Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update 21 April 2016

CO comment

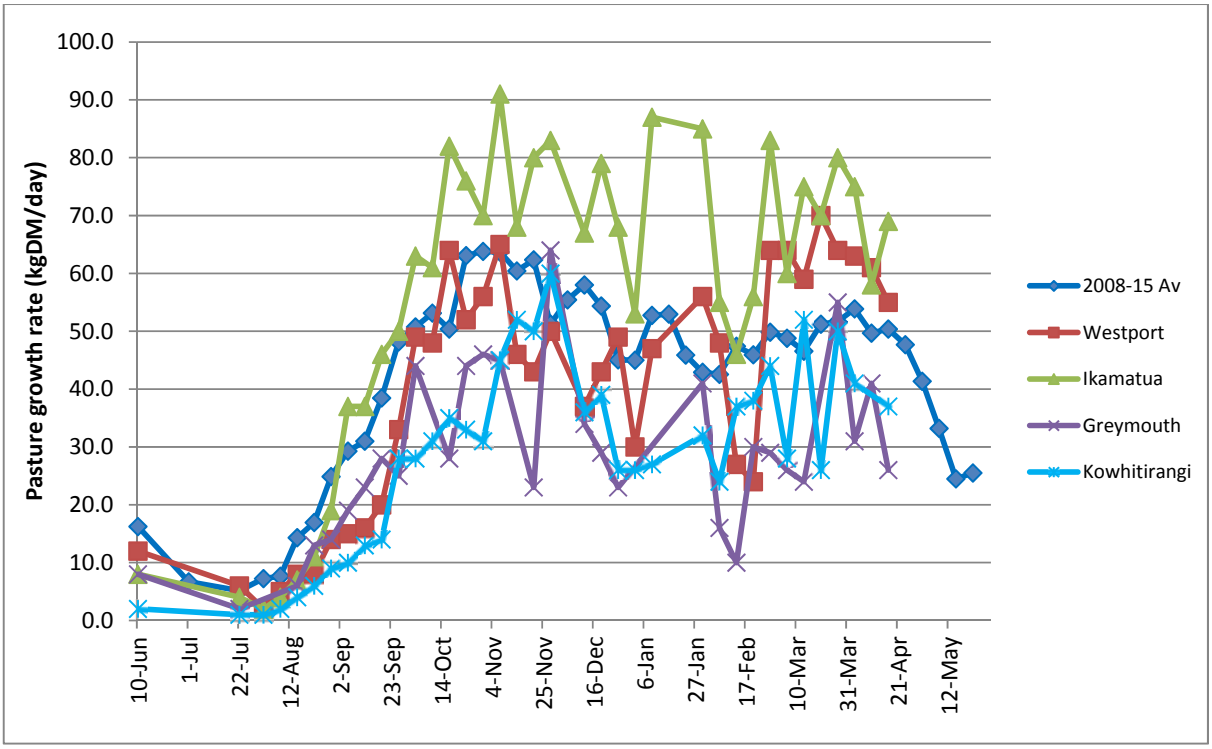
The end of the season isn't that far away now and a lot of the focus has been going on the milking cows and what's important for them at this stage of the season, but what about the replacement heifers? How are they tracking? Regular weighing of the replacement heifers goes a long way to ensuring that they hit their targets. But weighing by itself doesn't make them any heavier. You need to be using an interpretive tool such as MINDA weights to provide feedback against what the animals could potentially weigh. Once you've determined the weights of the animals in the mob, you need to identify any that are below target and put in place a strategy to make sure they are able to meet the target mating weights. Use all the information you can to formulate your strategy – your recent Fertility Reports are a good place to start to identify any problem areas that need to be improved. The pay-off is clear – well grown heifers that hit target weights will be more likely to get in-calf in the first 6 weeks of mating, have a longer lactation, re-conceive as 3 year olds and as a result be more profitable over their lifetime.

Farm Summary

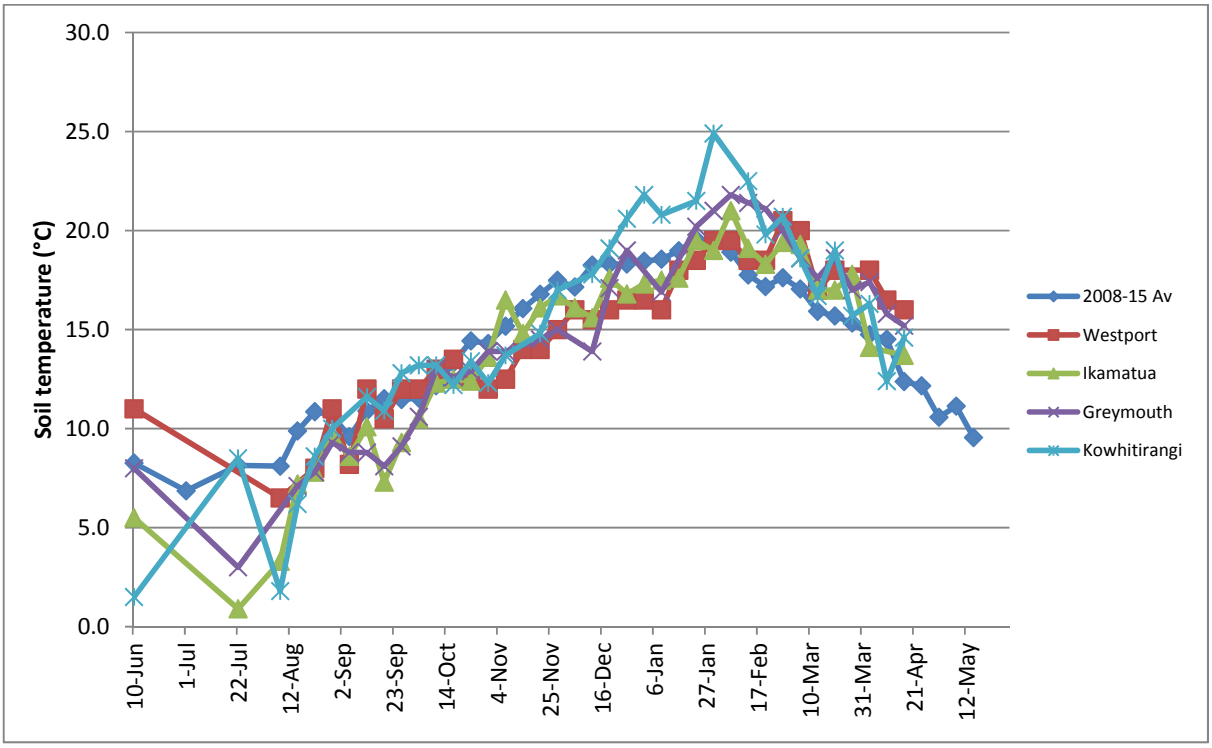
	Westport	Ikamatua	Greymouth	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2287	2309	2150	
APC (14 April)	2276	2420	2217	2104
Rotation length (days)	25	25	23	
Stocking rate				
Percentage in milk	82	96	79	
Milksolids kg/cow	1.41	1.23	1.27	
Milksolids kg/ha	3.4	3.1	2.5	
MS/cow (season to date)	401	359	377	
MS/ha (season to date)	1087	901	924	
N (kg/ha) year to date	208	310	317	
Current N application rate kg N/ha	15	30	20	
	15/4	15/4	15/4	15/4
DM%	12.0	11.1		11.7
Pasture ME	12.2	>12.7		12.7
Pasture NDF	45	21.8		45.7
Pasture CP	29.5	31.7		26.4
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	18	18	
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	1.6	1.7	3.0	
Soil temperature (°C)	16.0	13.7	15.2	
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	55.0	69.0	26.0	
Rainfall	19.0	5.0	21.0	
Conditions for farmwalk	Mild sunny day	Cold start warm day		Nice warm day
Comments				

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

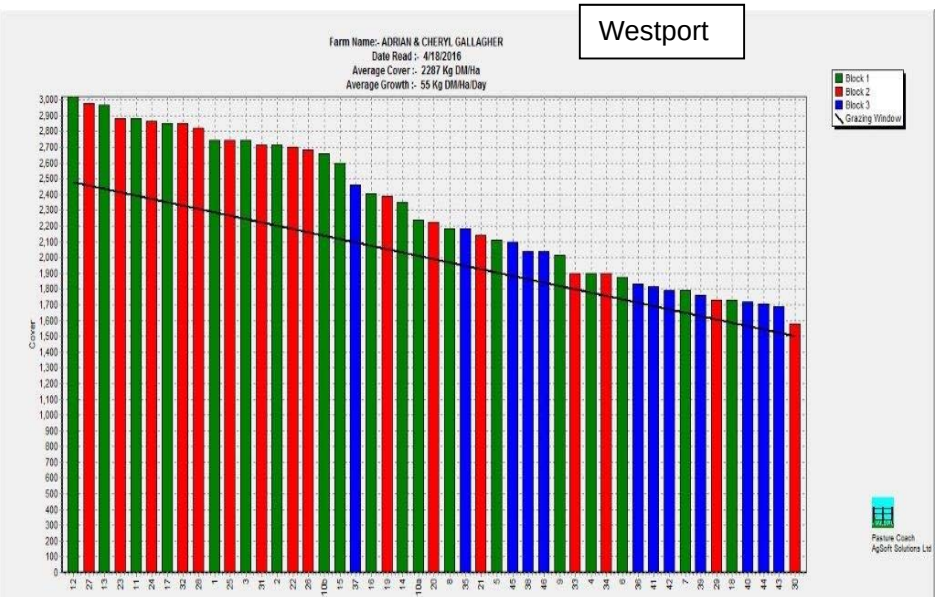
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



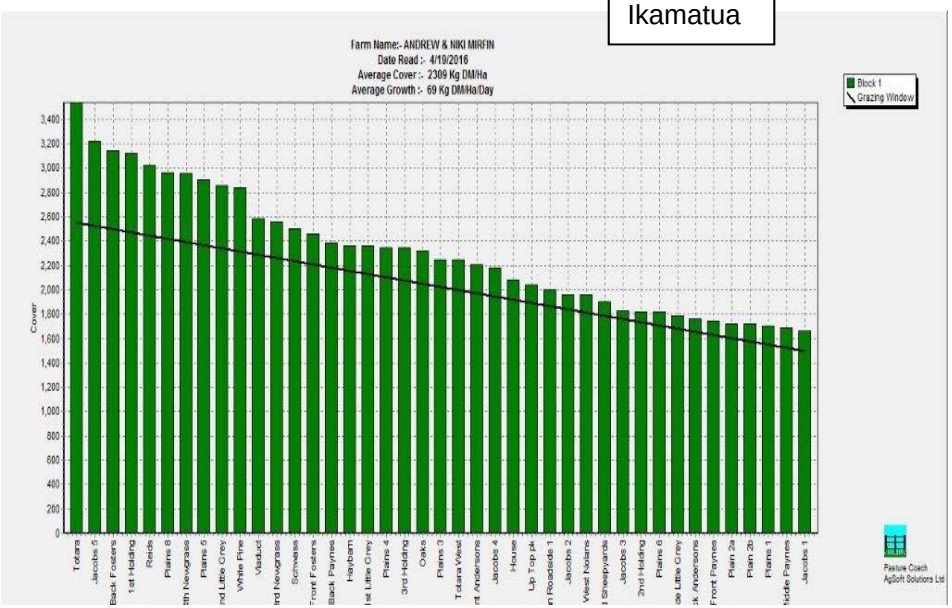
Weekly Soil Temperature



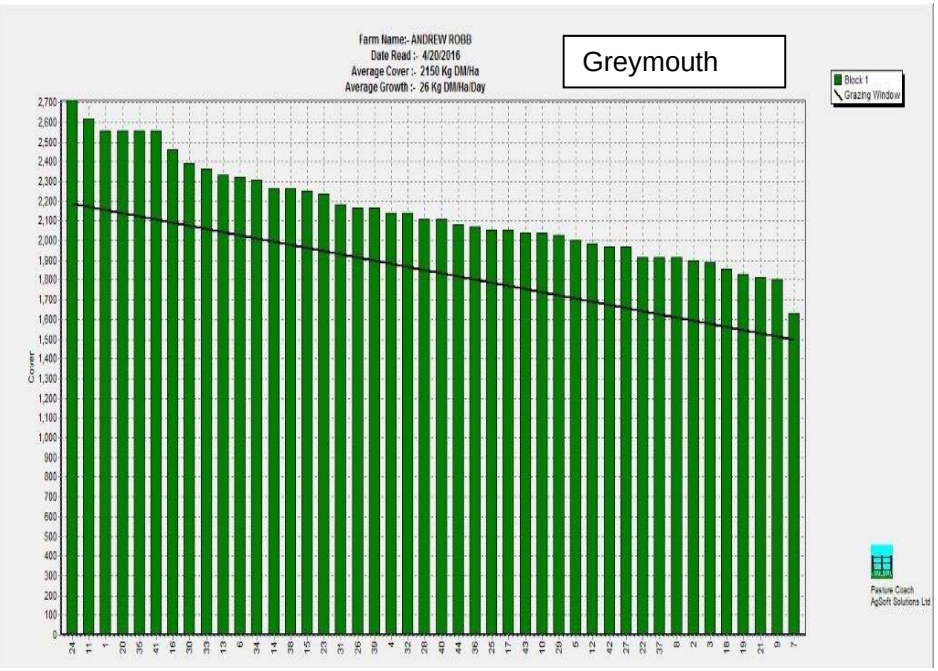
Westport



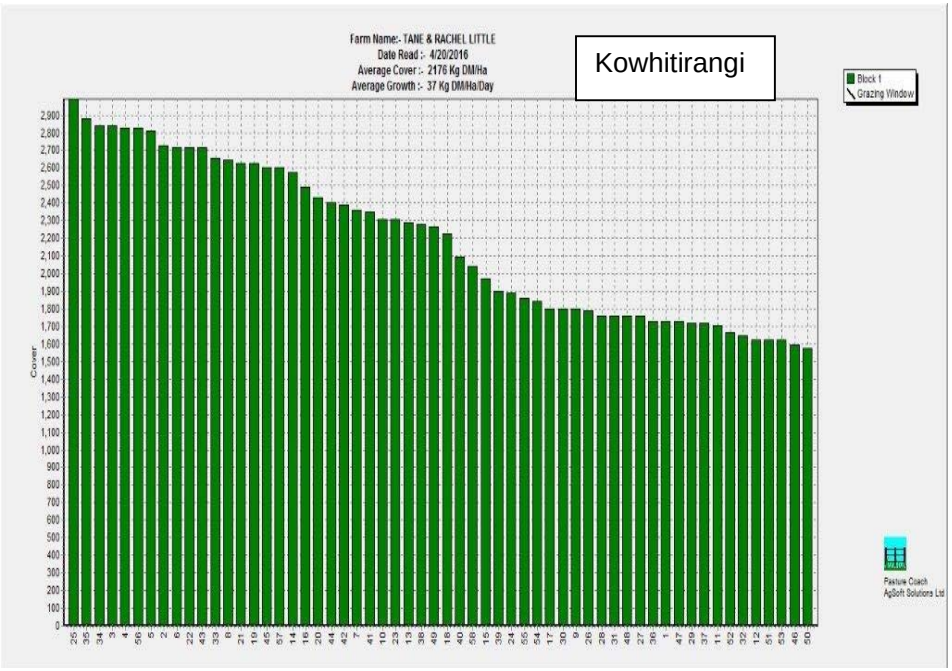
Ikamatua



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
Pdk 36	15/4/16	17.8	12.0	29.5	4.7	23.9	45	5	83.8	12.2

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
Right side	15/4/16		11.1	31.7	4.7	21.8	44.9	4.3	>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 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
Pdk 12	15/4/16	16.5	11.7	26.4	4.4	22.7	45.7	9.4	>85	12.7