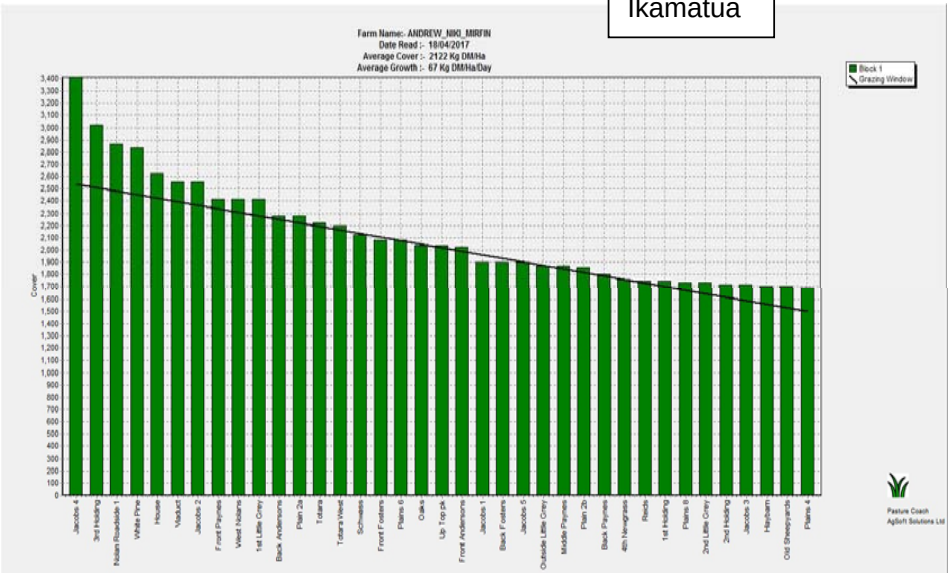
Weekly Soil Temperature



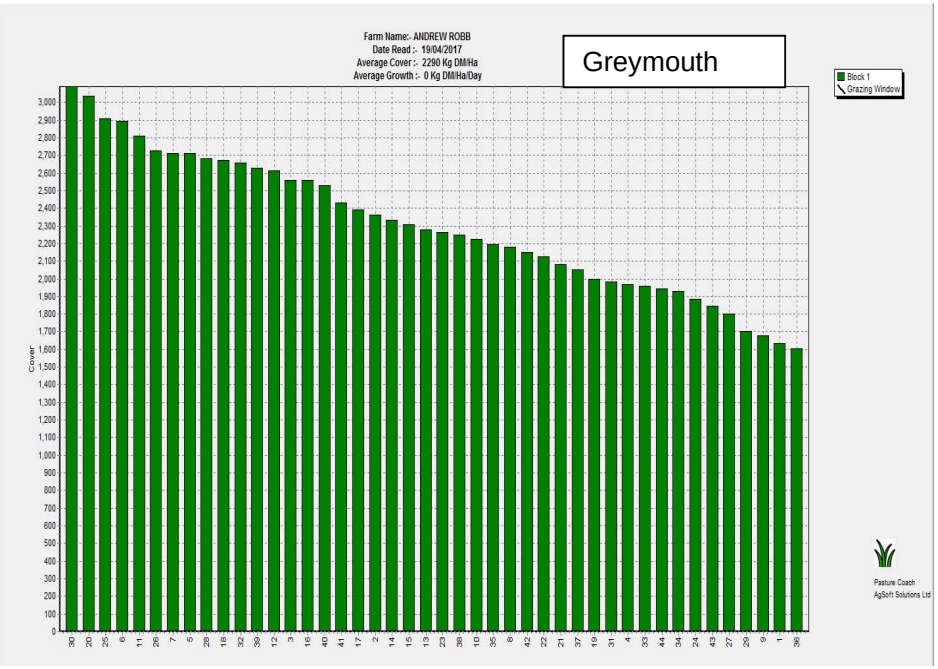
Westport



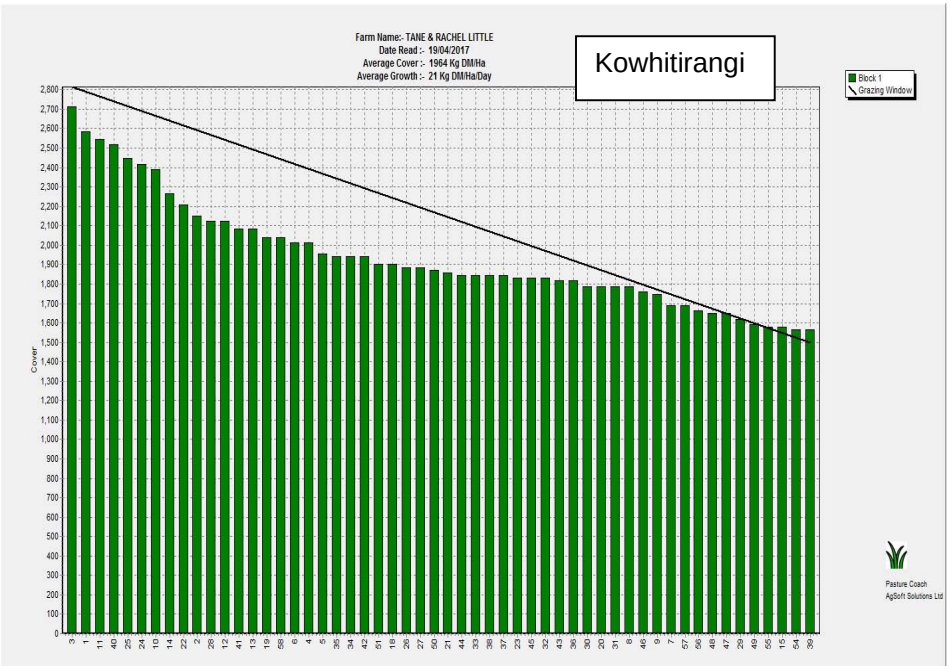
Ikamatua



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
Pdk 27	20/1/2017	14.0	14.6	20.1	3.7	24.3	54.8	10.6	83.8	12.2
Pdk 25	6/2/2017	11.9	12.2	21.6	3.7	24.1	47.9	13.4	>85	>12.7
Pdk 46	10/3/2017	9.8	15.2	28.3	4.1	25.4	52.3	5.1	83.9	12.2
Pdk 21	3/4/2017	17.2	15.1	27.6	3.1	26.3	52.2	4.9	83.2	12.1

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
Pdk 4 New	20/1/2017	15.4	14.3	31.5	4.7	21	42.9	7.5	>85	>12.7
Grey	7/2/2017		13.7	25.8	4.4	22.7	46.6	11.5	>85	>12.7
Jacob 4	10/3/2017	12.0	13.2	31.3	5.2	23.5	41.2	6.7	>85	12.5
	4/4/2017		11.7	33.9	4.3	21.7	48.1	4.9	>85	>12.7

Greymouth

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME /kg
Pdk 38	30/11/2016	13.7	15.3	29.4	4.5	22.8	43.2	12.3	>85	>12.7
Pdk 44	30/11/2016	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
Pdk 25	8/2/2017	10.6	14.4	24.6	4.2	23.2	48.9	10.8	>85	>12.7
Pdk 24	10/3/2017	12.0	19.3	22.1	4.5	25.7	51.2	9.1	82.4	12
Pdk 7	5/4/2017	13.0	11.7	33.9	4.3	11.7	33.9	4.3	>85	>12.7