

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2007

## Critical issues for the short term

1. Maintain a rotation of between 20 and 22 days.
2. Keeping irrigation system going properly.
3. Identify and remove surpluses.

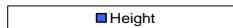
### Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

4. SOIL TEMP at 10am has averaged 17<sup>0</sup>C (last week 17).
5. PASTURE GROWTH was 103 kg DM/ha (last week 98) on the milking platform.
6. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER 2443 kg DM/ha.
7. Last weeks wedge.

SR = 680/155.5= 4.38  
 (4.38 x 22 x 18) + 1480 = 3214  
 (3214 -500)/140 = 19.5 clicks

#### Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

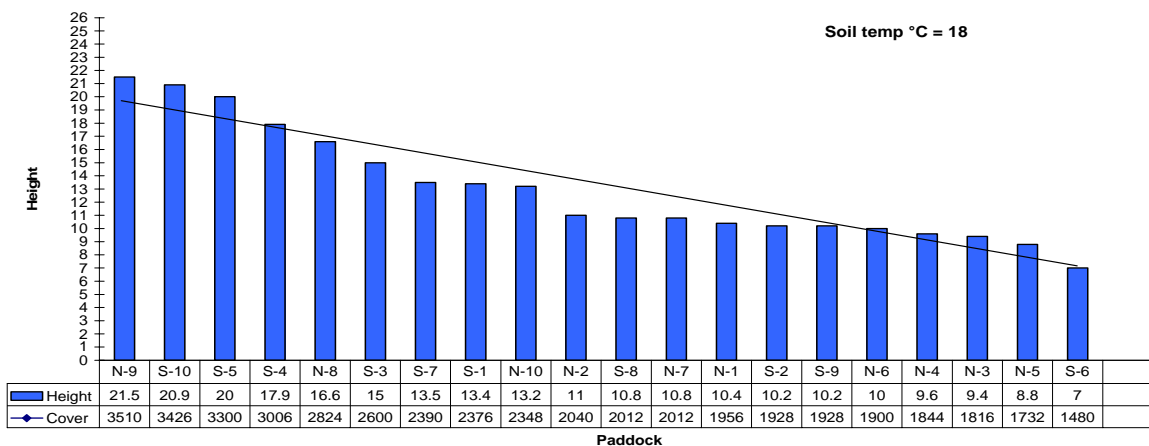
11-Dec-07



Weeks Growth Rate 98

Average Farm Cover 2372

Soil temp °C = 18

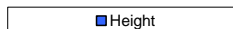


8. This week's wedge before silage.

SR = 680/155.5= 4.38  
 (4.38 x 20 x 17) + 1480 = 2970  
 (2970 -500)/140 = 17.6 clicks

#### Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

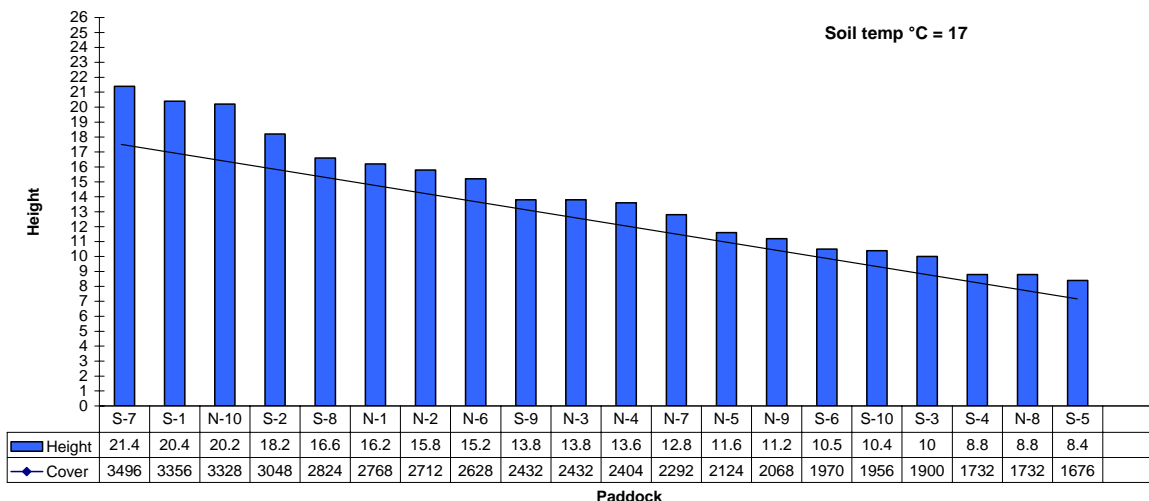
18-Dec-07



Weeks Growth Rate 103

Average Farm Cover 2443

Soil temp °C = 17



## This week's wedge after removing 19 ha of silage

SR = 680/155.5= 4.38  
 (4.38 x 20 x 17) + 1480 = 2970  
 (2970 -500)/140 = 17.6 clicks

### Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

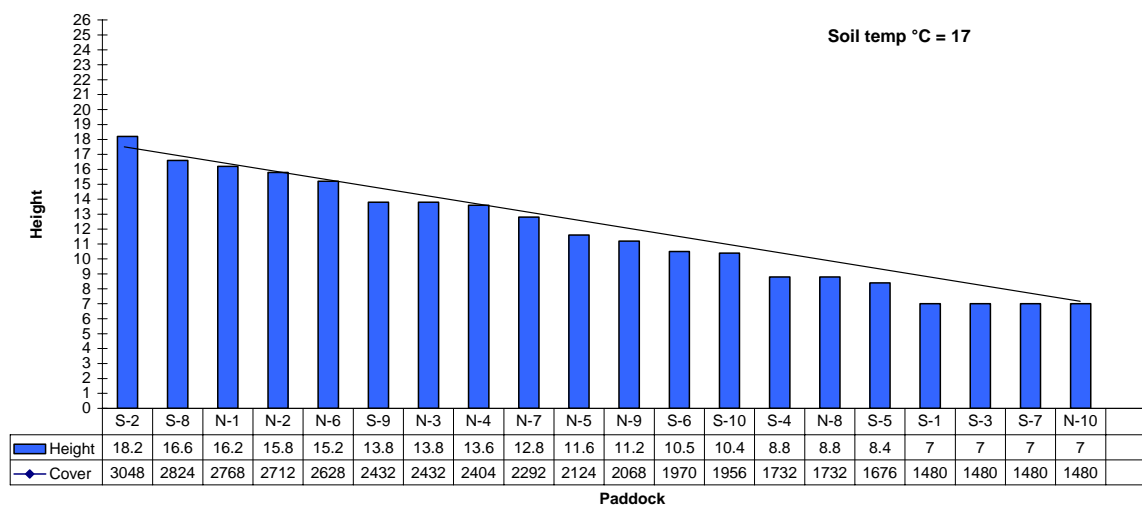
Weeks Growth Rate 103

25-Dec-07

■ Height

Average Farm Cover 2137

Soil temp °C = 17



9. The target line is now lower and is based on a pre-grazing cover of 2970 which presumes the cows eating 17 kg DM and being on a 20 day round.
10. The graph shows that if growth rates hold which is supported by the weather forecast the farm will continue to be in a good position. Our aim is to lower the pre-grazing cover to below 3000 kg DM where we know from experience that pasture quality is higher.
11. Soil moisture levels are excellent and the prospect is for another hot week so we will plan to continue to irrigate this week. The target is a third of the way between field capacity and stress level. This leaves enough room for rain events to still not reach field capacity but also means that if the pivot breaks down we are not immediately in crisis.
12. The farm has just had 6 weeks of almost or above 90 kg DM /day. We have never experienced this before and for several weeks now we have been caught out by this continuing growth.
13. The cows have been going back into paddocks after their initial 24 hours grazing to get them down to the target residual of 7 “clicks” (1480 kg DM). Mostly this has only taken a few hours after milking but on occasion it has taken up to 6 hours. As a consequence we have only grazed an average of 6.4 ha grazed per day or 1/24<sup>th</sup> of the grass area of the farm. Cow production has dropped as a result.
14. Milk production has dropped 1.74 to 1.69 kg MS /cow/day and from 7.23 /ha /day to 7.04 kg MS /ha /day.
15. Somatic cell counts began the week at 248,000 and have dropped to 175,000. Last Tuesday quarters were stripped and several new cases of mastitis were found.
16. There has been a weight gain of 4 kg for the herd this week. A group of 15 cows are loosing weight so these have been identified in ProTrack and then will be inspected during milking today to see if we can identify an underlying health problem.

17. The cows are getting Mg Cl through the water supply at 100 gm/cow/day with Bloat oil being added to the water supply at the maximum recommended rate.
18. More paddocks of surplus have again appeared on the East Block. These will also be made into silage this week. There is also more surplus appearing on the Heifer runoff.
19. Paddock N11 was regrassed last Tuesday and the seed strike has been excellent
20. After our farm walk and management meeting each Tuesday morning we then hold a full staff meeting after lunch to plan the work for the week. Last weeks work plan is reviewed and this week's non-routine jobs are prioritised (urgent / important) and assigned to specific staff. The weeks feed wedge and farm walk notes are made available to everyone for discussion.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Wednesday, **25th December 2007 at 9.00am.**

### **Management Group**

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Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), and Adrian van Bysterveldt (DairyNZ).

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007

## Critical issues for the short term

1. **Maintain a rotation of between 20 and 22 days.**
2. **Keeping irrigation system going properly.**

<b>Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management &amp; Animal Performance</b>
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3. SOIL TEMP at 10am has averaged 17<sup>o</sup>C (last week 15).
4. PASTURE GROWTH was 98 kg DM/ha (last week 90) on the milking platform.
5. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER 2372kg DM/ha.
6. This weeks wedge.

SR = 680/155.5= 4.38  
 (4.38 x 22 x 18) + 1480 = 3214  
 (3214 -500)/140 = 19.5 clicks

### Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

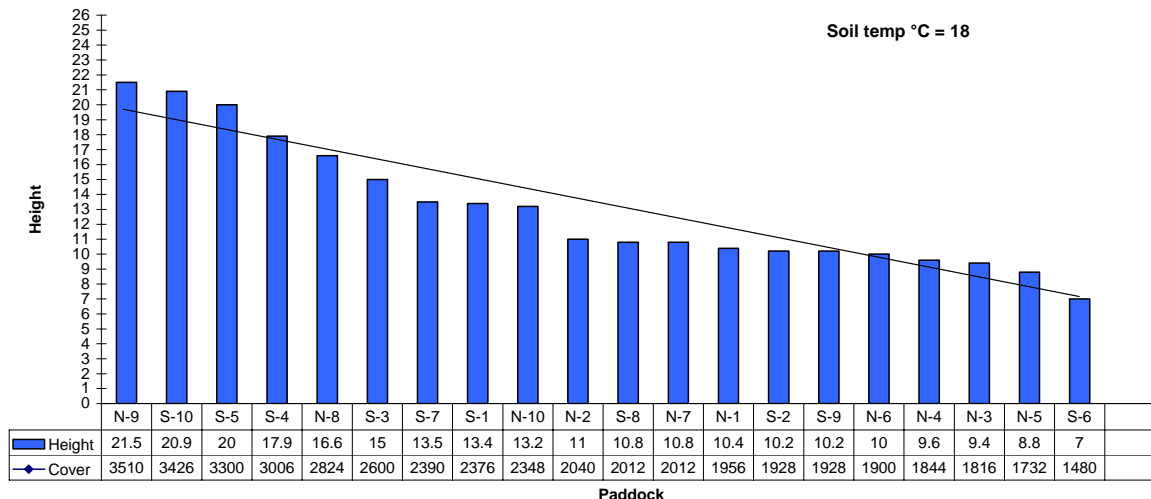
Weeks Growth Rate 98

Average Farm Cover 2372

11-Dec-07

■ Height

Soil temp °C = 18



7. The target line on the Pasture wedge is based on a pre-grazing cover of 3214 which presumes the cows eating 18 kg DM and being on a 22 day round.
8. The graph shows that if growth rates are 75 for the next week there will be a deficit in 6 days time. Current soil moisture levels are excellent and the weather for the next week is warmer than average without the really dry NW winds. We therefore expect growth rates over 90 for a fourth week. This sort of growth rate will result in the deficit disappearing.
9. The highest pre-grazing covers while higher than target are lower than they have been for the last week and pasture quality is noticeably better with more leaf and less seed head.
10. The cows have been going back into paddocks after their initial 24 hours grazing to get them down to the target residual of 7 “clicks” (1480 kg DM). Mostly this has only taken a few hours after milking but on occasion it has taken up to 6 hours. As a consequence we have only grazed an average of 6.4 ha grazed per day or 1/24<sup>th</sup> of the grass area of the farm. Cow production has dropped as a result.

11. Pasture ME is has dropped to 11.9.
12. Milk production has risen from 1.7 to 1.74 kg MS /cow/day and from 7.0 /ha /day to 7.23 kg MS /ha /day. This is directly a result of the improving quality since last week.
13. Somatic cell counts keep on fluctuating between 240,000 and 200,000. One new case of mastitis found so far this week but there must be more.
14. There has been no weight gain for the herd this week.
15. The cows are getting Mg Cl through the water supply at 100 gm/cow/day with Bloat oil being added to the water supply at the maximum recommended rate.
16. Soil moisture levels are excellent and the prospect is for another hot week so we will plan to continue to irrigate this week. The target is a third of the way between field capacity and stress level. This leaves enough room for rain events to still not reach field capacity but also means that if the pivot breaks down we are not immediately in crisis.
17. One third of the Heifer runoff was made into silage this week and we still have another paddock of silage again on the Heifer block. This is being made into baleage.
18. Have just completed six weeks of mating and the number of returns are averaging about 10 a day.
19. After our farm walk and management meeting each Tuesday morning we then hold a full staff meeting after lunch to plan the work for the week. Last weeks work plan is reviewed and this week's non-routine jobs are prioritised (urgent / important) and assigned to specific staff. The weeks feed wedge and farm walk notes are made available to everyone for discussion.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY, 18th December 2007 at 9.00am.**

### **Management Group**

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel).

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007

## Critical issues for the short term

1. Remove surplus grass and maintain a rotation of between 20 and 22 days.
2. Hold residual at 7 “clicks”.

### Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. SOIL TEMP at 10am has averaged 15<sup>0</sup>C (last week 17).
4. PASTURE GROWTH was 90 kg DM/ha (last week 105) on the milking platform.
5. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER before silage paddocks removed risen from 2481 kg DM/ha to 2570 kg DM/ha on the 155.5ha of grass (6.5 ha sprayed out for re-grassing).
6. This weeks wedge before silage removed

SR = 680/155.5= 4.38  
 (4.38 x 22 x 18) + 1480 = 3214  
 (3214 -500)/140 = 19.5 clicks

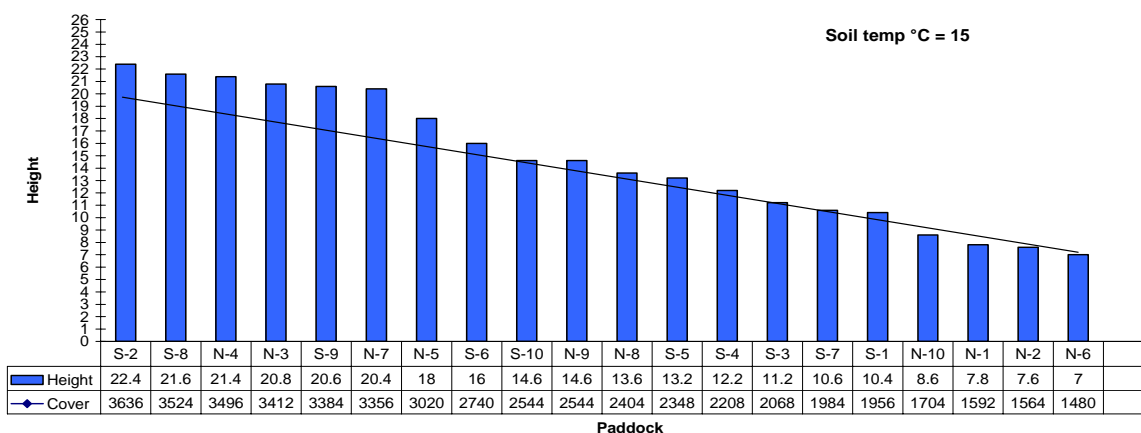
#### Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

Weeks Growth Rate 90

Average Farm Cover 2570

4-Dec-07

Height



### This weeks wedge after silage removed

SR = 680/140= 4.86  
 (4.86 x 20 x 18) + 1480 = 3228  
 (3228 -500)/140 = 19.5 clicks

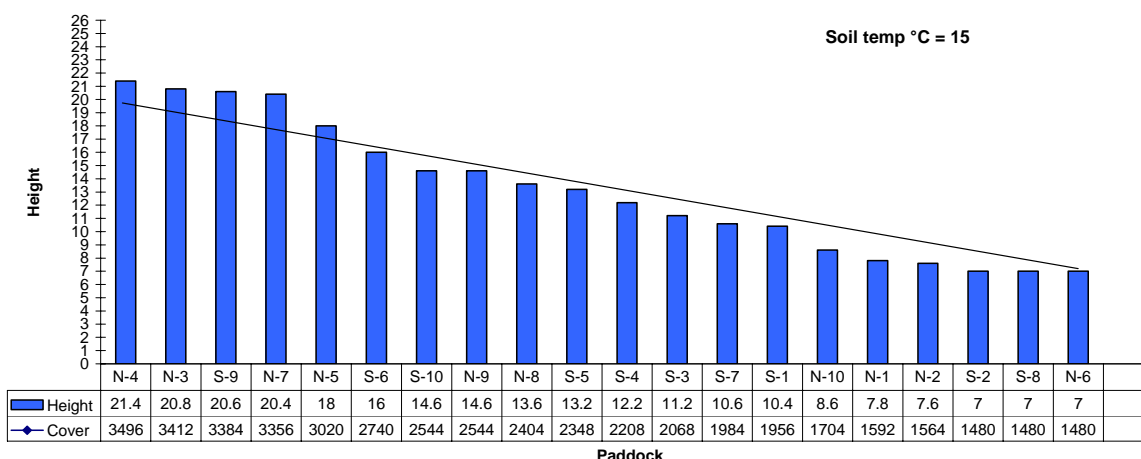
#### Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

Weeks Growth Rate 90

Average Farm Cover 2570

11-Dec-07

Height



7. The target line on the Pasture wedge after silage is removed is based on a pre-grazing cover of 3228. This is the same for a 20 day round on a reduced area of 140ha as it is for a 22 day rotation on 155ha.
8. There is still a surplus and if growth rates hold at above 90 we will possibly remove another paddock on Friday. The weather forecast is mostly for north easterlies and average temperatures. We expect this to result in growth rates similar to last week
9. From experience we are reluctant to remove more than two paddocks for silage at a time because this creates flat areas in the wedge which can easily result in a deficit.
10. We have only grazed an average of 6.4 ha grazed per day or 1/25<sup>th</sup> of the farm a day this week and covers have been rising. As a result pasture quality has declined to below 12 ME with more seed head evident. Cow production has dropped as a result
11. Current pasture ME is has dropped to 11.9 and there are seed heads visible in our longer pastures.
12. Milk production has dropped to 1.7 from 1.85 kg MS /cow/day and 7.0 /ha /day from 7.77 kg MS /ha /day. This is directly a result of the longer covers.
13. Somatic cell counts keep on fluctuating with a peak of 238,000 dropping back to 167,000. Two new cases of mastitis found this week.
14. We mated 100% of the herd in 5 weeks and one day.
15. There has been no weight gain of the herd this week.
16. The cows are getting Mg Cl through the water supply at 100 gm/cow/day with Bloat oil is being added to the water supply at the maximum recommended rate.
17. Soil moisture levels are above the target range so we will irrigate less this week. The target is a third of the way between field capacity and stress level. This leaves enough room for rain events to still not reach field capacity but also means that if the pivot breaks down we are not immediately in crisis.
18. We have small surpluses now appearing on the runoffs. This is being made into baleage.
19. After our farm walk and management meeting each Tuesday morning we then hold a full staff meeting after lunch to plan the work for the week. Last weeks work plan is reviewed and this week's non-routine jobs are prioritised (urgent / important) and assigned to specific staff. The weeks feed wedge and farm walk notes are made available to everyone for discussion.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007, at 9.00am.**

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Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel).