

Lincoln University Dairy Farm – Farm Walk notes

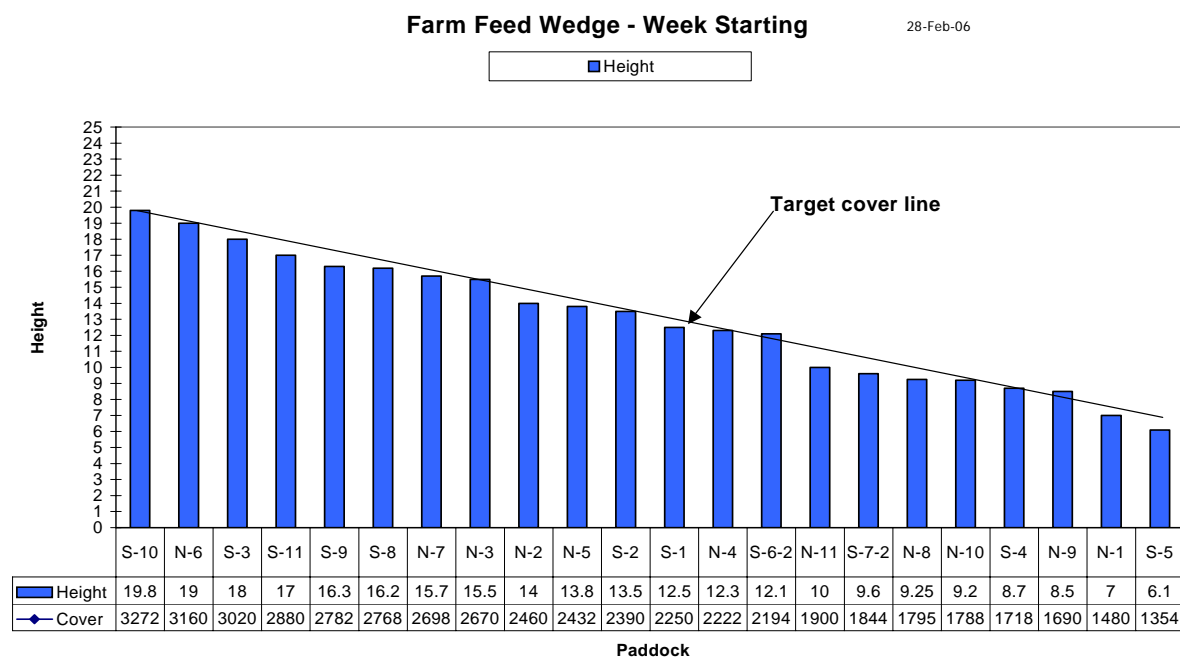
Tuesday 28th February 2006

Critical issues for the short term

- Careful daily allocation of pasture and attention to residuals, especially now that we have a plan to slowly increase rotation length and will have higher pre-grazing covers.

Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

- Ave PASTURE COVER have held at 2340 kg DM/ha, not much different from last weeks 2360/ha with PASTURE GROWTH estimated at 62 kg DM/ha for last week.
- Soil Temperature has dropped to 15° C at Tuesday mornings reading.
- Grazing RESIDUALS target remains 7 clicks or 1480 kg DM/ha though on two of the longest paddocks during last week this residual was not achieved and these paddocks will need to be grazed more carefully next round
- Per cow PRODUCTION is holding at 1.53kgs MS/cow/day and 6.15 kg MS/ha/day.
- We have had excellent results from the nitrogen applications (40 units N) over the last two weeks and we will follow the cows with another 40 kgs N/ha for the next round of the farm. This will still leave us 30 kgs N/ha for following grazing round



- The FEED WEDGE is closer to target than it looks because the longest paddock is also by far our biggest paddock and it will provide almost 2 days grazing. The current objective is to supply our cows with 200 ME. This is sufficient for maintenance plus 1.6 kgs MS/cow/day plus another 30ME for weight gain. We currently have 12 ME pasture so this means we have to provide our cows 16.5 kgs DM/day.
- With a pre-grazing cover of 3300, we only need an allocation of 6ha/day, without the need for any additional supplements. If pasture covers allow we may reduce this to 5.8 ha a day by the end of the week (1/29th of the farm)

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 28th February 10.00am.**

Management Group

Shaun Back, Farm Manager, Peter Gaul (SIDDC) and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel) with support from Corrigan Sowman, Canterbury Consulting Officer (Dexcel).

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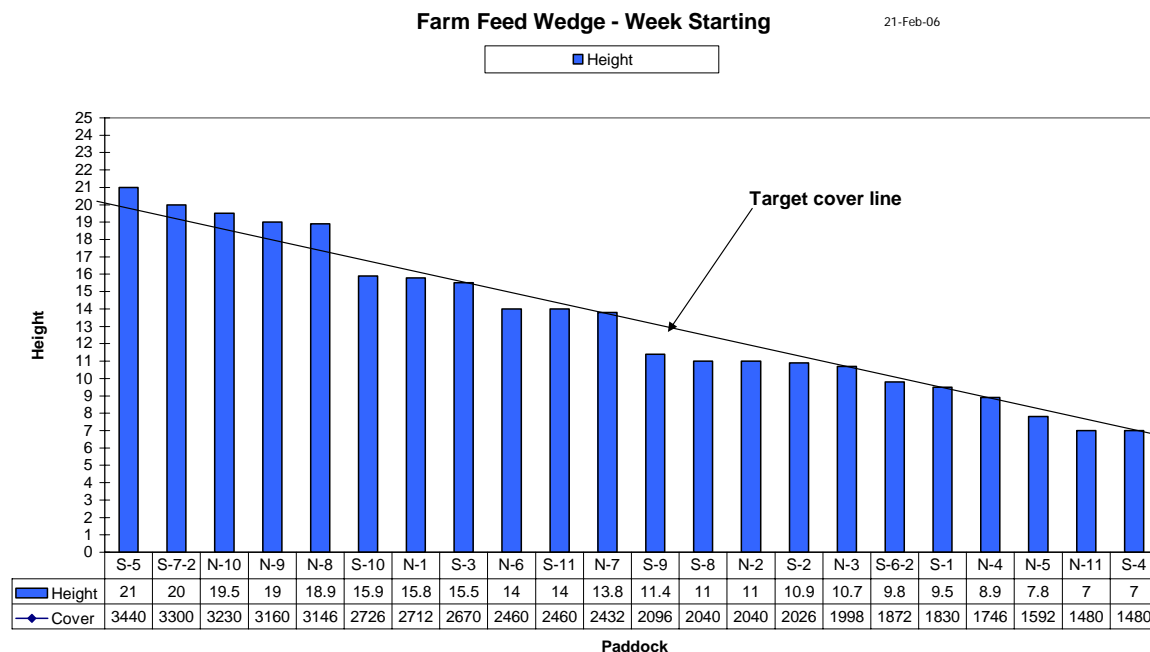
Tuesday 21st February 2006

Critical issues for the short term

- Careful daily allocation of pasture and attention to residuals, especially now that we have higher pregrazing covers.

Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

- Ave PASTURE COVER has lifted slightly to 2360 kgDM/ha, up 62 on last weeks 2097/ha.
- PASTURE GROWTH estimated at 79 kgDM/ha for last week, slightly above our required demand of 65.
- Soil Temperature is holding at 18 °C ??? (to be confirmed) at Tuesday mornings reading.
- Grazing RESIDUALS remain on target of 7 clicks or 1480 kgDM/ha.
- PREGRAZING PASTURE HEIGHTS have increased to our target of around 3300 kgDM/ha.
- Pasture QUALITY appears very good visually, waiting latest sample results. Clovers are very strong/vibrant.
- Per cow PRODUCTION has dropped slightly to 1.53kgs MS/cow/day and 6.1 kg MS/ha/day. This is on target.
- As per our FEEDPLAN outlined last week, we have fed baleage to supplement the cows and increased ROTATION LENGTH to 29 days.
- We appear to have gained excellent results from the nitrogen applications (40 units N) over the last two weeks.

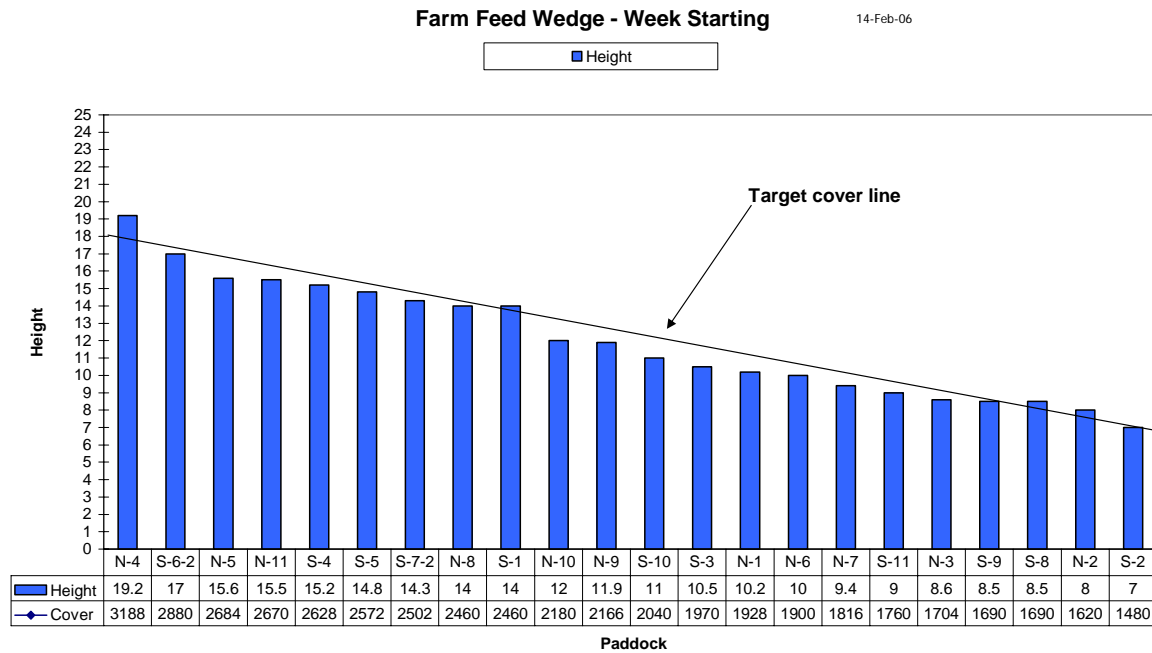


- The FEED WEDGE is virtually on target, with 4 paddocks slightly ABOVE target. Note we have shifted the target line to a pregrazing of 3300. This aligns with our plan of having a cover of 3300, an allocation of 6ha/day, resulting in feed available of 1800 kgDM/ha or 10,800 kgDM total, which provides 16.7 kgDM per cow WITHOUT the need for any additional supplements.

This means we immediately cease the feeding of baleage.

- There are still a couple of minor “steps” in our feed wedge the week, but we expect these to fit our grazing requirements. We will closely review this twice weekly.

LAST WEEK'S FEED WEDGE.



13. Because we now have longer pregrazing covers, we need to be especially careful with **FEED ALLOCATION** and **GRAZING MANAGEMENT**. We have discussed this carefully with staff, and will tend to feed slightly smaller breaks and shift cows accordingly to manage **POST-GRAZING RESIDUALS**.
14. Our **GRAZING ROTATION** is now 27 days. Given the excellent pasture growth currently being experienced, we intend to **HOLD** rotation in the meantime. We do not want to increase average cover or pregrazing cover while pasture growth remains above target. Only a few days of poor growth will trigger us to consider feeding silage again to lengthen round and hold pasture quality at the same time.
15. **MATING RESULTS:** Nothing further to add – remember our pregnancy test for **10 week** mating result indicates 80% cows in calf, and current activity (returns) are low, so we expect a reasonable result from our next Preg Test for the 12 week mating results.

The next **WEEKLY** farm walk is on **TUESDAY 28th February 10.00am**.

Management Group

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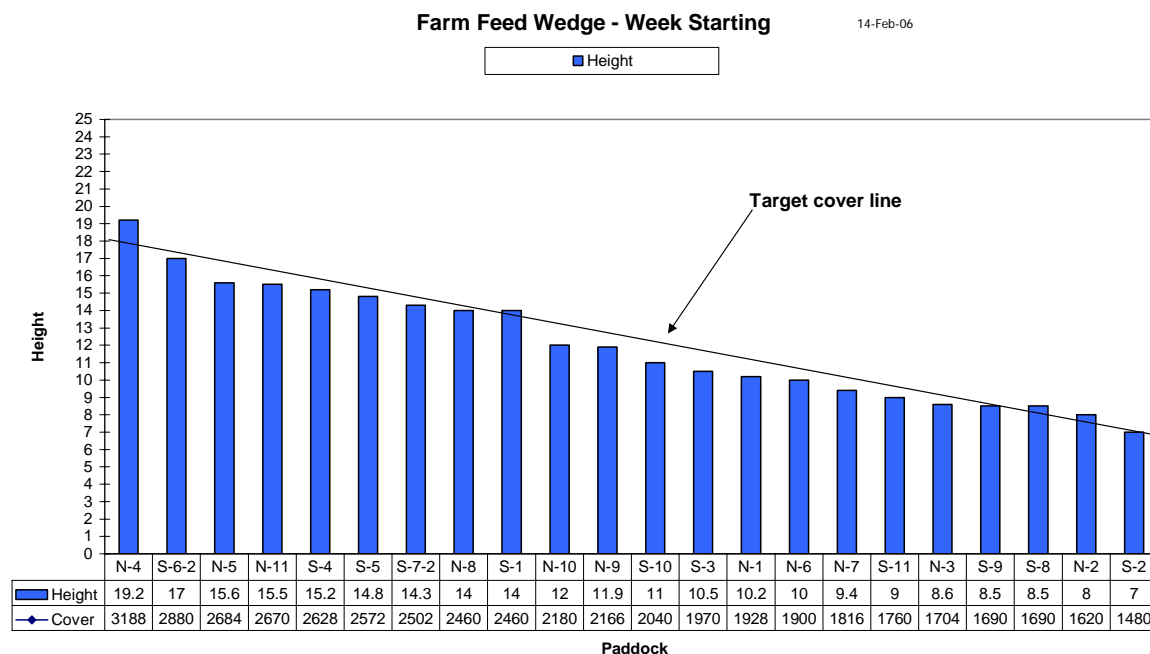
Tuesday 14th February 2006

Critical issues for the short term

1. Use good pasture growth NOW to lengthen grazing rotation over the next 3 weeks.
2. Careful daily allocation of pasture/baleage to hold milk production & nutrition.

Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

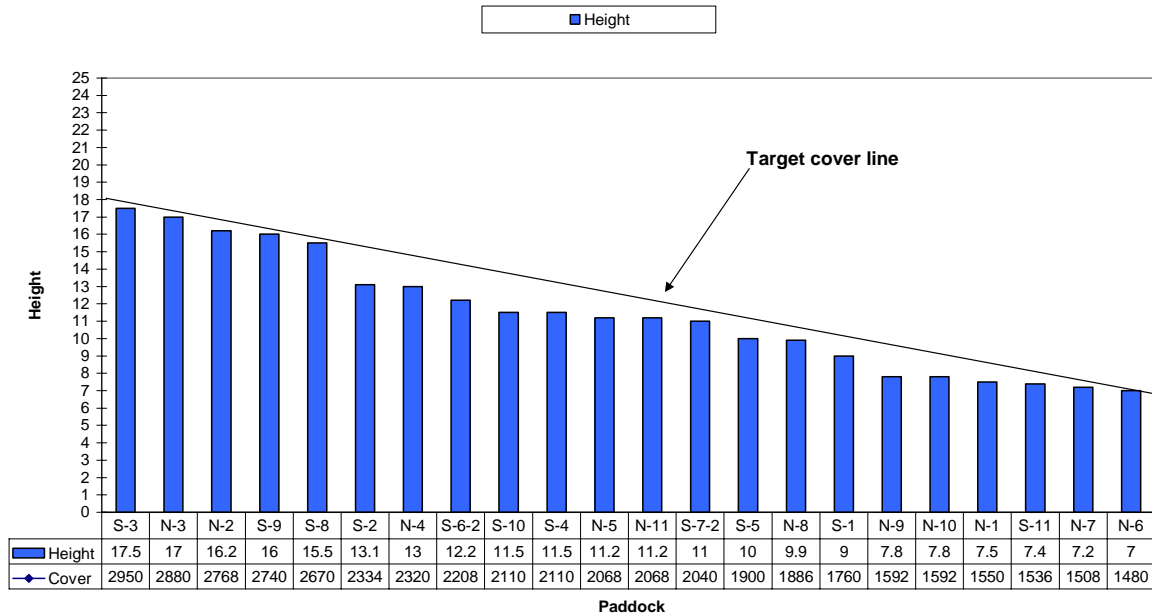
3. Ave PASTURE COVER has lifted slightly to 2159 kgDM/ha, up 62 on last weeks 2097/ha.
4. PASTURE GROWTH estimated at 74 kgDM/ha for last week, slightly above our required demand of 65.
5. Soil Temperature had lifted again to 18 °C at Tuesday mornings reading. We had a total of 47mm rain across the 4 days from 11th to 14th Feb.
6. Grazing RESIDUALS remain on target of 7 clicks or 1480 kgDM/ha., and PREGRAZING PASTURE HEIGHTS are slowly increasing to around 3000 kgDM/ha.
7. Pasture QUALITY appears very good visually, next sample tomorrow.
8. Per cow PRODUCTION has dropped slightly to 1.57kgs MS/cow/day and 6.3 kg MS/ha/day. This is on target.
9. In line with our PLAN outlined last week, we commenced feeding pasture baleage over the weekend, currently 2.5 kg of the best quality baleage we have on hand.



10. The FEED WEDGE for this week had no surprises for us, given that pasture growth was in line with what we expected, matching feed demand, and we started feeding out to improve cover and lengthen rotation. If you look at last week's graph on the next page of this report, you will see the pattern coming through – a couple of minor “steps” in our wedge.
11. We intend adding 40 units NITROGEN to another 5 paddocks (35ha) bringing the total from these two weeks to 132 ha or 80% of the farm, the balance will be applied in another week.

Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

7-Feb-06



12. Our GRAZING ROTATION is now 24 days. We intend to add 2 days to this over the next week by reducing grazed area gradually down to 6.25ha and adding the required supplement to sustain intakes at 16.5 kg DM/cow. On average this should be 4-5 kg/cow/day. Careful pasture and feed allocation remains a KEY management tool.
13. May I remind us of our SUPPLEMENT PLAN for the next month ?
 - (i) Our feedplan included budget pasture growth of 70 kgDM/ha/day. Given the unsettled nature of this season, we may NOT achieve this. The PLAN assumes we will, and we will react accordingly if we do not achieve growth targets.
 - (ii) Our DEMAND is 17kg/day OFFERED (includes wastage), or 68 kg/day, dropping to 62kg/day by mid March.
 - (iii) By March 10 we need PREGRAZING cover of 3460 kgDM/ha. This should enable the targeted 630 cows to be fully fed on pasture, until pasture growth rates drop.
 - (iv) IF we ACHIEVE pasture growth targets, we require 4kg baleage per cow per day for 31 days to add the extra cover
 - (v) IF we do NOT achieve pasture growth target, we will need to add EXTRA supplement to offset the difference. We will monitor this WEEKLY.
14. MATING RESULTS: Nothing further to add – remember our pregnancy test for **10 week** mating result indicates 80% cows in calf, and current activity (returns) are low, so we expect a reasonable result from our next Preg Test for the 12 week mating results.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 21st February 10.00am.**

Management Group

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Lincoln University Dairy Farm – Farm Walk notes

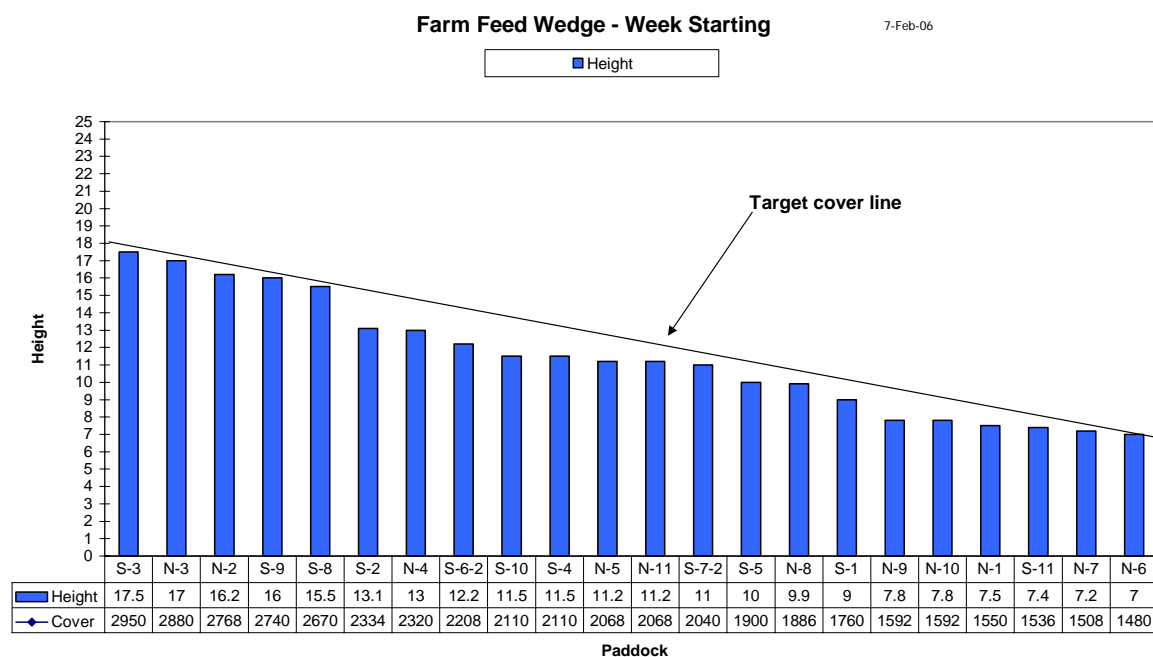
Tuesday 7th February 2006

Critical issues for the short term

1. Ensure we increase our grazing rotation over the next 3 weeks.
2. Careful daily allocation of pasture and possible baleage to hold milk production & nutrition.
- 3.

Grazing Management and animal performance

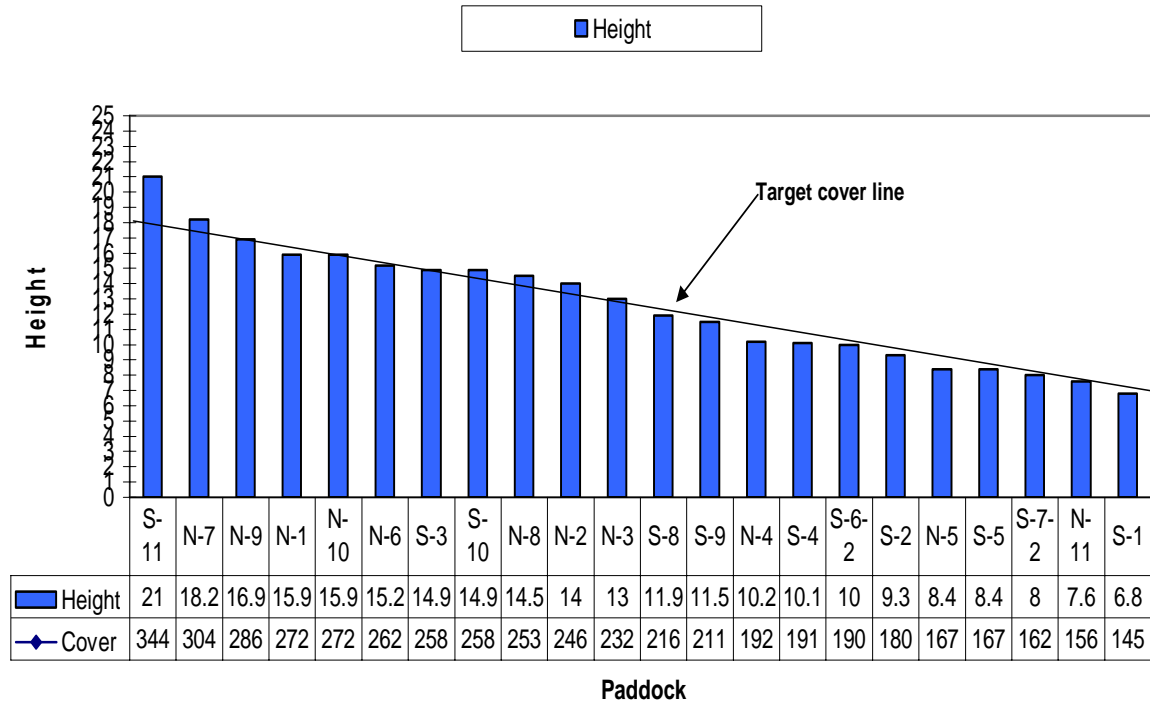
4. Ave PASTURE COVER has dropped significantly to 2097 kgDM/ha, down 160 on last weeks 2260/ha.
5. PASTURE GROWTH estimated at 47 kgDM/ha for last week, well below our required demand of 65. Perhaps last week's apparent "low" growth of only 69 that the walk gave us was closer to the mark than the 80 we thought and used.
6. Soil Temperature had dropped to 15.9 °C at Tuesday mornings reading, and this morning (Thurs) was 17.3°C. This drop, especially over last weekend, probably explains the drop in pasture growth rate. We have had unsettled weather for the last week, and some 17mm cool rain over the weekend, but this drop in soil temp still surprised us.
7. Grazing RESIDUALS are on target of 7 clicks or 1480 kgDM/ha., and PREGRAZING PASTURE HEIGHTS are around 3000 kgDM/ha, but dropping.
8. Pasture QUALITY appears very good visually, but the sample (1st Feb) shows a very low drymatter (13.8%), the LOWEST we have recorded this season to date, and low water soluble sugars – perhaps reflecting an unusually high amount of clover in the sample.
9. Per cow PRODUCTION has dropped slightly to 1.6 kgs MS/cow/day and 6.4 kg MS/ha/day. This is on target.



10. The FEED WEDGE for this week shows what happens with poor growth and a slight dip in covers one week ago (*see last week's graph on next page of this report*) now combining to present a potential problem ONE WEEK from now. Fortunately we have good covers for one week, and improved pasture growth should bring us out of this. PLAN B is to consider feeding supplement next week (see below).

Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

31-Jan-06



11. GRAZING ROTATION has been at 23 days. We intend lengthening this out over the next 4 weeks to a target of 30 days. We will do this by
 - adding 40 units N to 13 paddocks immediately to stimulate a boost in cover in a couple of weeks time.
 - feeding out the necessary supplement at the same time to lengthen round by 2 days per week until 10th March. (*see item 12 below for details*)

12. WHAT IS OUR SUPPLEMENT PLAN for the next month ?
 - (i) Our feedplan included budget pasture growth of 70 kgDM/ha/day. Given the unsettled nature of this season, we may NOT achieve this. The PLAN assumes we will, and we will react accordingly if we do not achieve growth targets.
 - (ii) Our DEMAND is 17kg/day OFFERED (includes wastage), or 68 kg/day, dropping to 62kg/day by mid March.
 - (iii) By March 10 we need PREGRAZING cover of 3460 kgDM/ha. This should enable the targeted 630 cows to be fully fed on pasture.
 - (iv) IF we ACHIEVE pasture growth targets, we require 4kg baleage per cow per day for 31 days to add the extra cover.
 - (v) IF we do NOT achieve pasture growth target, we will need to add EXTRA supplement to offset the difference. We will monitor this WEEKLY.

13. We will use NITROGEN only on the new grass paddocks this week, at 20 units/ha.

14. Mating Results: Our pregnancy test for **10 week** mating result indicates 80% cows in calf. This is a promising result. Remember the 12 week result is the benchmark we suggest means most for comparisons.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 14th February 10.00am.**

Management Group

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