

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

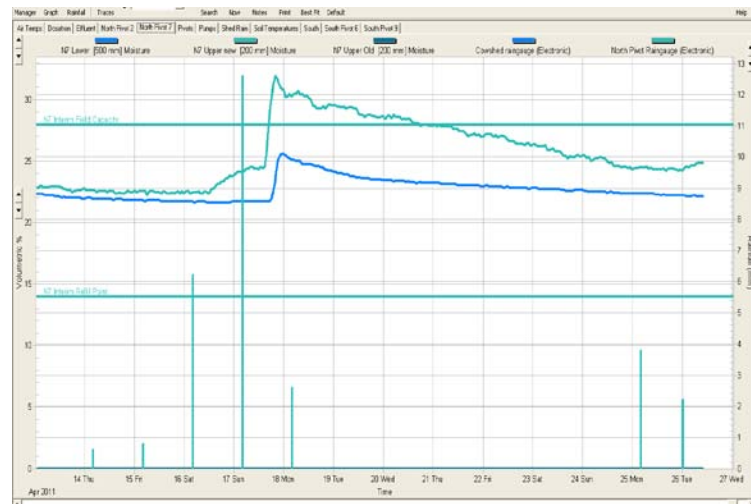
Tuesday, 26th April 2011

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

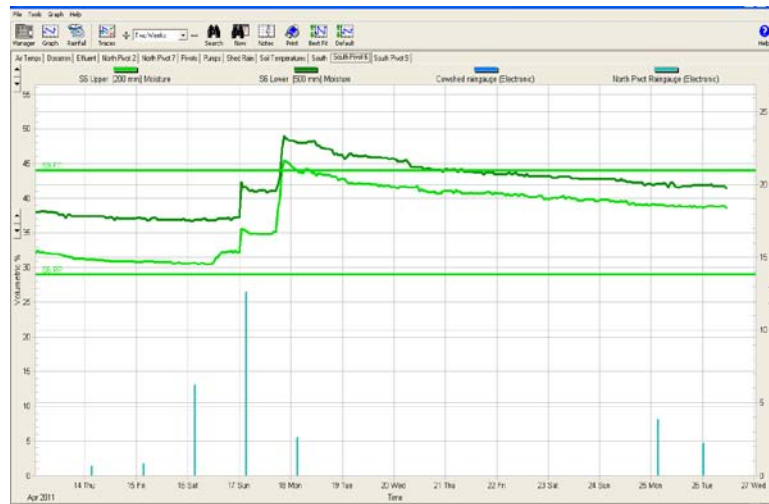
1. Keep grazing residuals to the desired 7 - 8 clicks
2. Continue Mg supplementation
3. Closely observe milking cows for mastitis
4. Maintain round length above 34 days
5. Monitor BCS and act accordingly to achieve the targets

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

6. Average soil temperature at 9.00 am this week was 11.3°C lower than the 12.7°C last week.
7. There has been 6 mm of rain during the week and irrigation is finished for the season.
8. Soil moisture levels have been dropping over the last week.
9. North Block – Paddock N7

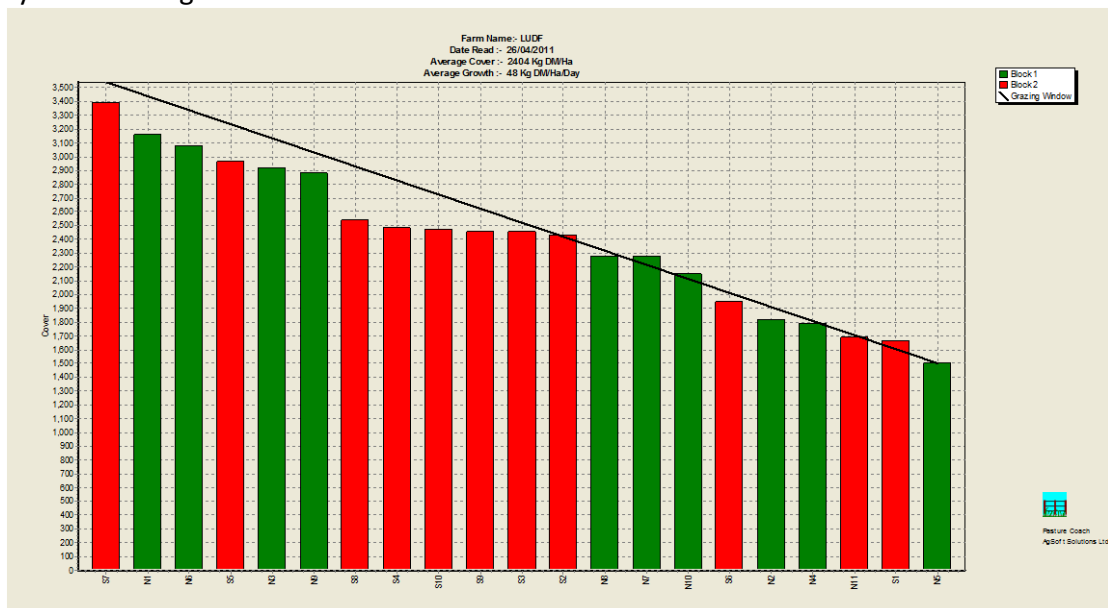


10. South Block – Paddock S6

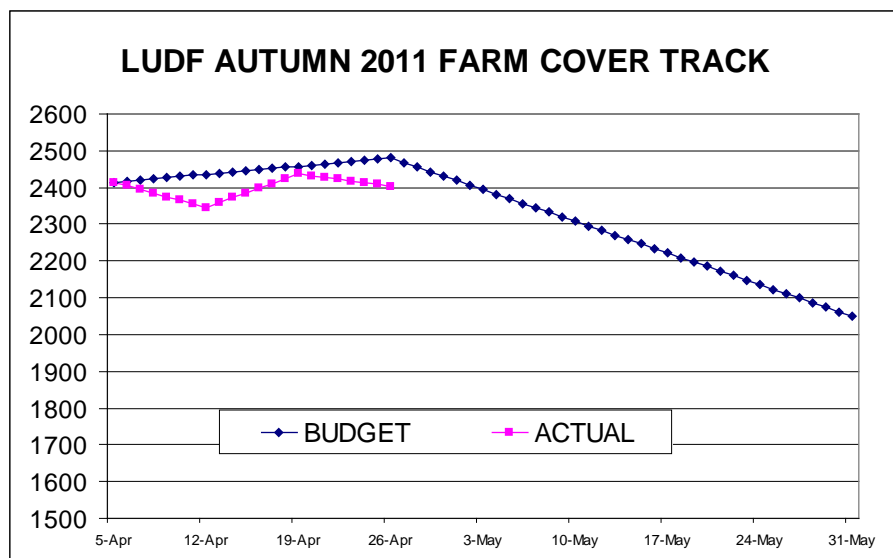


11. PASTURE GROWTH was 48 kg DM/ha/day, last week 56 kg DM/ha/day.
12. Average PASTURE COVER measured at 2,404 kg DM/ha, last week 2,427 kg DM/ha.
13. 26 April 602 cows were milked into the vat. The whole herd has been milked once a day for 10 days.

14. Including all groups of cows, 30.2 ha was grazed for the week, an average of 4.3 ha/day or 37 day round.
15. This week 16.5t DM of silage (average of 3.9 kg DM of silage/cow/day) was fed. Season to date 271t DM (405 kg DM/cow). This includes the silage cut on the milking platform as well (107 TDM).
16. Today's feed Wedge:



17. The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 3,541 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1,500 kg DM/ha, which is the pre-grazing needed to feed the cows considering the stocking rate of 3.76 cows/ha (602 cows/160 ha), cows eating 15.5 kg DM/cow/day and a rotation length of 35 days. This Feed Wedge has 20 T DM deficit.
18. We will be feeding Grass Silage as required this week. Round length and post – grazing residuals will dictate the amount of grass silage required to maintain the round above 34 days.
19. The feed budget done for the remainder of the season has a target average pasture cover as shown in the graphic below. The principle being to increase cover until mid April and then hold that until early May. After that cover will be allowed to decline slowly toward the targeted end-of-May average pasture cover of 2,050 kg DM/ha. This plan will see pre grazing levels of 3,400 kg DM/ha at a grazing interval of 32 - 33 days. Building cover provides an opportunity to milk more days in May if the weather allows.



20. This week another 11 cows were culled (all of them empty and low producers). Season to date 46 cows have been culled and another 21 cows dried off.
21. The condition of the herd has been regularly monitored this season, the last assessment was on 5th April with an average BCS of 4.0.
22. Some cows have been dried off (according to our plan below) and the whole herd has been on once a day milking for 10 days now. Production per cow dropped from 1.29 to 1.15 during that period and the average SCC for the week has been about 40,000, higher than the average the previous week.
23. Cow condition will be assessed again this week and we will continue to use our drying off decision rules as presented below.
24. Our Drying off Decision Rules are based on the following:

Cows (4 years old and older)

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	100	20 April – 5 May	5-15 May
4	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
4.5	60	NA	NA

Rising 3 year olds

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	120	1-15 April	15-30 April
4	100	20 April -5 May	5-15 May
4.5	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
5	60	NA	NA

This strategy requires feeding the cows that are being dried off above demand and good quality feed.

25. Now in the fifth round of Urea this week with 24ha receiving 40kgN. Season to date 318 kg N per ha has been applied over the non effluent area (128 ha), equivalent to 258kg N/ha across the whole of the milking platform (160 ha). Nitrogen will be applied after the cows for another 10 days.
26. Eco-n application started two weeks ago and has now been applied to 62.5 ha. Another 32ha will receive eco-n later today or tomorrow.
27. 3 new lame cows this week, 74 lame cows since calving started on 20 July.
28. Three new case of clinical Mastitis, season to date 77 cows treated for Mastitis.
29. SCC has been 265 - 306,000 this week. All cows are currently having one quarter stripped each milking to check for mastitis.
30. Production this week was 1.15 kg MS/cow/day (1.28kg MS/cow last week) and 4.32 kg MS/ha/day (5.28kg MS/ha last week).

Next farm walk will be on **Tuesday, 3rd May 2011, at 9.00 am.**

Farmers or their managers and staff are always welcome to walk with us. Please call to notify us of your intention and bring your plate meter. Phone SIDDC – 03 325 3629

Management Group

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), Virginia Serra (DairyNZ).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 19th April 2011

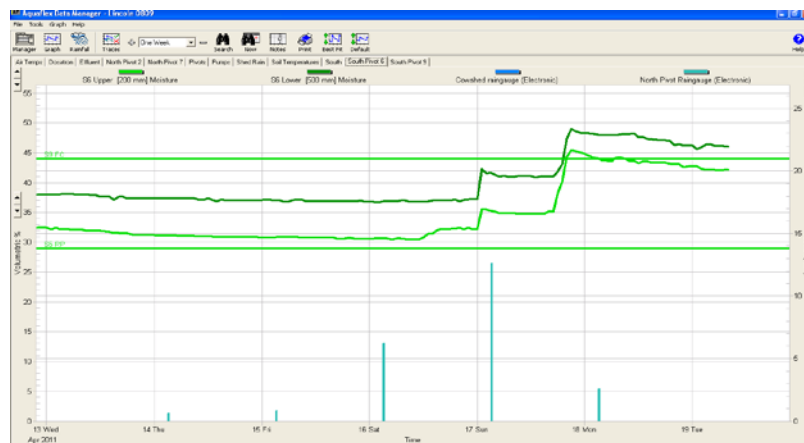
CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Keep grazing residuals to the desired 7 - 8 clicks**
2. **Continue Mg supplementation**
3. **Closely observe milking cows for mastitis**
4. **Maintain round length above 30 days**
5. **Monitor BCS and act accordingly to achieve the targets**

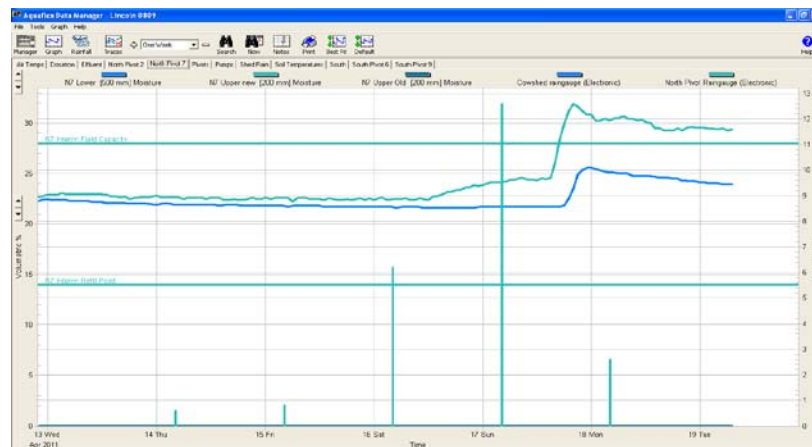
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

6. Average soil temperature at 9.00 am this week was 12.7°C.
7. There has been 23 mm of rain during the week. No irrigation this week and will not be irrigating again this season.
8. Soil moisture levels have increased significantly after the rain over the weekend.

South Block – Paddock S9

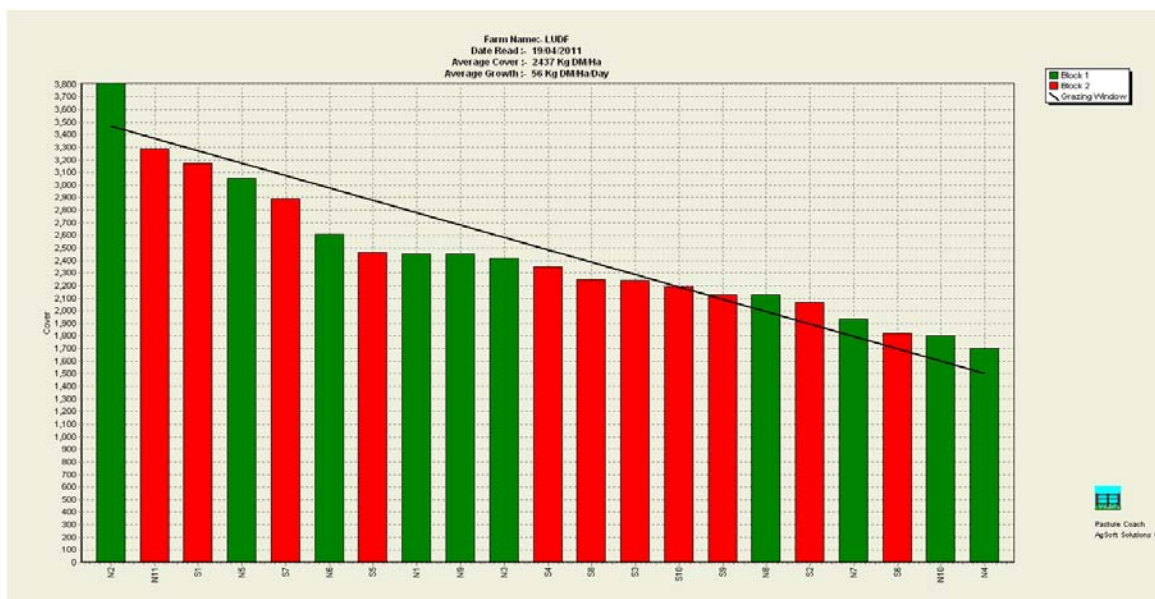


North Block – Paddock N7



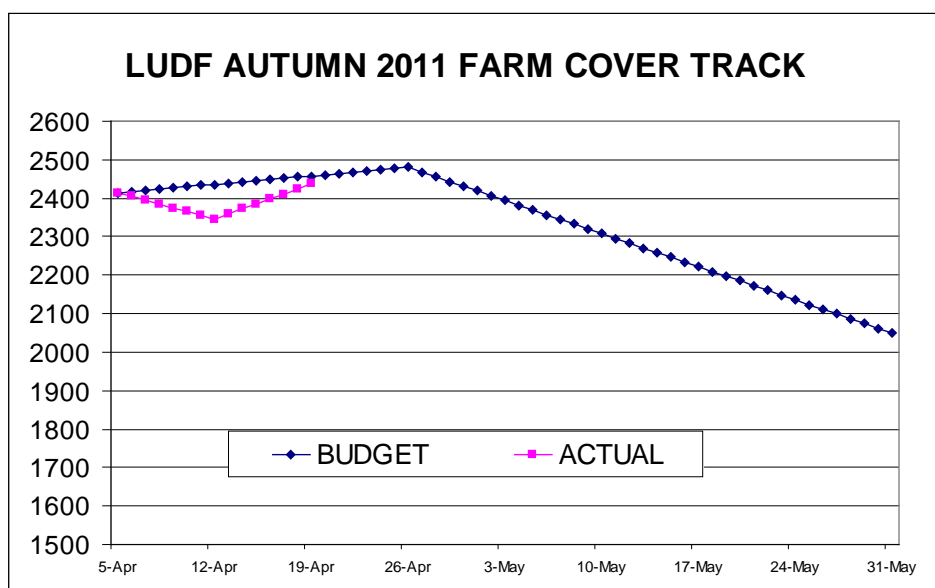
9. PASTURE GROWTH was 56 kg DM/ha/day, last week was 49 kg DM/ha/day.
10. Average PASTURE COVER was measured at 2,427 kg DM/ha, an increase from last weeks 2,346 kg DM/ha.
11. This morning 601 cows were milked into the vat. We started milking the whole herd Once-a-Day [OAD] last Saturday.
12. Including all groups of cows, 32.3 ha was grazed for the week, an average of 4.6 ha/day or 34.8 day round.

13. This week we fed 18.6 t DM of silage (average of 4.2 kg DM of silage/cow/day). Season to date 254t DM (379 kg DM/cow). This includes the silage cut on the milking platform as well (107t DM).
14. Today's feed Wedge:



The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 3,493kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1,500kg DM/ha, which is the pre-grazing needed to feed the cows considering the stocking rate of 3.75 cows/ha (600 cows/160 ha), cows eating 15kg DM/cow/day and a rotation length of 34 days. This Feed Wedge has 7.8t DM deficit.

15. Grass Silage will be fed as required this week. Round length and post – grazing residuals will dictate the amount of grass silage required to maintain the round above 33 days.
16. The feed budget done for the remainder of the season has a target average pasture cover as shown in the graphic below. The principle being to increase cover until mid April and then hold that until early May. After that cover will be allowed to decline slowly toward the targeted end-of-May average pasture cover of 2,050 kg DM/ha. This plan will see pre grazing levels of 3,400 kg DM/ha at a grazing interval of 32 - 33 days. Building cover provides an opportunity to milk more days in May if the weather allows. The graph shows we are close to our target cover.



17. Last week culled 32 cows, (22 were empty and low producers and the rest were low producers and low PW and BW cows).
18. The herd was assessed for condition on 5 April. The average BCS of the herd was 4.0. In line with our drying off plan we dried off 7 (3 year old) cows condition score at 3.5 and calving in August. They have been removed from the milking platform. We remain concerned about the overall condition of the herd, therefore last week the whole herd was put on OAD milking. This occurred on Saturday morning, 16 April, with our first pickup was on 18 April. The volume from this pickup was 3500 litres lower than the previous pick up.
19. This decision was made because overall cow condition had not improved as fast as we would have liked, and at the current production of 1,29 kg DM/cow/day, a change to OAD milking will not affect this significantly.
20. Cow CS will continue to be monitored and drying off decisions made following the rules presented below.
21. Our Drying off Decision Rules are based on the following:

Cows (4 years old and older)

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	100	20 April – 5 May	5-15 May
4	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
4.5	60	NA	NA

Rising 3 year Old

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	120	1-15 April	15-30 April
4	100	20 April -5 May	5-15 May
4.5	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
5	60	NA	NA

This strategy requires feeding the cows that are being dried off above demand and good quality feed.

22. Now in the fifth round of Urea. 32ha received 40kgN this week. Season to date 310kg N per ha has been applied over the non effluent area (128 ha), equivalent to 249kg N/ha across the whole of the milking platform (160 ha).
23. Eco-n application started last week and has now been applied to 62.5 ha.
24. No new lame cows this week. There have been 71 lame cows since calving started on 20 July.
25. One new case of clinical Mastitis, season to date 74 cows treated for Mastitis.
26. SCC has been 227 -250,000 this week. All cows are currently having one quarter stripped each morning milking to check for mastitis.
27. Production this week was 1.28 kg MS/cow/day (1.29kg MS/cow last week) and 5.28kg MS/ha/day (5.31kg MS/ha last week).

Next farm walk will be on **Tuesday, 26th April 2011, at 9.00 am.**

Farmers or their managers and staff are always welcome to walk with us. Please call to notify us of your intention and bring your plate meter. Phone SIDDC – 03 325 3629

Management Group

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), Virginia Serra (DairyNZ).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

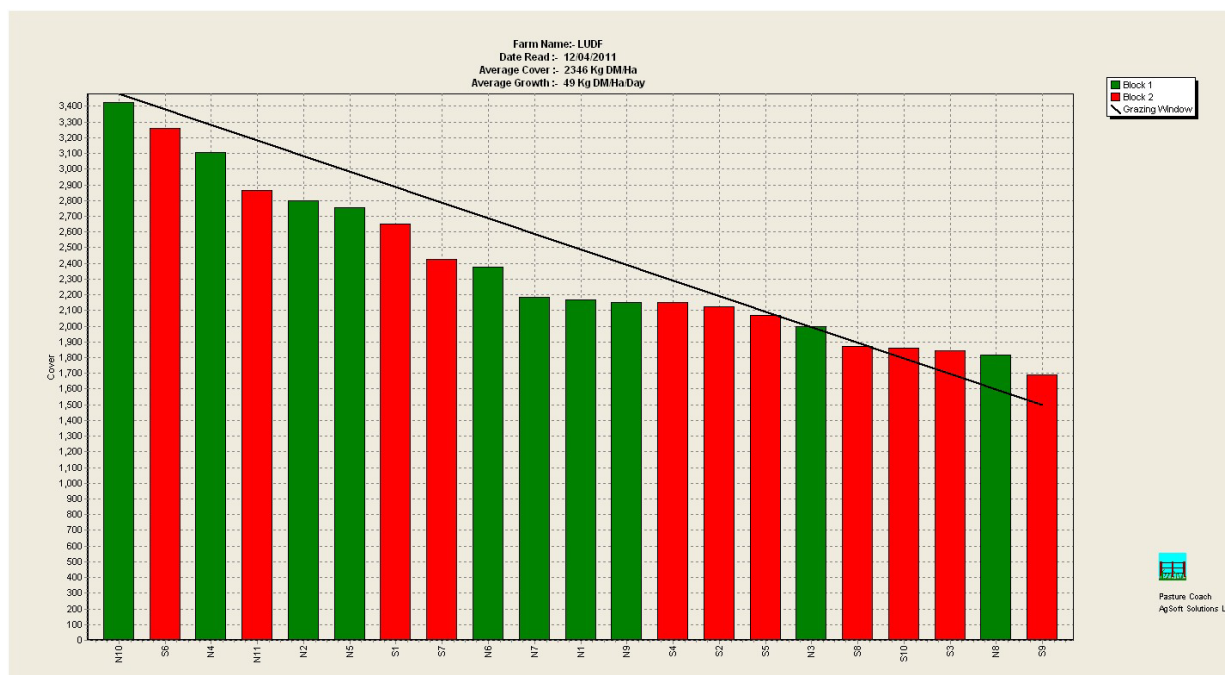
Tuesday, 12th April 2011

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Maintain pasture quality by regular monitoring and making necessary changes**
2. **Keep grazing residuals to the desired 7 - 8 clicks**
3. **Continue Mg supplementation**
4. **Closely observe milking cows for mastitis**
5. **Maintain round length above 30 days**
6. **Monitor BCS and act accordingly to achieve the targets**

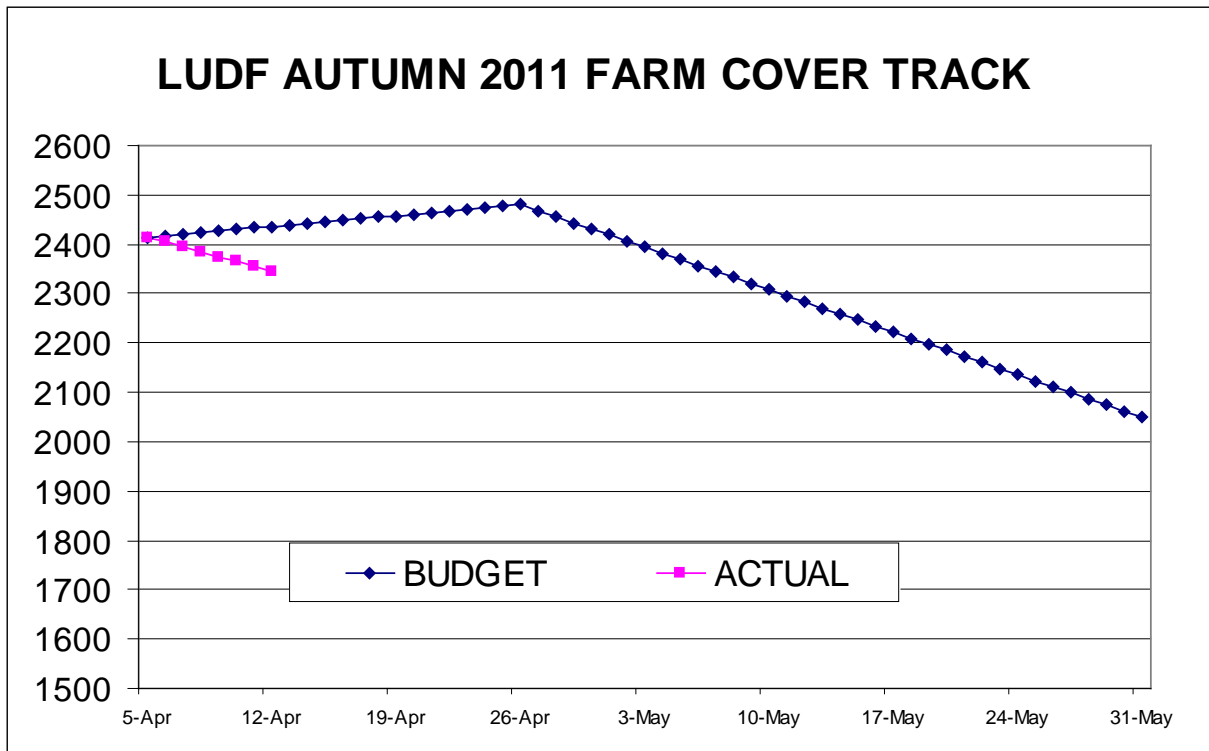
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

7. Soil temperature this week dropped to 11.7°C from 12.9°C last week.
8. There has been 0.8 mm of rain during the week, no irrigation and do not expect to again this season.
9. PASTURE GROWTH was 49 kg DM/ha/day, from last week at 60 kg DM/ha/day.
10. Average PASTURE COVER was measured at 2,346 kg DM/ha, a drop from last weeks 2,414 kg DM/ha.
11. This morning 393 cows were milked into the vat (the twice-a-day herd). A further 239 cows are on Once-a-day milking (afternoons only).
12. Including all groups of cows, 33.0 ha was grazed for the week, an average of 4.7 ha/day or 34 day round.
13. This week 24.1t DM of silage (average of 5.2 kg DM of silage/cow/day) was fed out. Season to date 236t DM (353 kg DM/cow). This includes the silage cut on the milking platform (107t DM).
14. Today's feed Wedge:



The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 3,476 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1,500 kg DM/ha, which is the pre-grazing needed to feed the cows considering the stocking rate of 3.75 cows/ha (600 cows/160 ha), cows eating 15.5 kg DM/cow/day and a rotation length of 34 days. This Feed Wedge has 20 T DM deficit.

15. Grass Silage will be fed as required this week. Round length and post-grazing residuals will dictate the amount of grass silage required to maintain the round above 33 days.
16. The feed budget done for the remainder of the season has a target average pasture cover as shown in the graphic below. The principle being to increase cover until mid April and then hold that until early May, then declining slowly toward a targeted end-of-May average pasture cover of 2,050 kg DM/ha. This plan will see pre-grazing levels of 3,400 kg DM/ha at a grazing interval of 32 - 33 days. Building cover provides an opportunity to milk more days in May if the weather allows. At present farm cover is on target.



17. The above graph shows we are below our target cover. Today the decision was made to cull 32 cows, (22 were empty and low producers, ten were low producers and low PW and BW cows). It is costing about \$5/day to feed a cull cow (assuming 15 kg DM grass silage at 34 cents /kg DM), therefore she needs to produce at least 0.7 kg MS/day to pay for her feed without considering the other costs of milking her. Also the price of cull cows is very good at the moment and it is likely to be lower later in the season.
18. The herd was assessed for condition on 5th April with an average BCS of 4.0. In line with the drying off plan, seven three-year old cows with CS at 3.5 and calving in August were dried off and removed from the milking platform. Concern at the overall condition of the herd remains. Liveweight gain has been very slow over recent weeks, however in this last fortnight positive weight gain, about 4kg LW gain per week, is occurring.
19. The decision has been made to put the whole herd on once a day milking from the end of this week. The reason is that the overall cow condition has not improved as fast as we would have liked, and at the current production of 1,29 kg DM/cow/day a change to once a day milking will not affect this significantly.
20. We will keep monitoring cow condition and use our drying off decision rules as presented below.

21. Drying off Decision Rules are based on the following:

Cows (4 years old and older)

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	100	20 April – 5 May	5-15 May
4	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
4.5	60	NA	NA

Rising 3 year Old

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	120	1-15 April	15-30 April
4	100	20 April -5 May	5-15 May
4.5	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
5	60	NA	NA

This strategy requires feeding the cows that are being dried off above demand and good quality feed.

22. Now in the fifth round of Urea, 23ha received 40kgN this week. Season to date 300 kg N per ha over the non effluent area (128 ha), equivalent to 240kg N/ha across the whole of the milking platform (160 ha) has been applied.
23. Eco-n will start from this week.
24. One new lame cow, with a total of 71 lame cows since calving started on 20 July.
25. One new case of clinical Mastitis, season to date 73 cows treated for Mastitis.
26. SCC has been 240 - 308,000 this week. All cows are currently having one quarter stripped each morning milking to check for mastitis.
27. Production this week was 1.29 kg MS/cow/day (1.24kg MS/cow last week) and 5.31kg MS/ha/day (5.11kg MS/ha last week).

Next farm walk will be on **Tuesday, 17th April 2011, at 9.00 am.**

Farmers or their managers and staff are always welcome to walk with us. Please call to notify us of your intention and bring your plate meter. Phone SIDDC – 03 325 3629

Management Group

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), Virginia Serra (DairyNZ).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

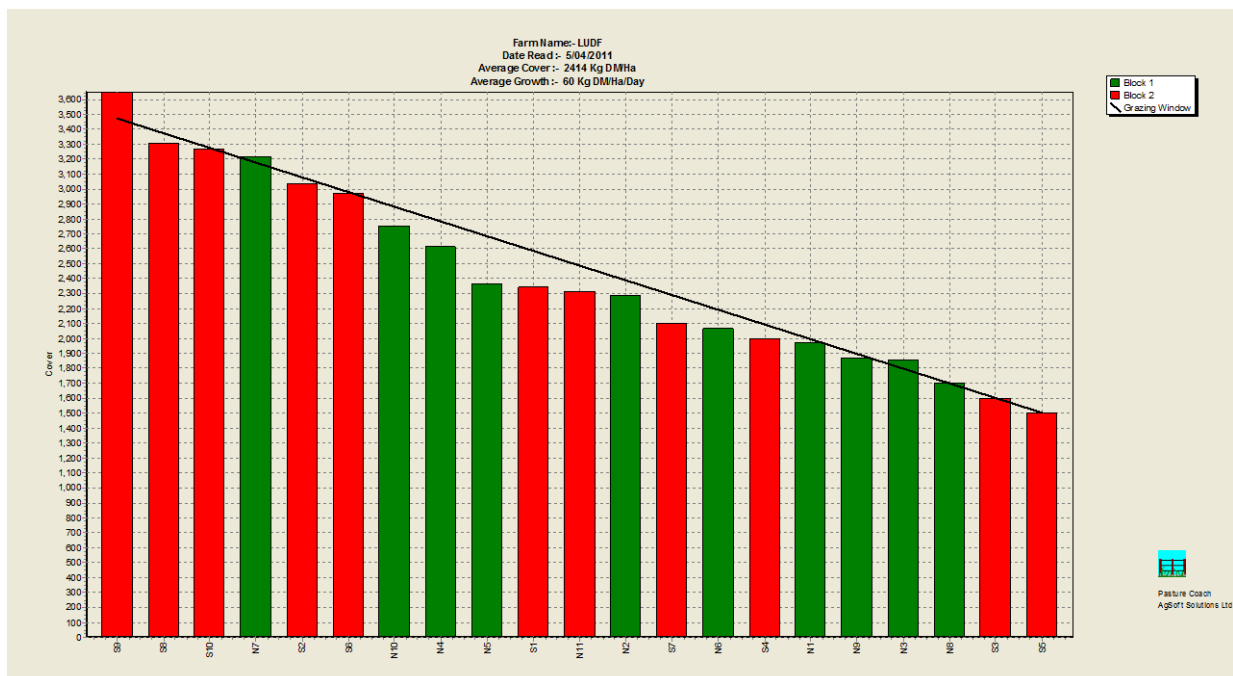
Tuesday, 5th April 2011

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Maintain pasture quality by regular monitoring and making necessary changes**
2. **Keep grazing residuals to the desired 7 - 8 clicks**
3. **Continue Mg supplementation**
4. **Closely observe milking cows for mastitis**
5. **Maintain round length above 30 days**
6. **Monitor BCS and act accordingly to achieve the targets**

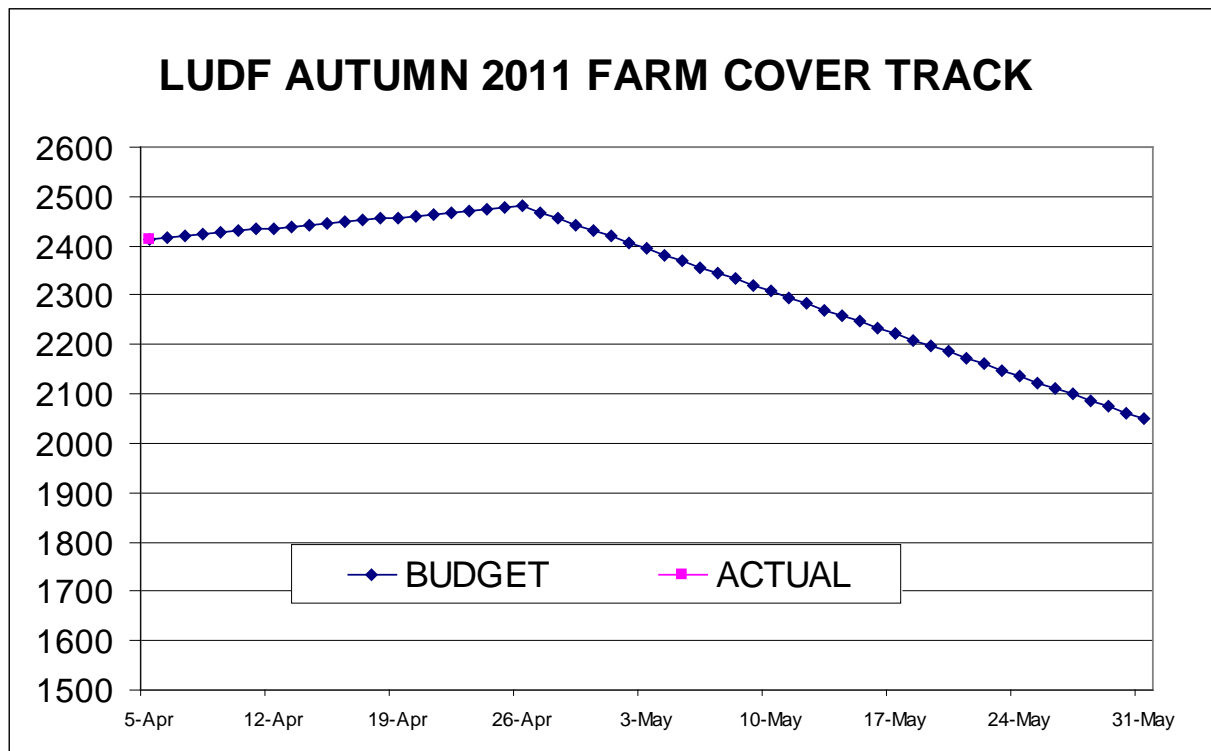
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

7. Soil temperature this week dropped to 12.9°C from 14.3°C last week.
8. There has been 41 mm of rain (yesterday and last night), no irrigation this week.
9. PASTURE GROWTH was 60 kg DM/ha/day, last week 62 kg DM/ha/day.
10. Average PASTURE COVER was measured at 2,414 kg DM/ha, similar to last weeks 2,428 kg DM/ha.
11. This morning 405 cows were milked into the vat (the twice-a-day herd). A further 253 cows are on Once-a-day milking (afternoons only).
12. Including all groups of cows, 34.7 ha was grazed for the week, an average of 4.95 ha/day or 32 day round.
13. This week 21.4t DM of silage (average of 4.6 kg DM of silage/cow/day) was fed. Season to date 212t DM (317 kg DM/cow). This includes the silage cut on the milking platform as well (107t DM).
14. Today's feed Wedge:



The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 3,474 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1,500 kg DM/ha, which is the pre-grazing needed to feed the cows considering the stocking rate of 4.1 cows/ha (658 cows/160 ha), cows eating 15.5 kg DM/cow/day and a rotation length of 33 days. This Feed Wedge has 11 T DM deficit.

15. Grass Silage will be fed as required this week. Round length and post – grazing residuals will dictate the amount of grass silage required to maintain the round above 30 days.
16. The feed budget for the remainder of the season has a target average pasture cover as shown in the graphic below. The principle being to increase cover until mid April and then hold that until early May. After that cover will be allowed to decline slowly toward the targeted end-of-May average pasture cover of 2,050 kg DM/ha. This plan will see pre grazing levels of 3,400 kg DM/ha at a grazing interval of 32 - 33 days. Building cover provides an opportunity to milk more days in May if the weather allows. At present farm cover is on target.



17. The herd was assessed for condition today 5th April. The average BCS of the herd was 4.0. According to our Drying off plan the 3 year old cows at 3.5CS and calving in August will be dried off. This may be about 30 cows, the group will be sorted this afternoon. We are still quite concerned about the overall condition of the herd so will consider milking the whole herd Once a Day. The decision will be made next week. However, there is concern that we are not seeing enough change in condition in the cows that have been on once a day for 5 weeks now.

18. Our Drying off Decision Rules are based on the following:

Cows (4 years old and older)

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	100	20 April – 5 May	5-15 May
4	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
4.5	60	NA	NA

Rising 3 year Old

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	120	1-15 April	15-30 April
4	100	20 April -5 May	5-15 May
4.5	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
5	60	NA	NA

This strategy requires feeding the cows that are being dried off above demand and good quality **feed**.

19. Now in the fifth round of Urea. 22ha received 40kgN this week. Season to date 292 kg N per ha has been applied over the non effluent area (128 ha), equivalent to 235kg N/ha across the whole of the milking platform (160 ha).
20. No new lame cows this week. There have been 70 lame cows since calving started on the 20 July.
21. One new case of clinical Mastitis, season to date 72 cows treated for Mastitis.
22. SCC has been 224-260,000 this week. All cows are currently having one quarter stripped each morning milking to check for mastitis.
23. Production this week was 1.24 kg MS/cow/day (1.22kg MS/cow last week) and 5.11kg MS/ha/day (5.03kg MS/ha last week).

Next farm walk will be on **Tuesday, 12th April 2011, at 9.00 am.**

Farmers or their managers and staff are always welcome to walk with us. Please call to notify us of your intention and bring your plate meter. Phone SIDDC – 03 325 3629

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