Westland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update 8 September 2016

CO comment

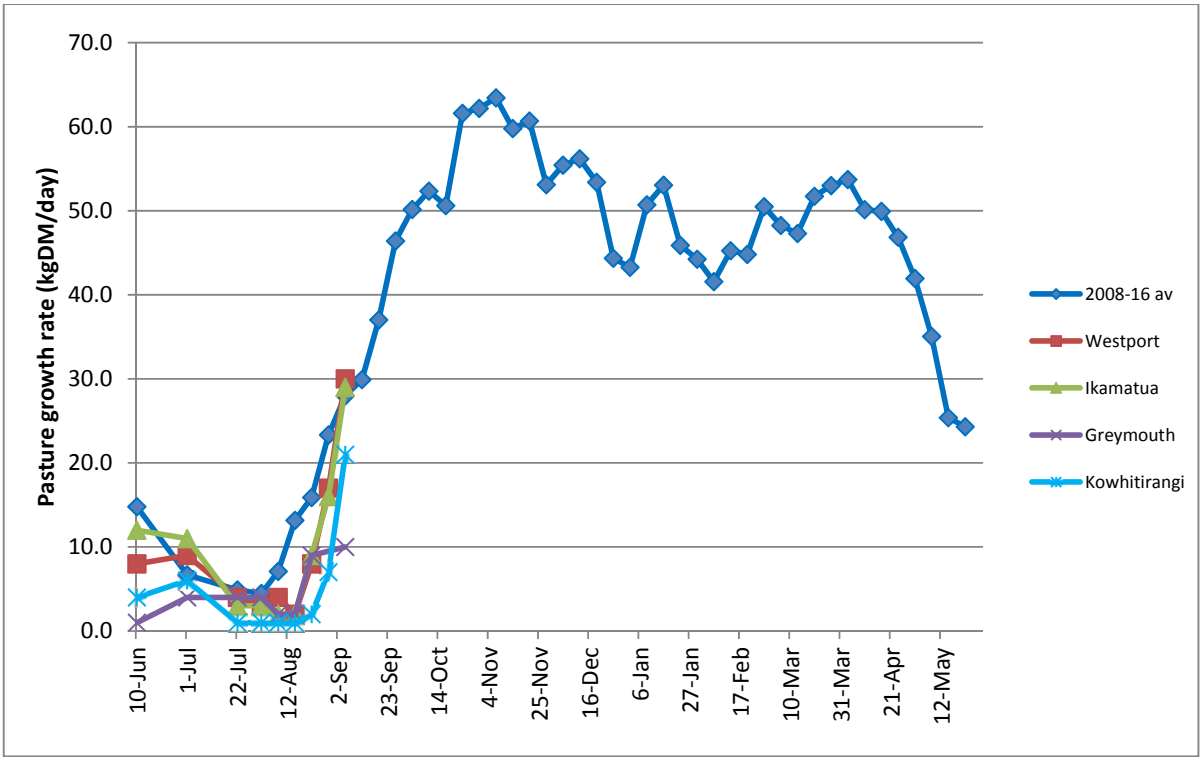
Pasture growth rates are finally starting to increase, but be careful not to speed up the rotation too quickly. Aim to be on your shortest spring rotation at balance date (when daily demand/ha equals daily growth/ha). If your rotation gets too quick and the pasture plants are grazed before the third leaf emerges, this can result in the average pasture cover (APC) dropping below 1900 kgDM/ha. As a consequence, subsequent pasture growth rates will be reduced. Grazing a paddock down to lower residuals is acceptable on a longer rotation as the paddock has time to get to the third leaf stage again before grazing. Lower residuals are also acceptable if the pasture has not been damaged (pugged) during the grazing. It is the frequency of grazing that has the biggest effect on subsequent pasture growth, not the intensity of grazing.

Farm Summary

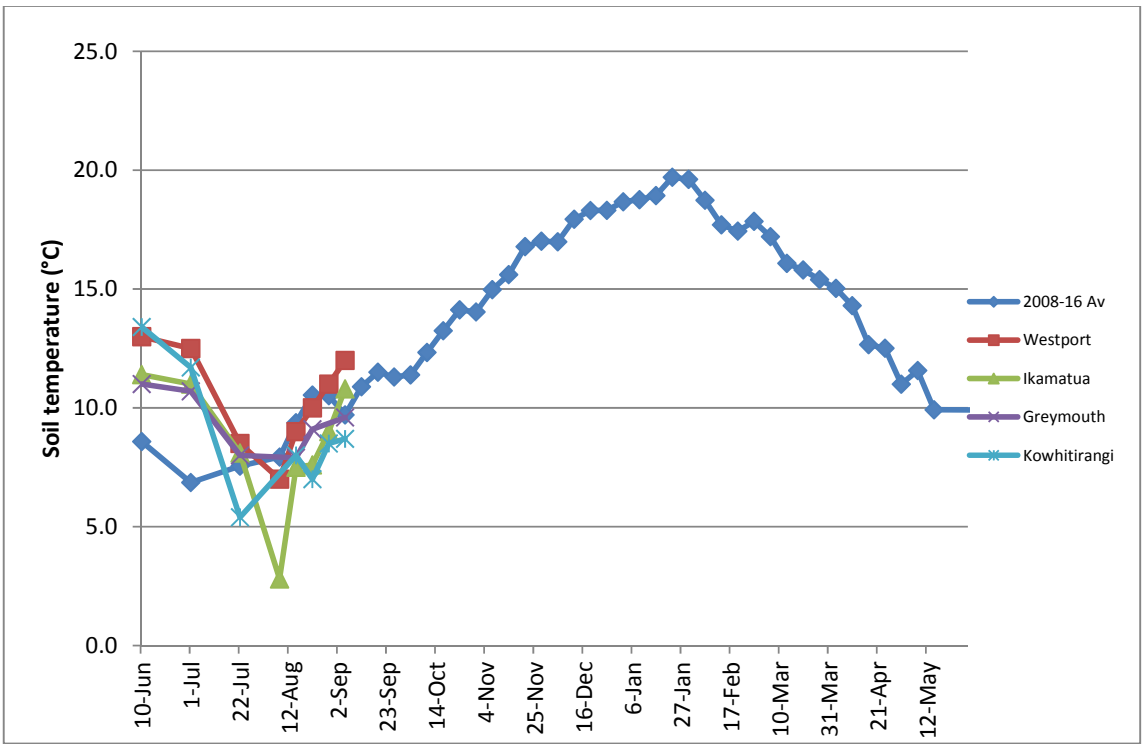
	Westport	Ikamatua	Greymouth	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	1942	1998	1898	1822
APC	*1874*	*2080*		*1798*
Rotation length (days)	36	30	37	
Stocking rate	2.6	1.9	1.9	
Percentage in milk	82	77	83	77
Milksolids kg/cow	1.49	1.69	2.01	1.54
Milksolids kg/ha	2.7	3.1	3.5	2.4
MS/cow (season to date)				
MS/ha (season to date)	51	48	43	34
N (kg/ha) year to date	17	11	47	0
Current N application rate kg N/ha	20	30	30	None
	8 Aug	9 Aug		10 Aug
DM%	19.1	17.8		21.1
Pasture ME	12.1	12.7		12.7
Pasture NDF	46.2	35.7		37.3
Pasture CP	23.3	18.3		17.6
Target Intake (kg DM/cow/d)	15	18	18	
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	1	5.5	5.5	4.5
Soil temperature (°C)	12	10.8	9.6	8.7
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	30	29	10	21
Rainfall	56	30	80	168
Conditions for farmwalk	Rain strong winds farm very wet	Warm fine Magic day		Shocker !!!! Rain hail sleet & gale force winds
Comments				

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

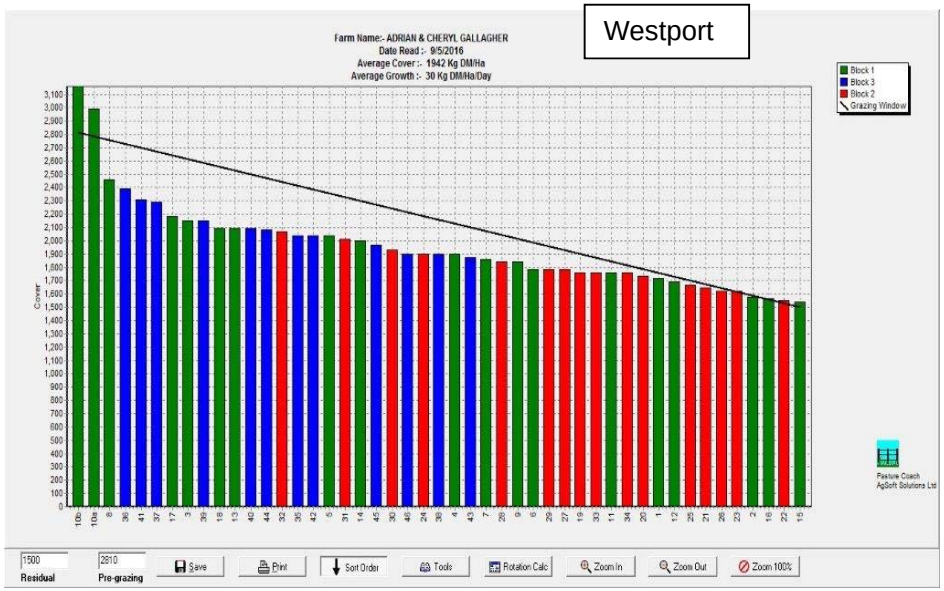
Weekly Pasture Growth Rates



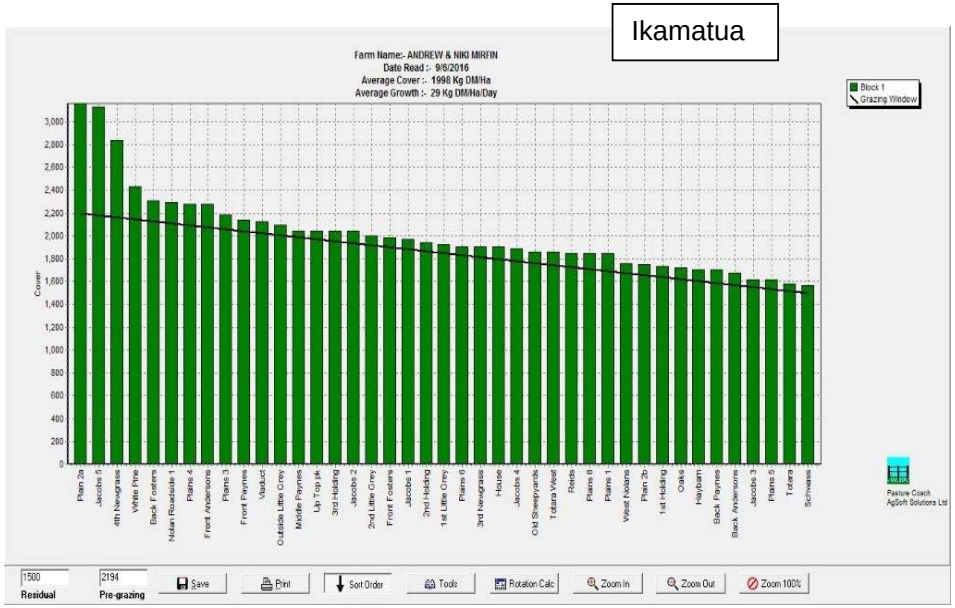
Weekly Soil Temperature



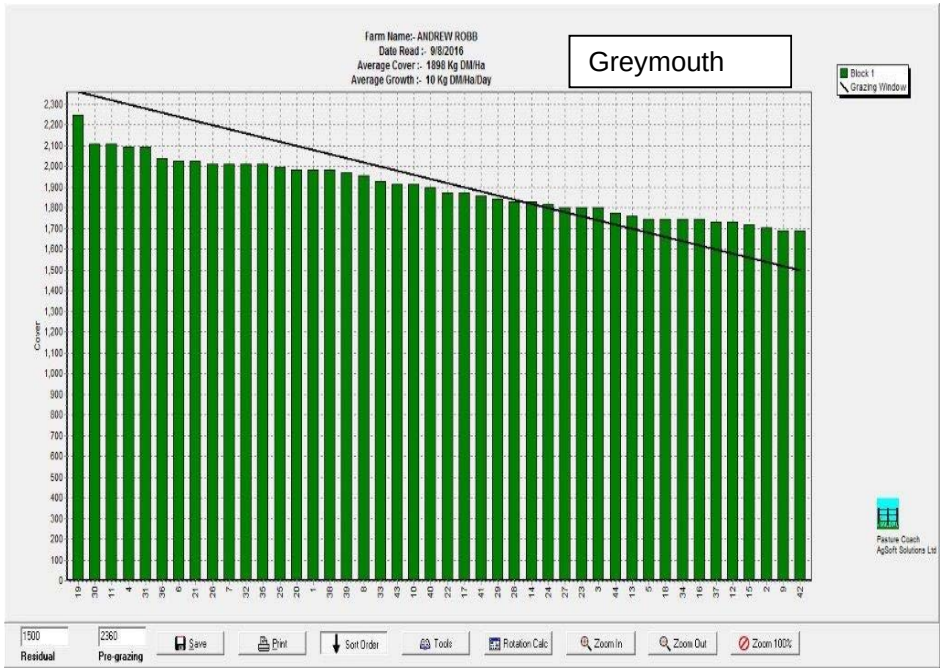
Westport



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	13/6/2016		12.3	28.2	3.3	24.4	42.9	10.4	>85	>12.7
Pdk 30	18/8/2016		19.1	23.3	4.6	24.3	46.2	11.8	82.6	12.1

Ikamatua

Description	Date	RPM	% DM	% Prot	% Lipid	% ADF	% NDF	Sol Sugar	OMD %	MJME/ kg
Hold	13/6/2016		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	18/8/2016		17.8	18.3	4.4	22.0	35.7	24.1	>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 22	13/6/2016		16.5	25.1	4.8	20.9	30.4	22.1	>85	>12.7
Pdk 40	15/8/2016		21.1	17.6	3.5	23.5	37.3	25.4	>85	>12.7