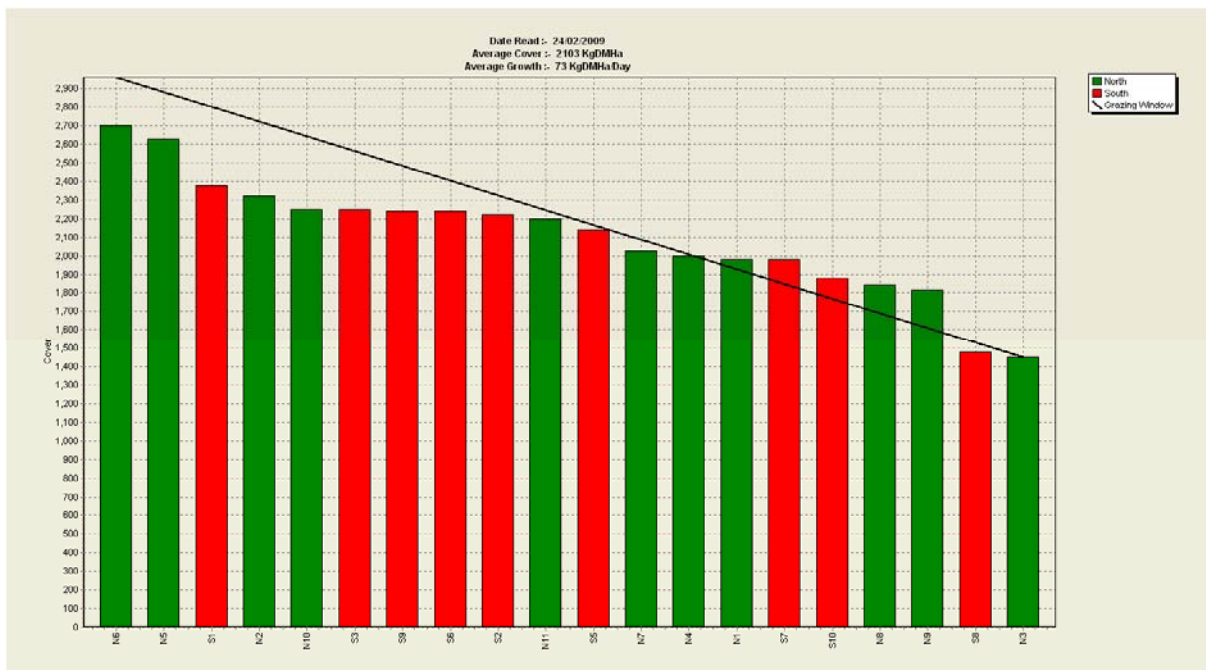


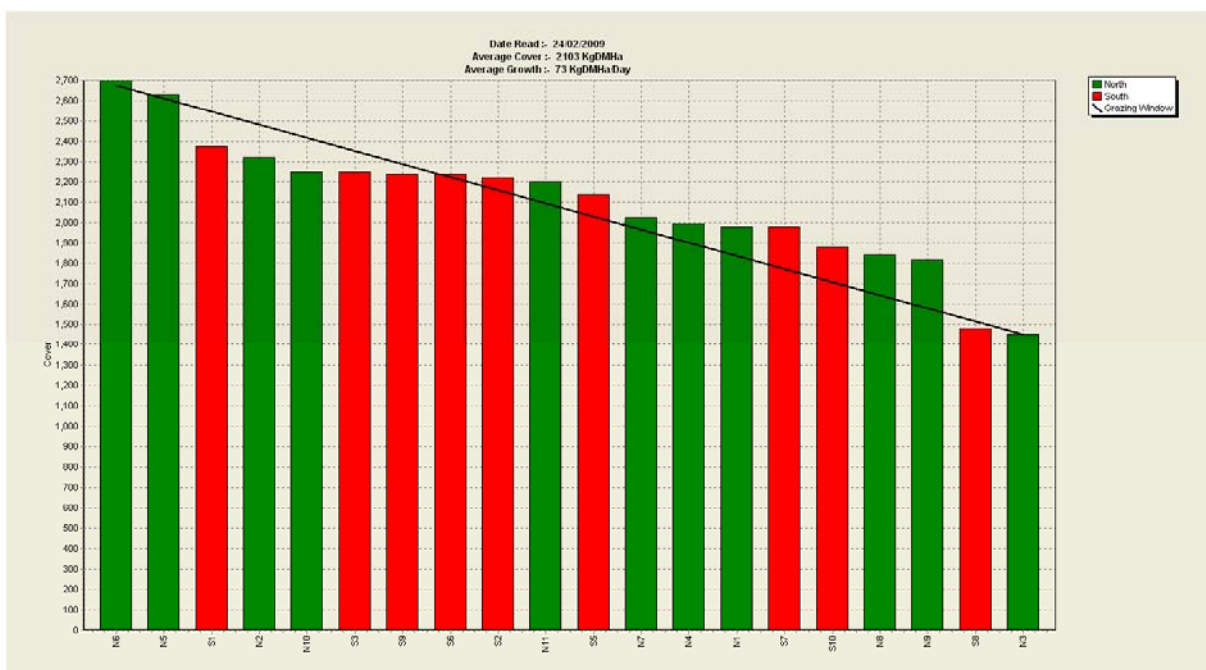


10. The Pasture Wedge today.



11. The target line in the wedge above reflects the pre-grazing target for a 22 day rotation, feeding an average of 16 kg DM/cow at a stocking rate of 4.29 cows/ha.  $(4.29 \times 22 \times 16) + 1480 = 2991$  kg DM/ha. This is assuming that no silage is being fed, so it is 16 kg DM of grass per cow.

12. The target line in this wedge below refers to feeding 13 kg of grass and then we would make up the rest of the diet with grass silage.



13. The average amount of silage we will need to feed to make this work for the week is 3.5 kg DM/cow/day but this will vary from paddock to paddock. In each case the cows will be left in the paddock until the target residual of “7 clicks” is reached. If growth rates are higher than 70 kg/DM per day the amount of silage fed out will be reduced earlier and will cease earlier than currently planned.

14. The **predicted wedge** shows if we get a growth next week of 70 kg DM/ha/day. This would allow us to continue to lengthen the round beyond 22 days over the following week.



15. Another option that we have available is to get rid of some more cows. The problem with this option is that we are likely to have some good growth rates thru March as we have had previous years. If this is the scenario we could have some quality issues if we drop the stocking rate even further.
16. We are quite comfortable with a round length of 22 days. The target will be to extend the round to 25 days in early March, which will be achievable when S4 will also come back into the grazing round.
17. Urea started last week and was applied to 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the farm to the paddocks with the lowest covers at 30 kg N/ha. Then we will follow the cows with Urea for the next couple of weeks.
18. The cows have held weight this week as they have done last week.
19. Production/ha is 5.81 kg MS/ha/day. Per cow has increased slightly to 1.43 kg MS/cow/day from last week 1.38 kg MS/cow/day.
20. All mating finished Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January (10 weeks). A full herd pregnancy scan on the 19 January confirmed the 6 week in-calf rate at 69%. The final scan done on the 16 February shows that 80% of the cows are in calf after 10 weeks of mating. This is 1% better than last year.
21. The R2's were pregnancy tested two weeks ago and shows 95.5% in calf rate at 9 weeks of mating.

22. The Somatic Cell count ranged from 233-235,000. Only 1 case of fresh clinical mastitis was found this week.
23. The number of lame cows was 10 this week. Lame cow numbers through the summer have been very similar to previous years even though we have had no bulls with the herd at all for mating.
24. This is also the time of the year when we are talking to our winter grazing suppliers to confirm what areas of grass and crop are available and to check on the progress of any crops. Negotiations on price are always a problem.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 at 9.00am.

**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**

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

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

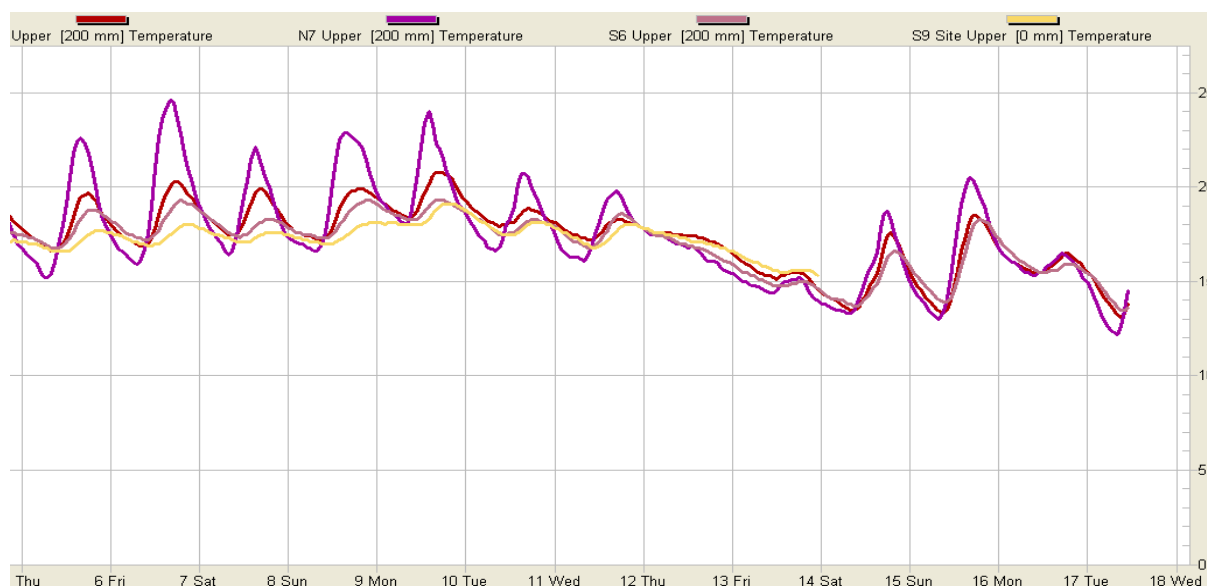
Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009

## Critical issues for the short term

1. **Keep the rotation length to no faster than 20 days and gradually extending to 22 days.**
2. **Identify grass surpluses on the runoffs and make into silage immediately.**

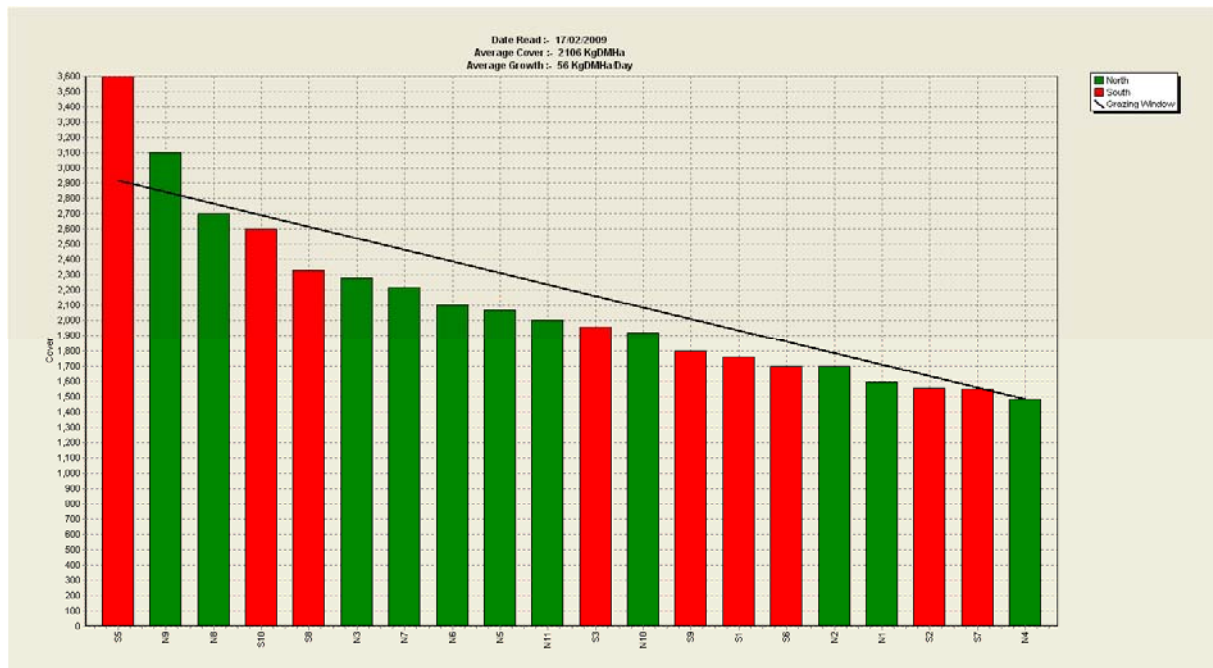
## Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. Soil Temperatures at 9am have dropped as shown on the graph below and are now about 13 °C with reduced day time air maximums as well.



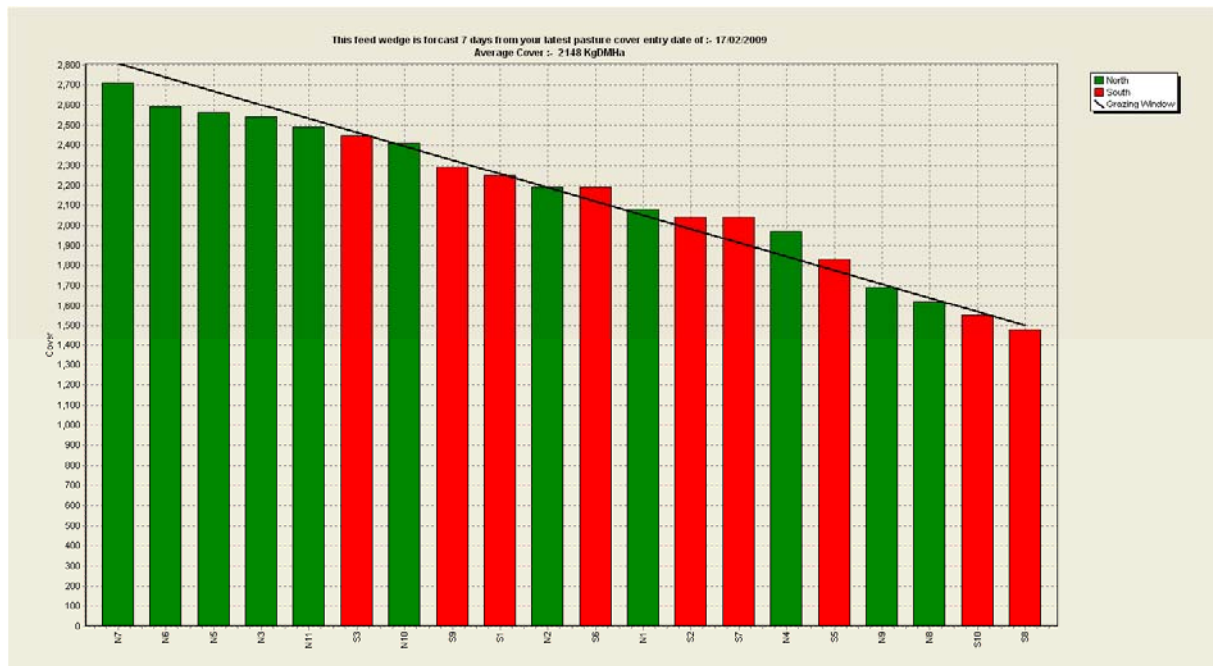
4. SOIL MOISTURE levels have declined from near field capacity (last Wednesday) and are still in the top half of the range between Field Capacity and Stress Level. All irrigation was turned off last Wednesday and has not been back again this week. We will keep an eye on the weather and with the expectation of rain we possibly will not irrigate this week.
5. PASTURE GROWTH was 56 kg DM/ha (previous week 76). (Soil temperature influence). It is quite normal for soil temperatures to drop to these levels periodically in Feb/March but then they will rise again to 16 °C and as a result we still expect pasture growth rates to get back to the high 70's.
6. Average pasture cover has dropped to 2106 kg DM/ha (last week 2278 kg DM/ha).
7. Last week the overall rotation length was 20 days on the 151 ha. During the week no silage made or fed out.
8. Paddock S4 was sown 10 days ago and there is already a good strike of grass evident. The first nip off will be in about 2 weeks.

## 9. The Pasture Wedge today.



10. The wedge target line reflects the pre-grazing target for a 20 day rotation, feeding an average of 16 kg DM/cow at a stocking rate of 4.49 cows/ha.  $(4.49 \times 20 \times 16) + 1480 = 2917$  kg DM/ha
11. The wedge this week is showing a deficit coming up. Last week the growth rate decreased significantly due to lower soil and air temperature. Conditions predicted for much of the coming week are warmer than last week but still will be average to cool with the possibility of a small amount of rain. We are basing our management decisions on an expectation of pasture growth rates getting back to about 70 a day.
12. There are several options available to us for dealing with the deficit that we see in the wedge. a) we could tough it out – stay on the same rotation and accept that the cows will leave lower residuals and also eat less – less production. b) we could hold the round length and put in a small amount of silage (or other feed) and keep cow dry matter intakes the same as they have been or c) we could slow down the rotation length and put in a higher level of silage to make this possible and keep cow allocations to the current 16 kg DM/day. We also have the option of reducing cow numbers.
13. At the moment we have cows in the herd which are not in-calf and have other problems – lame, high somatic cell count, badly shaped udders, 3 titters, and low production. It makes sense to cull these animals rather than continue to support them with expensive additional feed. There are about 30 of these animals in the herd and so our first step is to cull these and reduce the herd to about 650 cows. These cows will be removed from the farm immediately (to waste areas on a runoff) until they can go to slaughter. This will still make our current stocking rate 4.3 cows/ha.
14. Our current rotation is about 19 to 20 days. This is fast for this time of the year and there will be no loss in pasture quality if we extent to a 22 day rotation. If we make the move to this then we can extend it to 25 days more easily in early March when S4 will also come back into the grazing round.

15. The pre-grazing cover required for 650 cows, eating the current allocation of 16 kg DM, on a 22 days rotation is 2993 kg DM/ha. To do this we will have to feed between 2 – 3 kg DM of silage /cow/day which is only about 1.6t DM / day (less than a silage wagon load). We have silage of better than 11.5 ME and with the silage only being about 15% of the diet we expect milk production to hold.
16. The predicted wedge shows the feed wedge next week assuming 650 cows, 22 days round and cows feed 14 kg Grass plus an average of 2.3 kg silage /day with a growth of 70 kg DM/day.



The wedge target line reflects the pre-grazing target for a 22 day rotation, feeding an average of 14 kg DM/cow of grass at a stocking rate of 4.3cows/ha ( $4.3 \times 22 \times 14$ ) + 1480 = 2804 kg DM/ha

17. There is still a small deficit for a couple of days at the start of next week which assures us that we will not be wasting the silage. We will be watching residuals very closely to make sure that they do not exceed (“7 clicks”) or 1480 kg DM/ha. The cows will be put back into paddocks to make sure this is achieved. By doing this we make sure that we do not waste silage and if we get the allocation wrong we will turn it into a slower rotation length a little sooner.
18. No Urea has been applied since the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. The plan will be to re-start Urea this week up to 1/3 of the farm targeting the paddocks with the lowest covers. Then we will follow the cows with Urea for the next couple of weeks.
19. The new grass paddock S5 sown 9 weeks ago has come back into the round and is growing exceptionally well – 107 kg DM/ha/day last week and 149 kg DM/ha/day this week. This paddock was due to be grazed earlier this week but it was too wet. It will be grazed today.
20. The cows have held weight this week and are now at the same weight as the herd was this time last year.

21. Production /ha is 5.86 kg MS/ha/day. Per cow has dropped to 1.38 kg MS/cow/day last week 1.42 kg MS/cow/day.
22. All mating finished Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January (10 weeks). A full herd pregnancy scan on the 19 January confirmed the 6 week in-calf rate at 69%. The final scan done on the 16 February shows that 80% of the cows are in calf after 10 weeks of mating. This is 1% better than last year. This will be discussed at the next LUDF focus day on the 19<sup>th</sup> February.
23. The R2 were pregnancy tested last Wednesday shows 95.5% in calf rate at 9 weeks of mating.
24. The Somatic cell count ranged from 210-226,000. Four fresh clinical mastitis cases have been found over the last week.
25. The number of lame cows was 10 this week. Lame cow numbers through the summer have been very similar to previous years even though we have had no bulls with the herd at all for mating.
26. This is also the time of the year when we are talking to our winter grazing suppliers to confirm what areas of grass and crop are available and to check on the progress of any crops. Negotiations on price are always a problem.

The next LUDF focus day will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 @ 10.15am

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday **24<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 9.00am.**

**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), Neil Jones (Herd Manager), Virginia Serra (DairyNZ), George Reveley (for SIDDC).

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

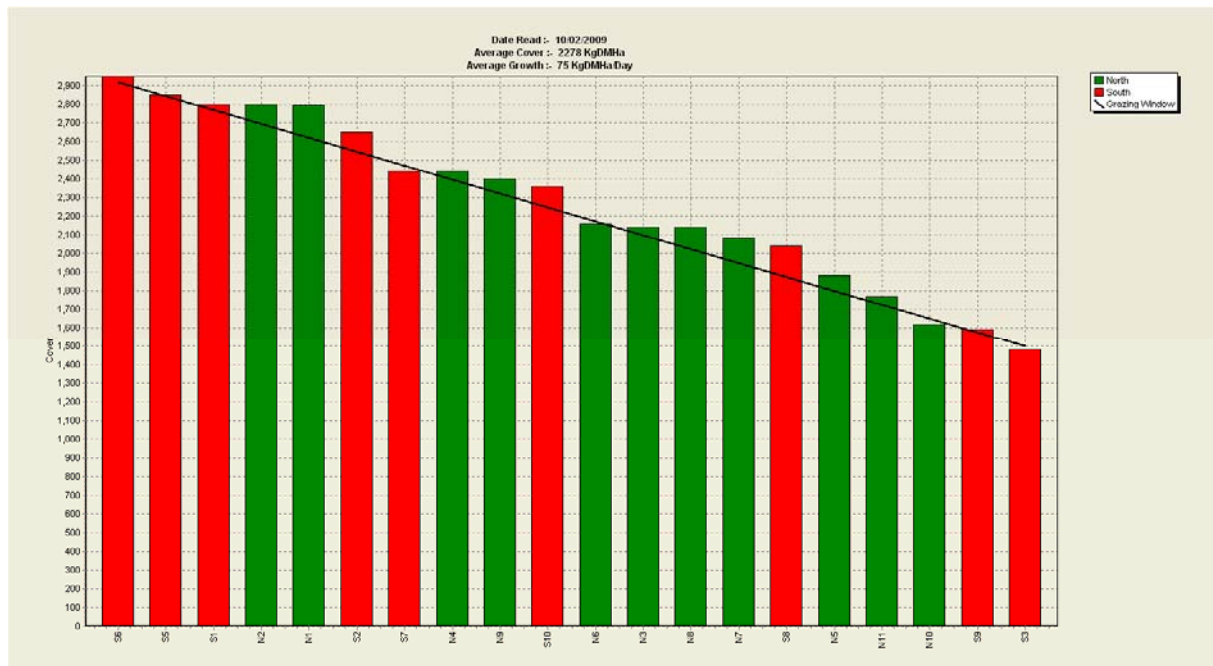
Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009

## Critical issues for the short term

1. **Keep the rotation length to no faster than 19 days.**
2. **Identify grass surpluses on the runoffs and make into silage immediately.**

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

3. Soil Temperatures at 9am have been between 15.5 and 18°C with day time air maximums reaching 32°C. A warmer week than last week.
4. SOIL MOISTURE levels are adequate and allowing some days with no pivot irrigation.
5. PASTURE GROWTH was 75 kg DM/ha (previous week 84). (Soil temperature influence).
6. Average pasture cover has remained virtually the same as last week at 2278 kg DM/ha (last week 2268 kg DM/ha).
7. Last week the overall rotation length was 20 days. Paddock S4 is off the rotation and has been sown during the week.
8. During the week no silage made or fed out.
9. The Pasture Wedge today.



10. The wedge target line reflects the pre-grazing target for a 20 day rotation, feeding an average of 16 kg DM/cow at a stocking rate of 4.52 cows/ha.  
 $(4.52 \times 20 \times 16) + 1480 = 2926$  kg DM/ha

11. The wedge remains very close to ideal. Last week the growth rate decreased a little due to increasing soil and air temperature. Conditions today and predicted for much of the week are much cooler with the possibility of a small amount of rain. There won't be any need to conserve any surplus or feed any silage or to cull cows in the short term.
12. No Urea has been applied since the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. The plan will be to re-start when soil temperatures continually drop below 16°C at 9.00 am.
13. The new grass paddock S5 sown 8 weeks ago has come back into the round and is growing exceptionally well - 149kg DM/ha/day last week and 132kg DM/ha/day this week.
14. The cows have apparently gained weight this week as well as having a slight lift in milk production. The week has been very warm, which generally decreases gut fill and liveweight and consequently lowers milk output so it is a surprise to see a gain in milk and weight but the pastures are very high quality now with virtually no seed head.
15. Production/ha is 6.04 kg MS/ha/day. Per cow production has gained slightly to 1.42 kg MS/cow/day last week, 1.40 kg MS/cow/day.
16. All mating finished Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January (10 weeks). A full herd pregnancy scan on the 19 January confirmed the 6 week in-calf rate at 69%. Another full herd scan will be done on the 16 February giving us the 10 weeks in-calf rate. This will be discussed at the next LUDF focus day on the 19<sup>th</sup> February.
17. The Somatic cell count ranged from 190 - 237,000. Four fresh clinical mastitis cases have been found over the last week.
18. The number of lame cows is 9 - 4 less than last week.

The next LUDF focus day will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 @ 10.15am

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 9.00am.

**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**

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# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

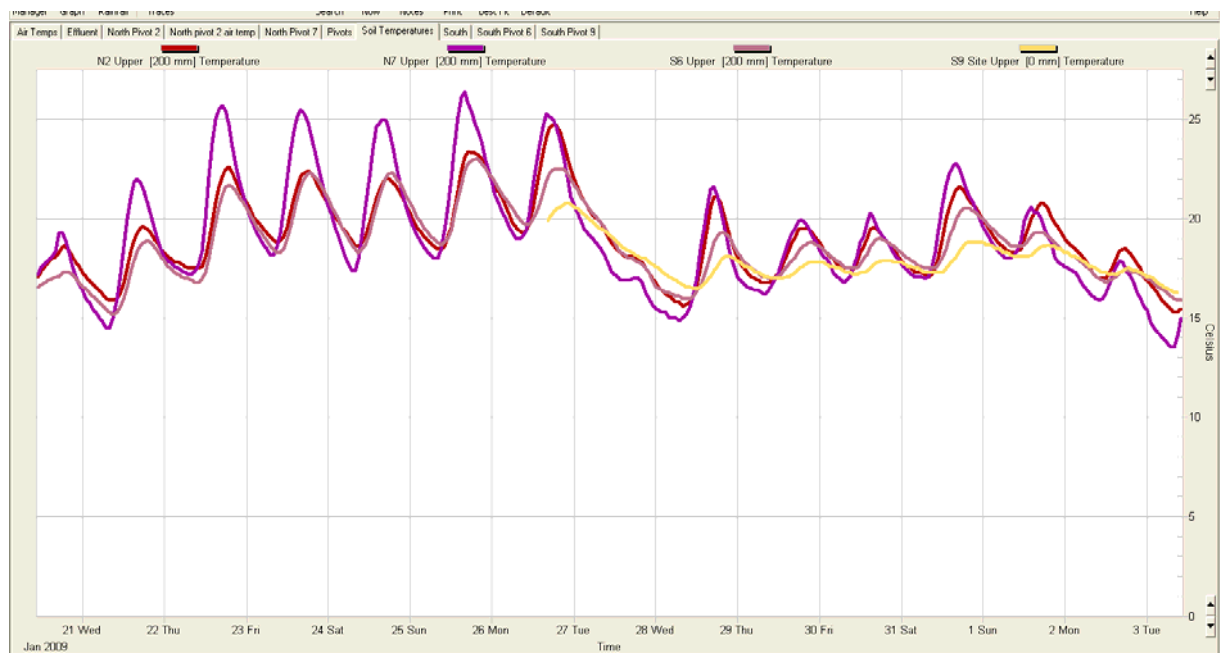
Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009

## Critical issues for the short term

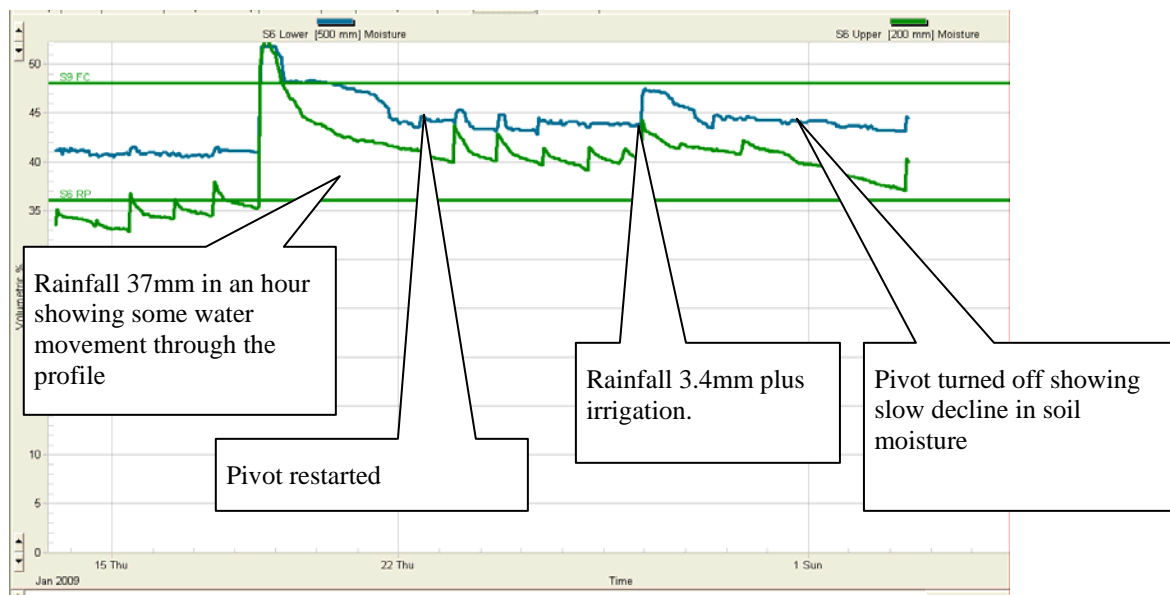
1. Keep the rotation length to no faster than 19 days.
2. Identify grass surpluses on the runoffs and make into silage immediately.

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

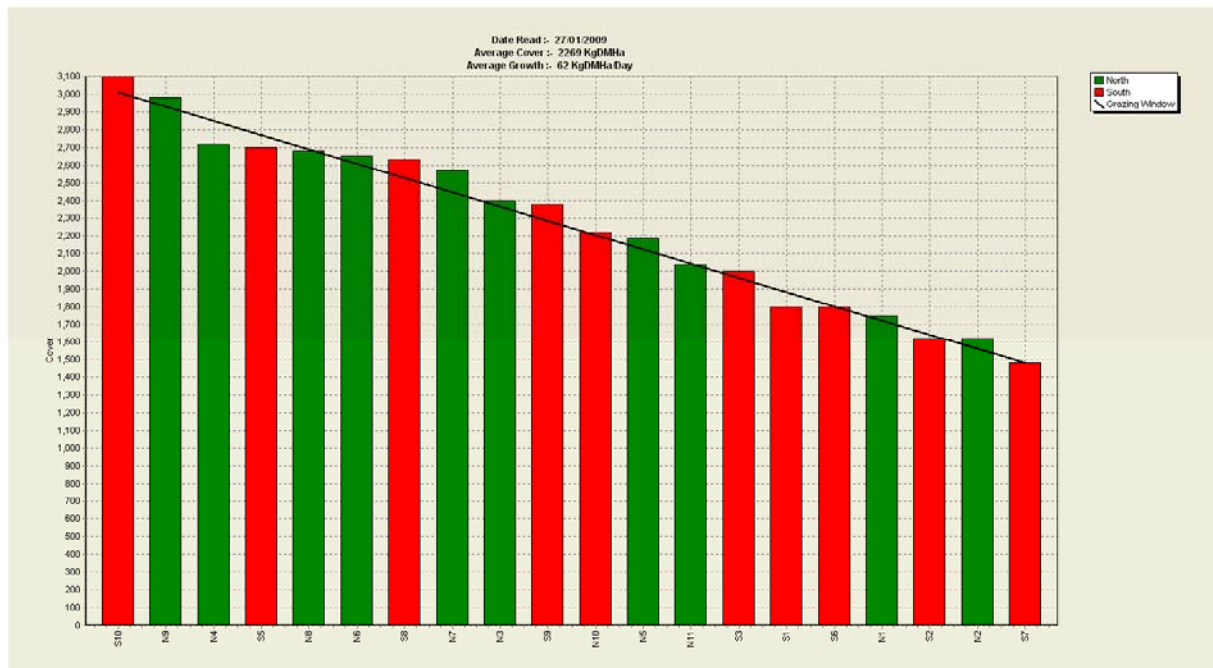
3. SOIL TEMPERATURES at 9am have been between 14.5° and 18°C with day time maximums reaching the low 28°C.



4. SOIL MOISTURE levels are adequate and allowing some days with no pivot irrigation.



5. PASTURE GROWTH was 84 kg DM/ha (previous week 65).
6. Average pasture cover has remained the same as last week at 2268 kg DM/ha (last week 2269 kg DM/ha).
7. Last week the overall rotation length was 19 days. Paddock S4 is off the rotation and will be drilled tomorrow.
8. During the week no silage made or fed out.
9. The Pasture Wedge today.



10. The wedge target line reflects the pre-grazing target for a 20 day rotation, feeding an average of 16 kg DM/cow at a stocking rate of 4.52.  $(4.52 \times 20 \times 16) + 1480 = 2926$  kg DM/ha.
11. The wedge is spot on. As expected last week the growth rate increased and the small deficit was taken care off. We are quite pleased how things are going at the moment. There won't be any need for silage or getting rid of cows in the short term.
12. No Urea has been applied since the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. The plan will be to re-start when soil temperatures continually drop below 16°C. at 9 am.
13. The new grass paddock S5 sown 7 weeks ago has come back in to the round and was grazed by the cows last week. The cover at present is 2000 kg DM/ha. This new grass has measured a growth rate of 149 kg DM/day.
14. Paddock S4 was sprayed with Roundup and Granstar. The Granstar will kill the significant population of dandelion in this paddock. The Granstar will cause us to have to wait 14 days due to withholding to protect clover seedlings. This will allow us plenty of time to cultivate and do some drainage work.

15. The cow's weight has remained stable. Cows that are too thin as the autumn proceeds will be dried off early. Most seasons we see 60 – 90 young thin cows dried off in early May.
16. Production/ha has declined slightly to 6.26 kg MS/ha/day. Per cow production has dropped during the week to 1.40 kg MS/cow/day - last week 1.44 kg MS/cow/day.
17. All mating finished Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January (10 weeks). A full herd pregnancy scan on the 19 January confirmed the 6 week in-calf rate at 69%. Another full herd scan will be done on the 16 February giving us the 10 week in-calf rate. This will be discussed at the next LUDF focus day on the 19<sup>th</sup> February.
18. The Somatic cell count ranged from 165 - 454,000. The large increase came after an afternoon milking was not possible due to a major fault with the milking platform. All cows have been stripped one quarter every milking. Suspect cows have been marked and watched carefully. After the Herd Test the high SCC cows have been alerted on Pro-track. 2 fresh clinical cases have been found over the last week and SCC is 165,000 at the end of the week.
19. The number of lame cows is 13, the same as last week.

The next LUDF focus day will be on the **19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 @ 10.15am**

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday **10<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 9.00am.**

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