

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update 22 July 2016

CO comment

Magnesium supplementation to dry cows should have commenced by now to minimise the risk of grass tetany at calving. By reducing animal health problems the potential exists to increase milk production. Remember the magnesium requirement of the modern dairy cow has increased, partly due to increased use of nitrogen (N) and potassium (K) fertilisers and partly due to the increase in cow genetic merit increasing magnesium demand for milk production.

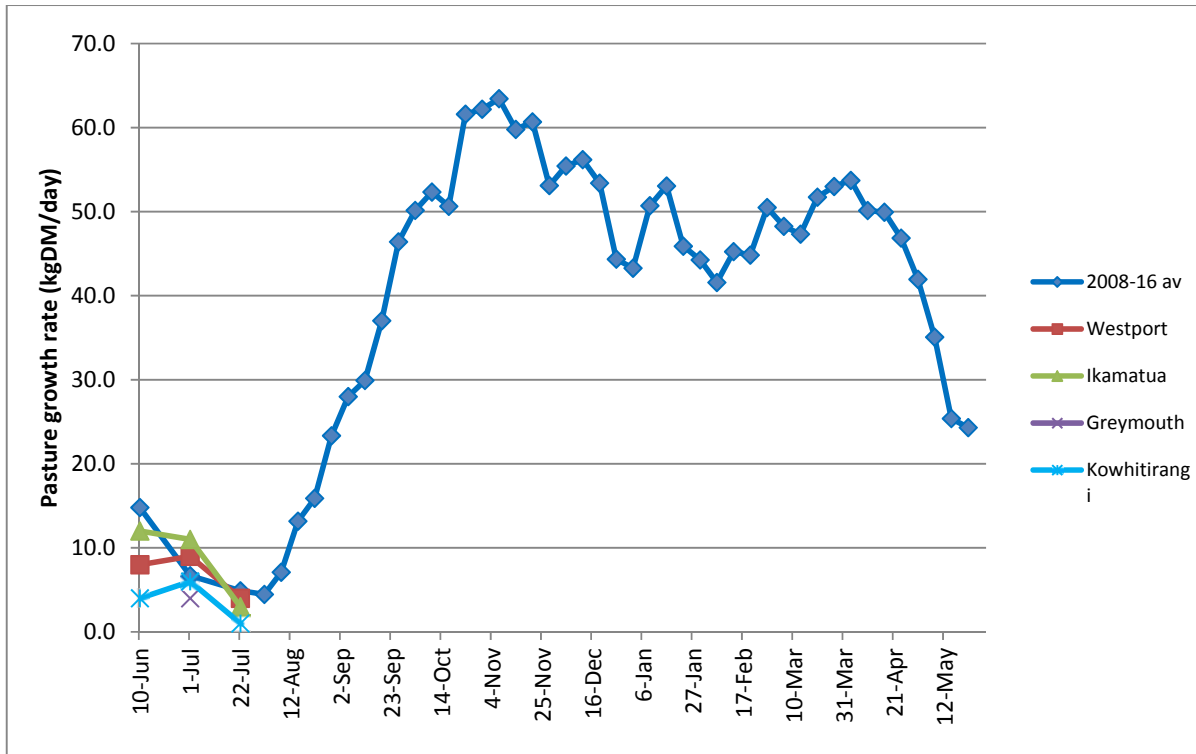
Supplementation options include dusting Magnesium oxide onto pasture, mixing Magnesium oxide in silage, including Magnesium chloride or sulphate in drinking water or using Magnesium bullets. Getting in early and adopting the 'prevention is better than cure' method is the best approach. Talk with your vet for a mineral supplementation programme and go to the DairyNZ website (<http://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/cow-health/grass-staggers/>) for more information including a very useful Farm Factsheet.

Farm Summary

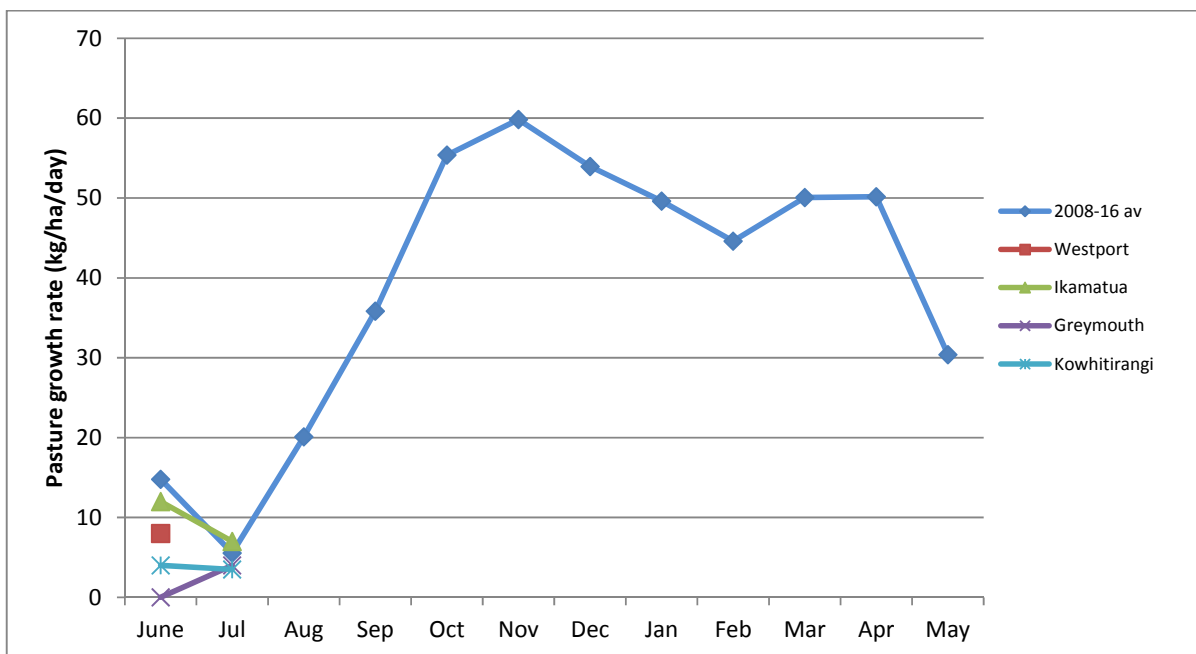
	Westport	Ikamatua	Greymouth	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2144	2356		1899
APC				
Rotation length (days)				
Stocking rate				
Percentage in milk				
Milksolids kg/cow				
Milksolids kg/ha				
MS/cow (season to date)				
MS/ha (season to date)				
N (kg/ha) year to date				
Current N application rate kg N/ha				
	29/6/16			
DM%	29.4			
Pasture ME	17.4			
Pasture NDF	41.2			
Pasture CP	17.4			
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	14			
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	2.2			
Soil temperature (°C)	8.5	8.1	8.0	5.4
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	4	3		1
Rainfall	110	70	125	
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine clear	Heavy rain cold	No farm walk this week	Clear fine frost cold
Comments				

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

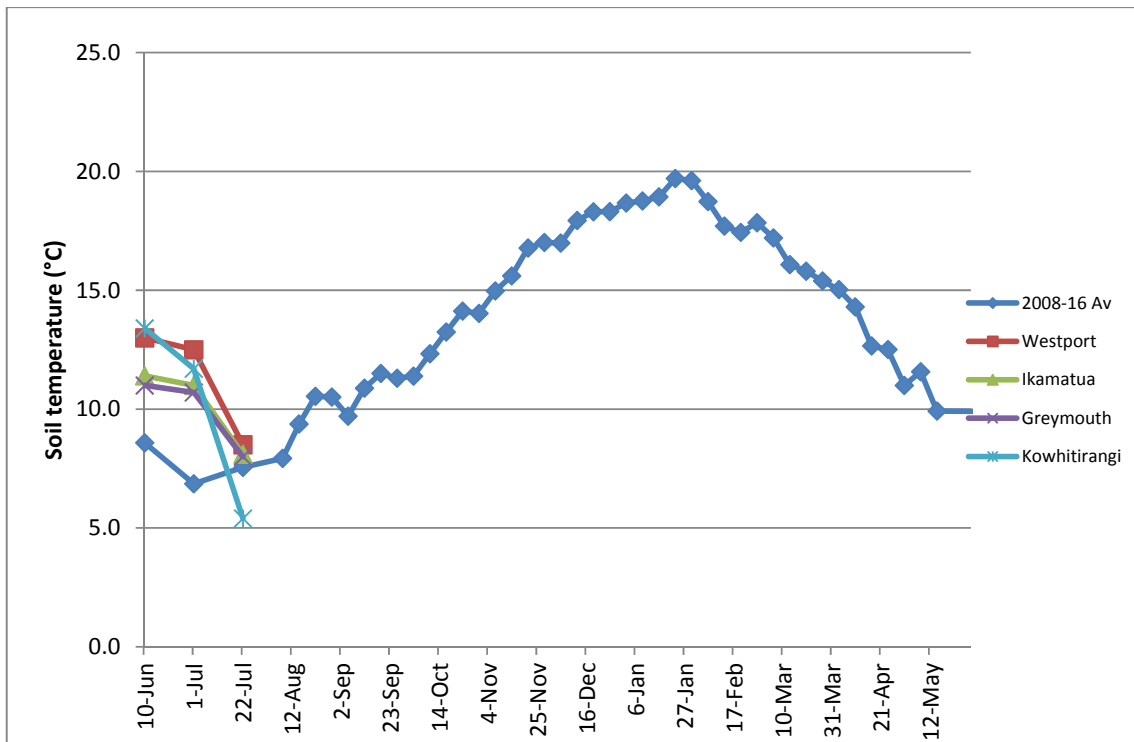
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



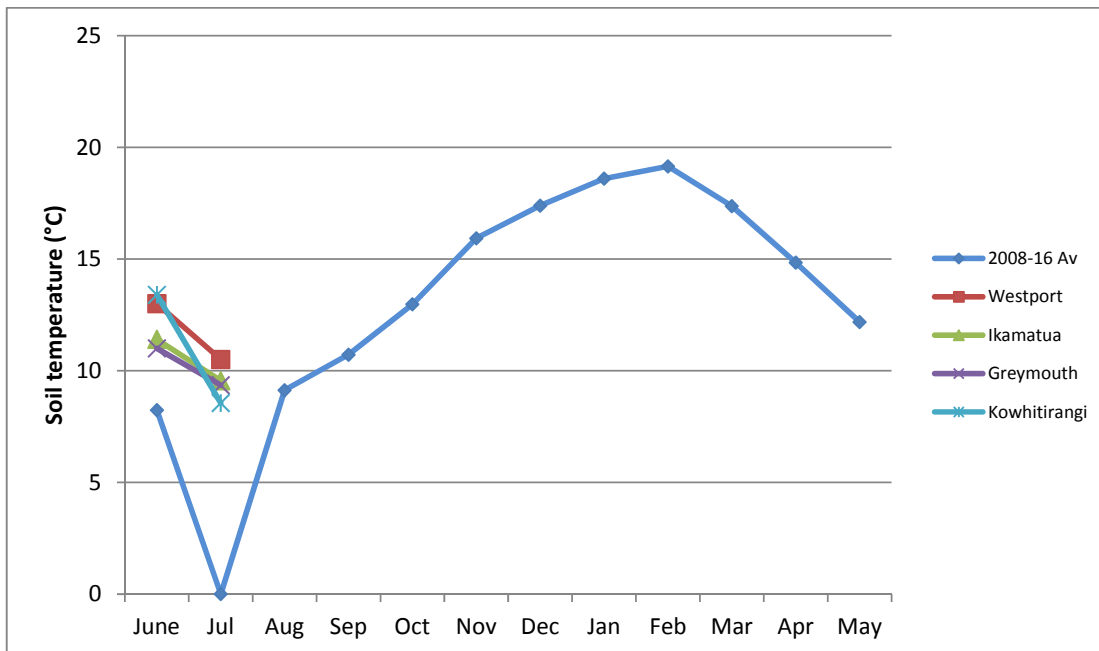
Monthly Pasture Growth Rates



Weekly Soil Temperature

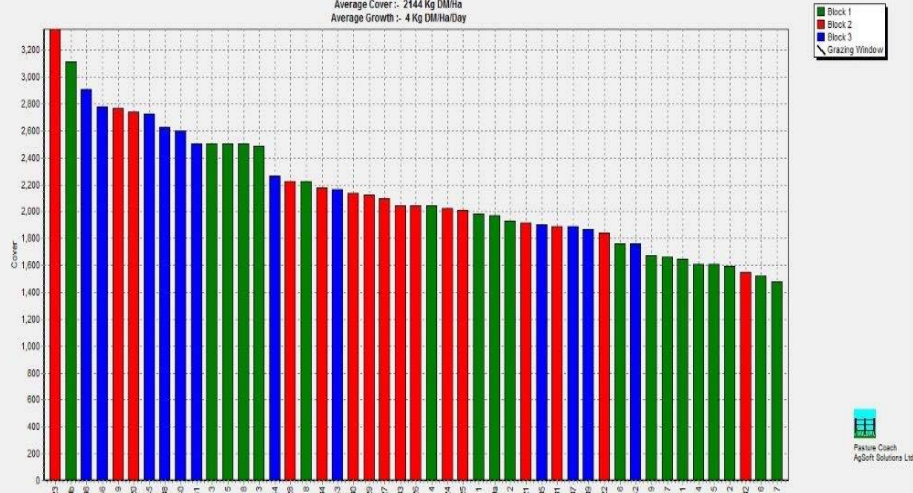


Monthly Soil Temperature



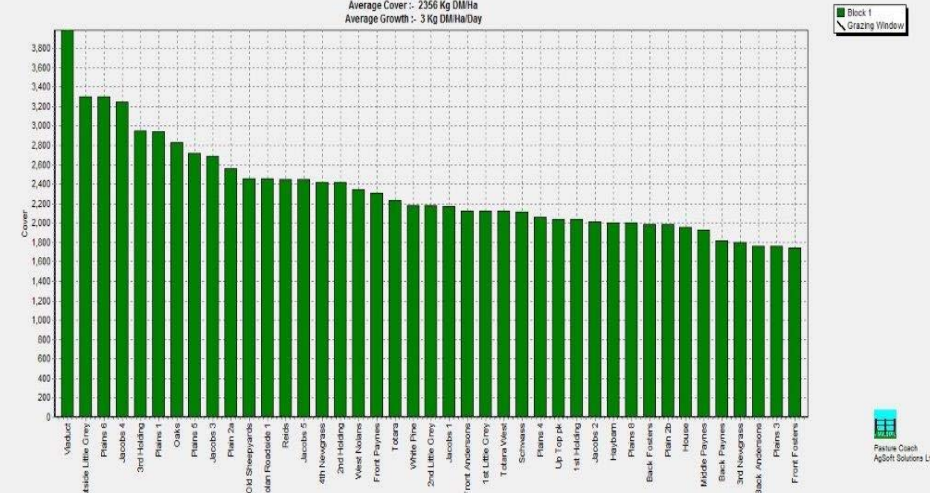
Westport

Farm Name: ADRIAN & CHERYL GALLAGHER
 Date Road: 7/18/2016
 Average Cover: 2144 Kg DM/Ha
 Average Growth: 4 Kg DM/Ha/Day



Ikamatua

Farm Name: ANDREW & NIKI MIRFIN
 Date Road: 7/19/2016
 Average Cover: 2356 Kg DM/Ha
 Average Growth: 3 Kg DM/Ha/Day



Greymouth

Kowhitirangi

Farm Name: TANE & RACHEL LITTLE
 Date Road: 7/20/2016
 Average Cover: 1899 Kg DM/Ha
 Average Growth: 1 Kg DM/Ha/Day

