

Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update

CO comment

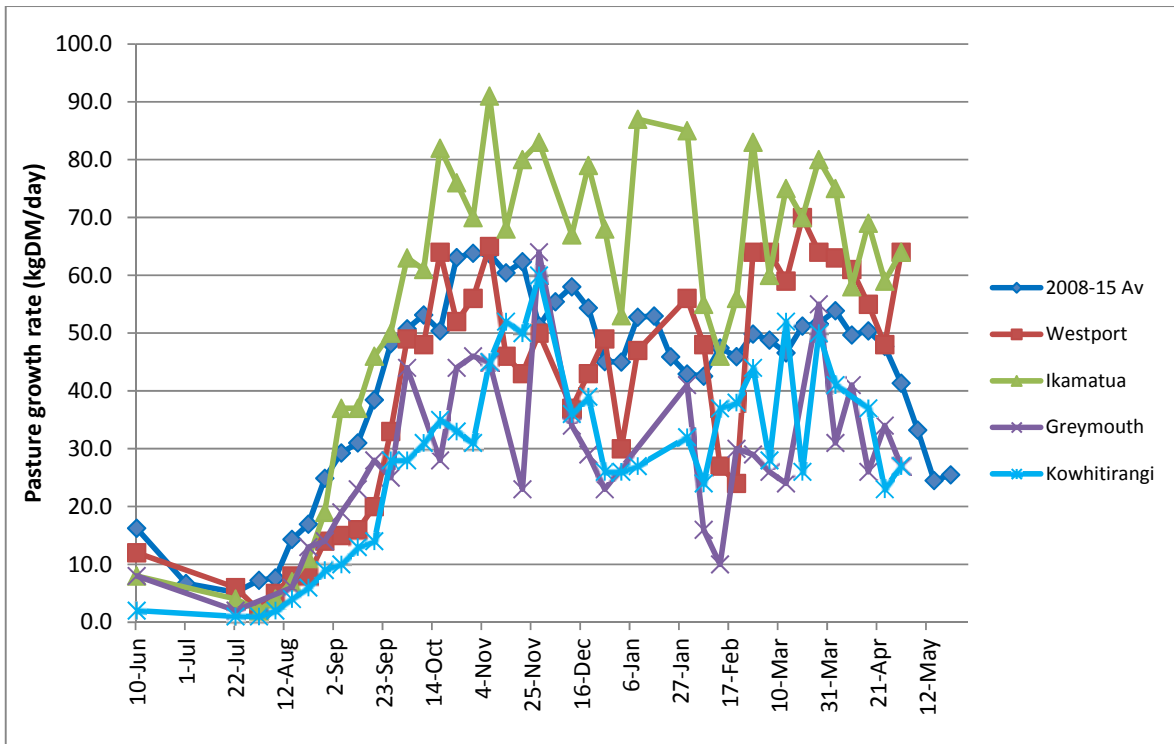
The launch of the Pasture First workshops has generated some good feedback, with many attendees saying it was the process they needed to ensure their production system was appropriate for the volatile environment that the dairy industry seems to have become. At the workshops those attending will go through a process where the amount of pasture and crop is calculated and realistic benchmarks set for that location; will gain a good understanding of the different pasture management strategies available and what will work best for them; take a closer look at the stocking rate currently in place and planned supplement use for next season; and create a plan to ensure changes made are successful. These events will help with strategic decisions around setting cow numbers and cover other key management decisions that contribute to growing and using as much home-grown pasture as possible. For the next upcoming workshop closest to you, go to <http://www.dairynz.co.nz/farm/tactics/pasture-first-workshops/>

Farm Summary

	Westport	Ikamatua	Greymouth	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2333	2239	1996	1979
APC (28 April)	2279	2317	2062	2024
Rotation length (days)	30	25	23	37
Stocking rate	2.4	2.6	1.9	2.3
Percentage in milk	80	95	77	97
Milksolids kg/cow	1.38	1.13	1.23	1.10
Milksolids kg/ha	3.2	2.8	2.4	2.5
MS/cow (season to date)	1.38	1.13	1.23	1.10
MS/ha (season to date)	3.2	2.8	2.4	2.5
N (kg/ha) year to date	215	324	333	119
Current N application rate kg N/ha	15	30	25	None
	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	18
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	2.0	2.0	4.1	1.0
Soil temperature (°C)	16.5	14.0	13.7	16.4
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	64	64	27	27
Rainfall	5	30	18	-
Conditions for farmwalk	Fine warm overcast	Stunning day		Heavy rain but very warm
Comments				

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

Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



Weekly Soil Temperature

