Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update 28 January 2016

CO comment

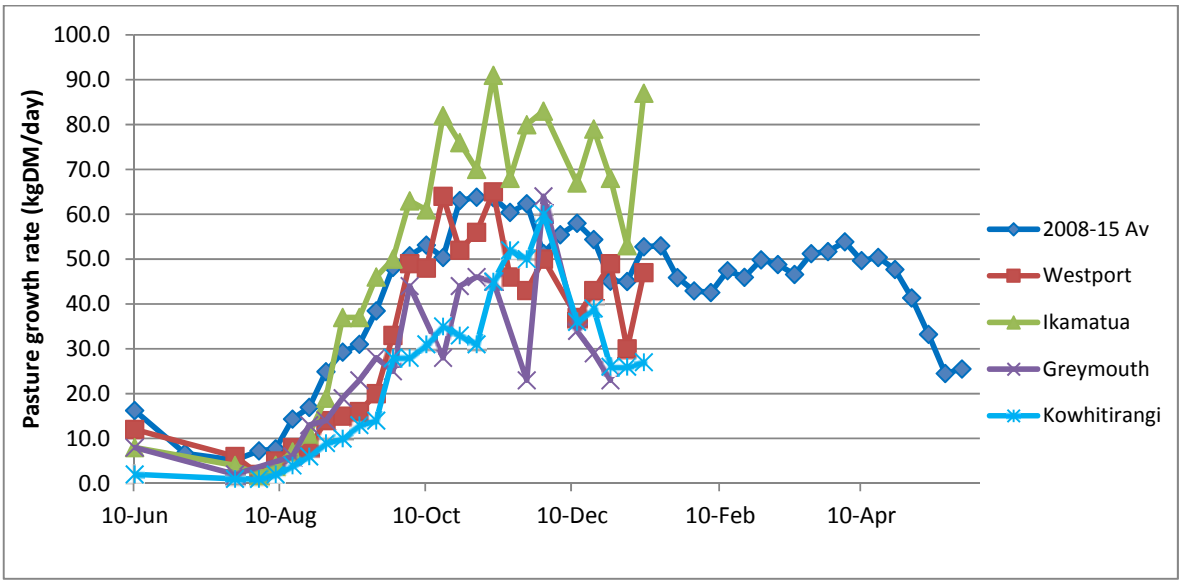
One of the aids to better decision making is knowing which of your cows are pregnant and when they conceived, so that you can better plan your spring feed requirements. This information will help you calculate your 6 week in-calf rate, which will help you assess your herds reproductive performance, more confidently cull cows as empty, identify later calving cows and provide calving dates for any cows that you sell. Early rectal pregnancy testing is the most accurate way to identify cows that are more than 5 weeks pregnant. Now is a good time to pregnancy test all cows mated to AB that have not already been identified as pregnant, with a re-test in late February, together with any cows that you think may have been in-calf but lost their pregnancies. Starting to get rid of cows that are identified as empty and are low producers could help ease any feed pressure that builds through the late lactation period, as well as ensuring that the feed that is there is being used by the more efficient cows in the milking herd.

Farm Summary

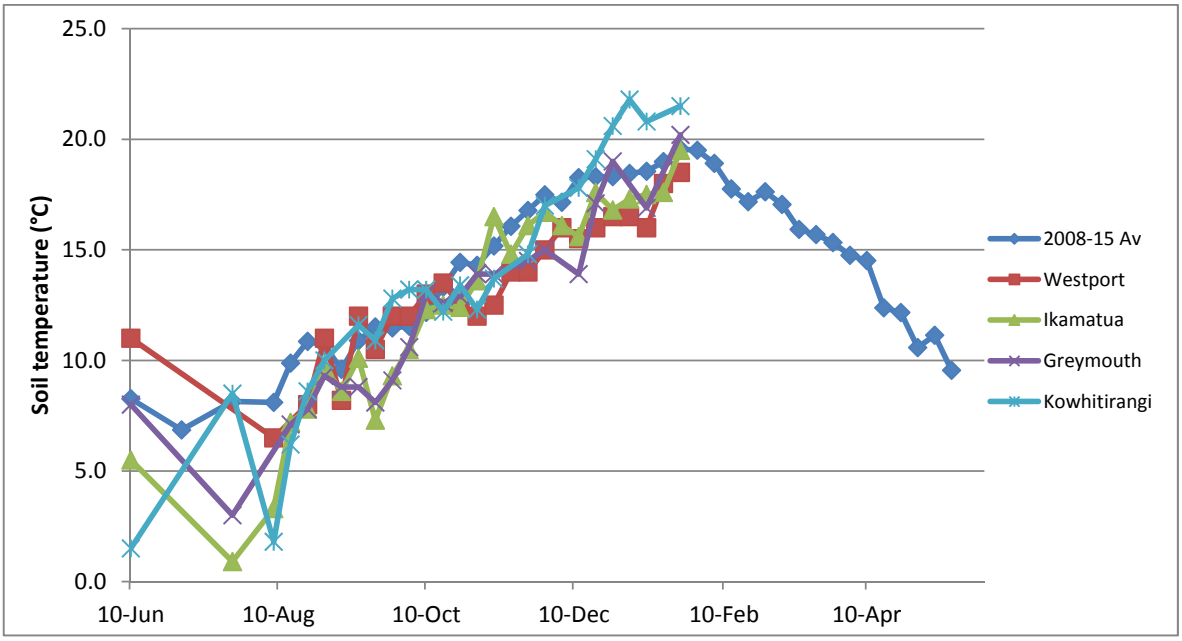
	Westport	Ikamatua	Greymouth	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2093	2390	2392	2011
APC (14 January (last farmwalks))	*2002*	*2212*	*2186*	*1930*
Rotation length (days)	21	25	22	26
Stocking rate	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3
Percentage in milk	100	100	100	100
Milksolids kg/cow	1.87	1.84	1.78	1.49
Milksolids kg/ha	5.1	4.6	4.4	3.5
MS/cow (season to date)	289.5	260.7	282.6	
MS/ha (season to date)	771	631	679	
N (kg/ha) year to date	128	211	220	
Current N application rate kg N/ha	15	30	25	
		7 Dec		7 Dec
DM%		14.4		12.3
Pasture ME		12.4		11.9
Pasture NDF		44.9		46.4
Pasture CP		29.0		27.4
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	18	20	18	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	1	2	2	
Soil temperature (°C)	18.5	19.5	20.2	21.5
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	-	-	-	-
Rainfall	30	40	29	263
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine warm	Warm…rain just held off		Warm muggy fine
Comments				

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

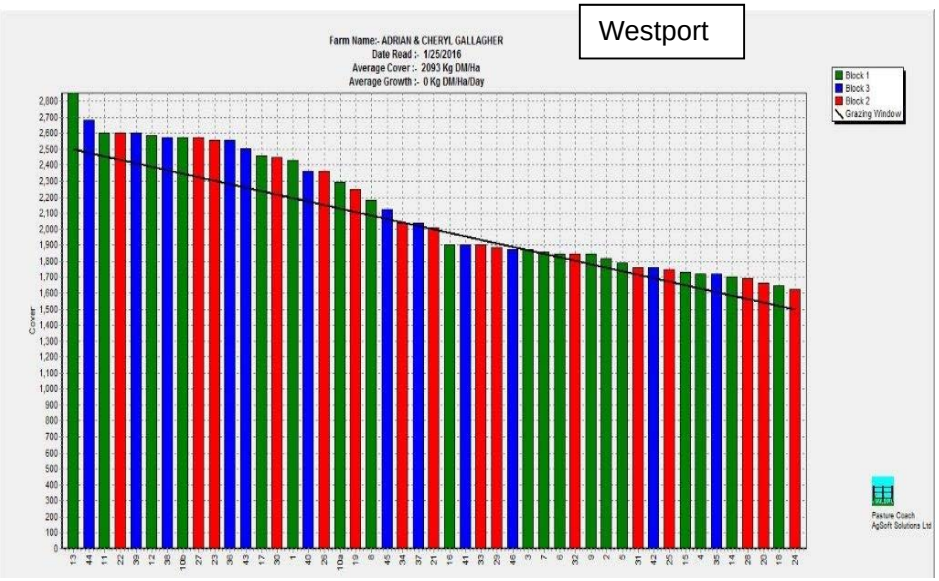
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



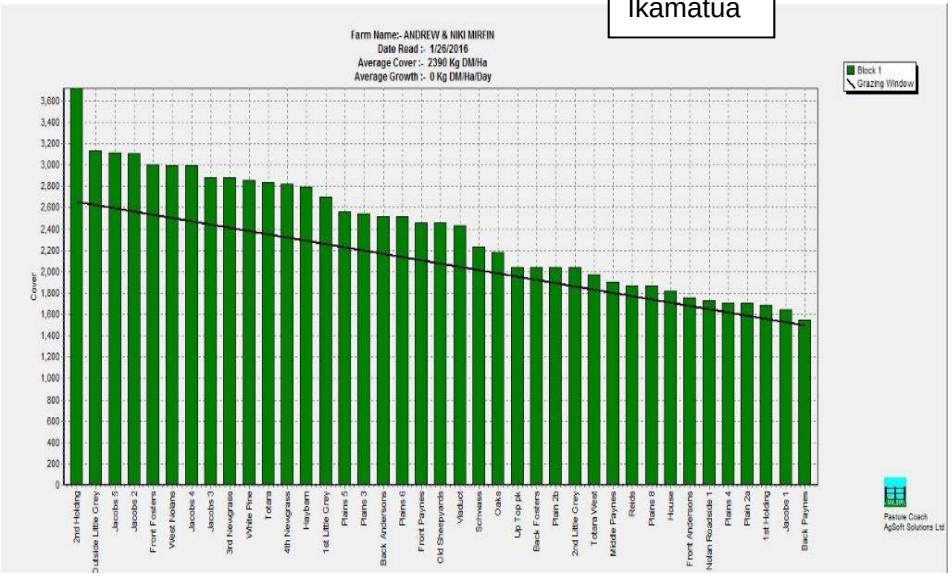
Weekly Soil Temperature



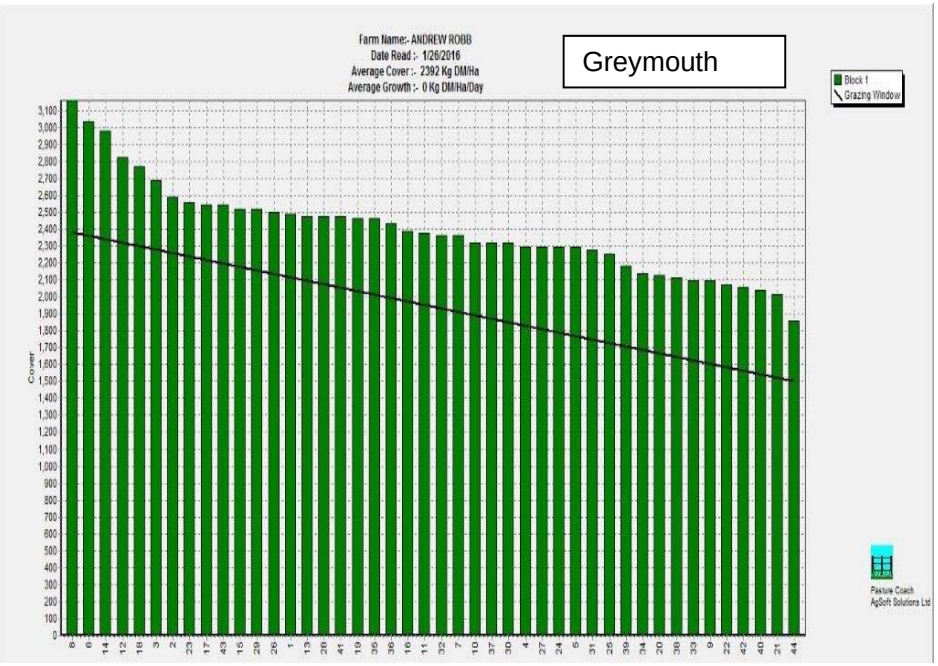
Westport



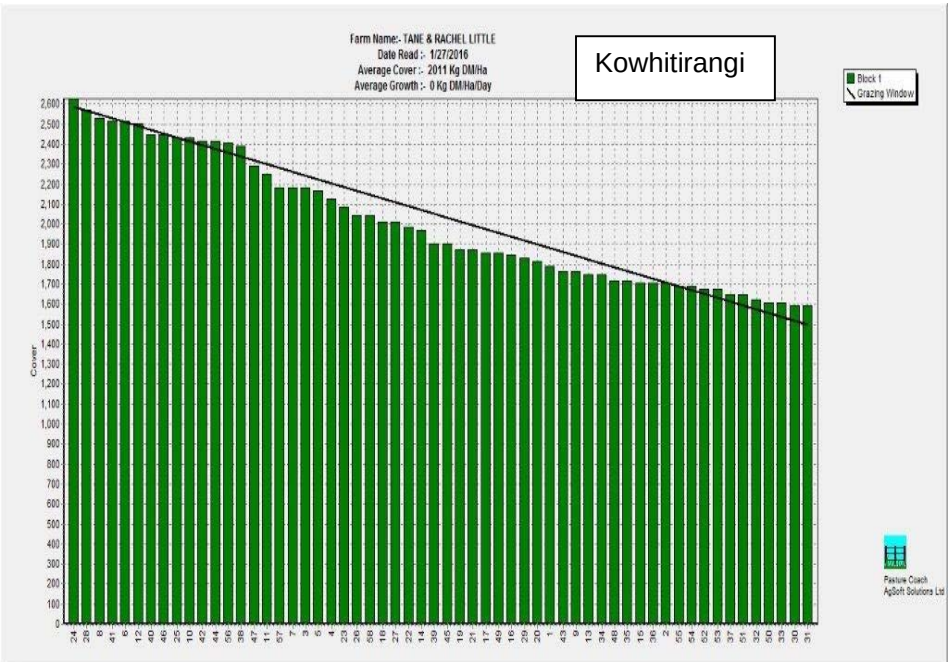
Ikamatua



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

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

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