

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

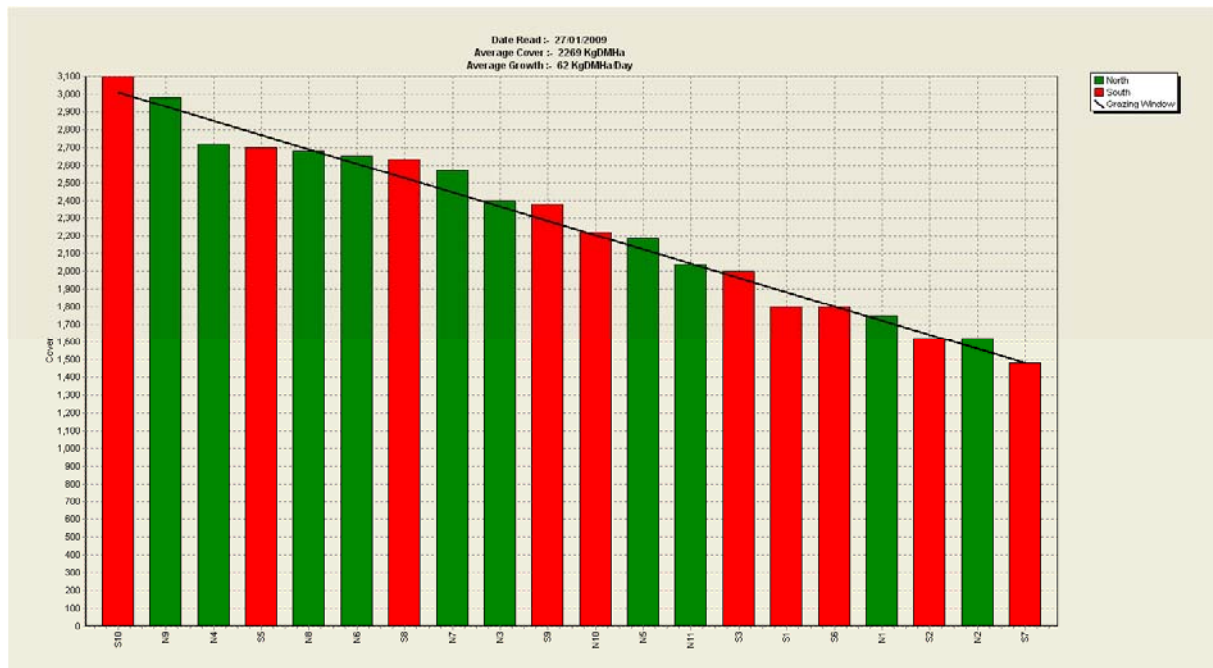
Tuesday, 27th January 2009

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 and 19°C with day time maximums reaching the low 30°C.
4. SOIL MOISTURE levels are again continuing to fall
5. PASTURE GROWTH was 62 kg DM/ha (previous week 83).
6. Average pasture cover has increased to 2269 kg DM/ha (last week 2252 kg DM/ha).
7. Last week the overall rotation length was 19 days. This was slightly sped up because paddock S4 was grazed ten days after last grazing as it has been sprayed out for re-grassing. There has been a slight increase in cover compared to last week despite a lower growth rate. The reason for this being that the cows grazed paddock S4 which is not on the wedge because it has been taken out for regrassing.
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 17 kg DM/cow at a stocking rate of 4.49. $(4.49 \times 20 \times 17) + 1480 = 3006$ kg DM/ha.

11. The wedge is spot on. There is a small deficit but it is not of any concern. We expect growth rates to come back to mid 70s this week which will be enough to meet demand. 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 22nd of December.
13. The new grass paddock S5 sown 6 weeks ago has come back in to the round and will be grazed by the cows this week. The cover at present after being grazed by the calves is 2700 kg DM/ha
14. We are planning to re-grass S4 as S5 comes back into the rotation and feed supply remains above demand. This paddock has now been 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 cows have regained some of the weight they lost last week, gaining 8 kilos for the week. Cows that are too thin as the autumn proceeds will be dried off early. Most seasons see 60 – 90 young thin cows dried off in early May.
16. Production /ha has dropped slightly to 6.28 kg MS/ha/day last week 6.5 kg MS/ha/day. Per cow production has dropped during the week to 1.48 kg MS/cow/day last week 1.53 kg MS/cow/day.
17. All mating finished Thursday 8th 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 19th February.
18. The Somatic cell count ranged from 171–249,000, 2 fresh clinical cases have been found over the last week.
19. The number of lame cows has increased slightly from 11 lame cows to 13.
20. We also monitor the pasture covers on the two runoffs each week using the C-Dax Rapid Pasture Meter. Ryan Moffat, one of the farm staff, has this responsibility and we use this information to schedule the removal of surpluses into silage.

The next LUDF Focus Day will be on the 19th February 2009

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday 3rd 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

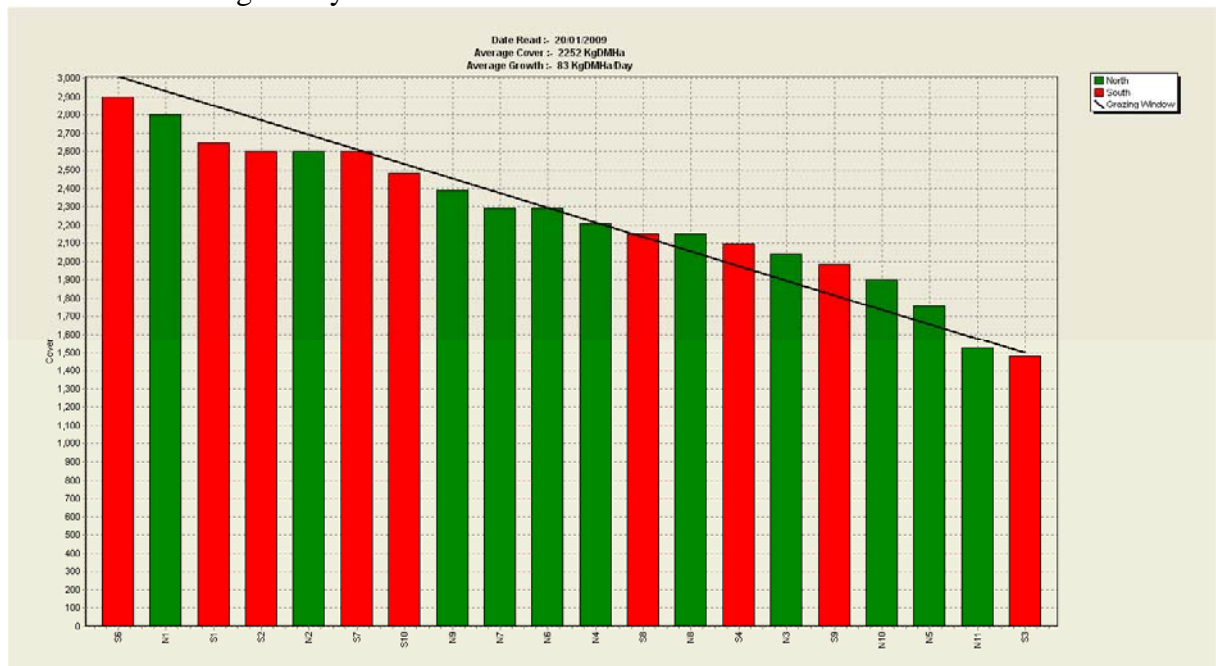
Tuesday, 20th January 2009

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 and 17.5°C, with day time maximums below 25°C.
4. SOIL MOISTURE levels have risen thanks to welcome rainfall. 37mm in a little over an hour on Sunday afternoon.
5. PASTURE GROWTH was 83 kg DM/ha (previous week 84).
6. Average pasture cover has increased to 2252 kg DM/ha (last week 2196 kg DM/ha).
7. Last week the overall rotation length was 20 days.
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 17 kg DM/cow at a stocking rate of 4.53. $(4.53 \times 20 \times 17) + 1480 = 3020$ kg DM/ha.
11. The wedge shows a deficit of feed for the 20 day rotation. We expect weather conditions to continue to be warm for the rest of the week so as long as we can keep up with irrigation we expect another week of pasture growth above demand (76). If we allow the rotation to be 19 days (below) silage feeding will be avoided and a surplus will again build up.

12. No Urea has been applied since the 22nd of December.
13. The new grass paddock S5, sown 5 weeks ago, was grazed by calves during the week. Following the nip off it will be sprayed with Preside to control the range of flat weeds present. Nettle in the pasture will not be controlled by Preside so we will need to mow the nettle after one of the next couple of grazings.
14. We are planning to re-grass S4 as S5 comes back into the rotation and feed supply remains above demand. This paddock will be sprayed later in the week 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.
15. Feed allocation has remained the same but during the fortnight just finished the herd has lost weight at least 0.5kg/day. This is of concern but feed quality remains high and appetite will return. Cows that are too thin as the autumn proceeds will be dried off early. Most seasons see 60 – 90 young thin cows dried off in early May.
16. Production /ha has dropped slightly to 6.5 kg MS/ha/day last week, 6.61 kg MS/ha/day. Per cow production has dropped during the week to 1.53 kg MS/cow/day last week 1.56 kg MS/cow/day.
17. All mating finished Thursday 8th January (10 weeks). A full herd pregnancy scan on the 19 January to confirm the 6 week in-calf rate which is 66%.
18. The Somatic cell count ranged from 190 – 234,000 with no fresh clinical cases for 2 weeks.
19. The number of lame cows has remained basically static at 11 lame cows.
20. We also monitor the pasture covers on the two runoffs each week using the C-Dax Rapid Pasture Meter. Ryan Moffat one of the farm staff has this responsibility and we use this information to schedule the removal of surpluses into silage.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday, **27th January 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, 13th January 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.**

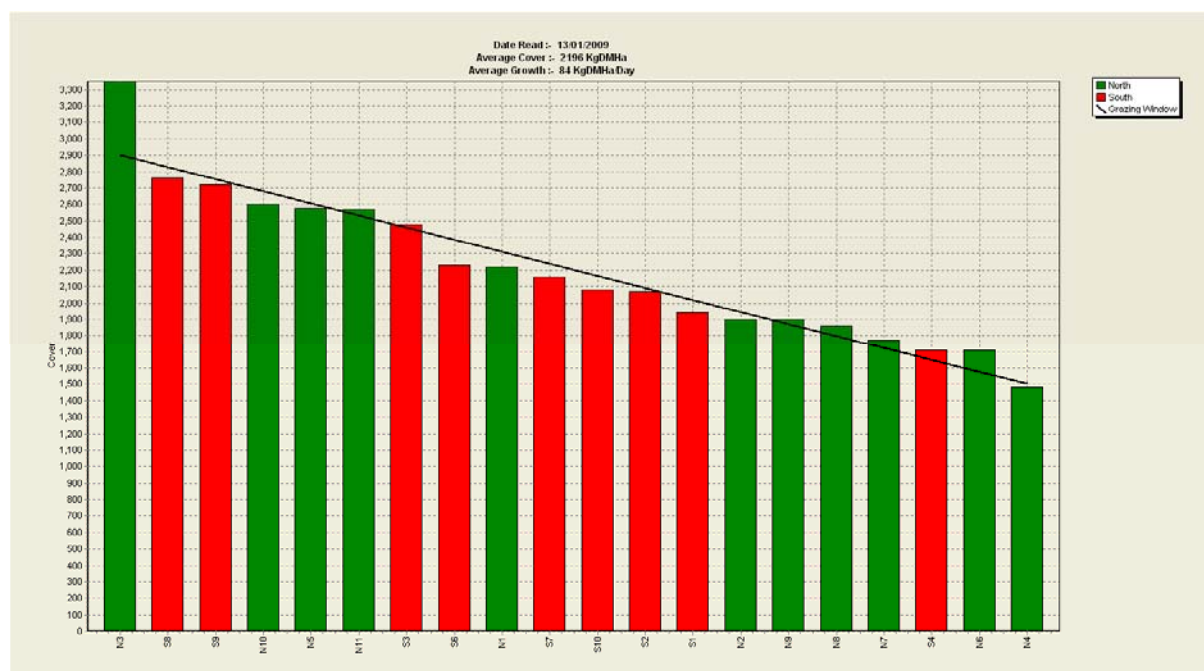
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. SOIL TEMPERATURES at 9.00 am have been between 16 and 17.5°C with day time maximums below 25°C.
4. SOIL MOISTURE levels are still falling on all the soils – more so on the freer draining North Block soils - even with fulltime irrigation. There are clear signs that the guns on the runoffs are not keeping up with the water loss happening on these light soils.
5. PASTURE GROWTH was 84 kg DM/ha (previous week 86).
6. Average pasture cover has fallen to 2196 kg DM/ha (last week 2307 kg DM/ha).
7. Last week the overall rotation length was 22 days.
8. During the week 14.2t DM of silage (as baleage tube wrapped) was harvested from 16ha on the milking platform.
9. The Pasture Wedge today.



10. The wedge target line reflects the pre-grazing target for a 21 day rotation, feeding an average of 17 kg DM/cow at a stocking rate of 4.53. $(4.53 \times 21 \times 17) + 1480 = 3085$.

11. The wedge shows a deficit of feed for the 21 day rotation. We expect weather conditions to continue to be warm for the rest of the week so as long as we can keep up with irrigation we expect another week of pasture growth above demand (76). If we allow the rotation to be 19 days (as below) silage feeding will be avoided and a surplus will again build up.



12. There is a small risk that we will need to feed out silage for a couple of days but this is much better to do financially than for the cows to continue to eat lower quality pasture.
13. The new grass paddock S5, sown 4 weeks ago, is nearly ready for a nip off. Following the nip off with cows or the calves we will allow a few days of regrowth and then spray it to control the range of flat weeds present. The weed range includes fat-hen, thistles and nettle.
14. We are planning to re-grass S4 as S5 comes back into the rotation and feed supply remains above demand. This paddock has just been grazed so we will wait 10 days for it to generate adequate leaf area before spraying with Glyphosate.
15. Currently the cows are still getting over 200MJME which is sufficient for their current production plus over 40 MJME for weight gain. The walk over weighing data shows that the herd has continued to increase in weight except during some of the very hot days recently. Interestingly, milk production did not change. The total gained over the last four weeks has been 12 kg and the herd is now almost at the same weight as this time last year.
16. Production /ha has remained much the same at 6.61 kg MS/ha/day last week 6.62 kg MS/ha/day. Per cow production has also remained almost static at 1.56 kg MS/cow/day last week 1.57 kg MS/cow/day.
17. All mating finished Thursday 8th January (10 weeks). We will do a full herd pregnancy scan on the 19 January to confirm the 6 week in-calf rate.
18. The Somatic cell count ranged from 184,000 – 262,000, no fresh clinical cases found this week.

19. The number of lame cows has decreased to 10 lame cows.

20. We also monitor the pasture covers on the two runoffs each week using the C-Dax Rapid Pasture Meter. Ryan Moffat, one of the farm staff, has this responsibility and we use this information to schedule the removal of surpluses into silage.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday **20th January 2009 at 9.00am.**

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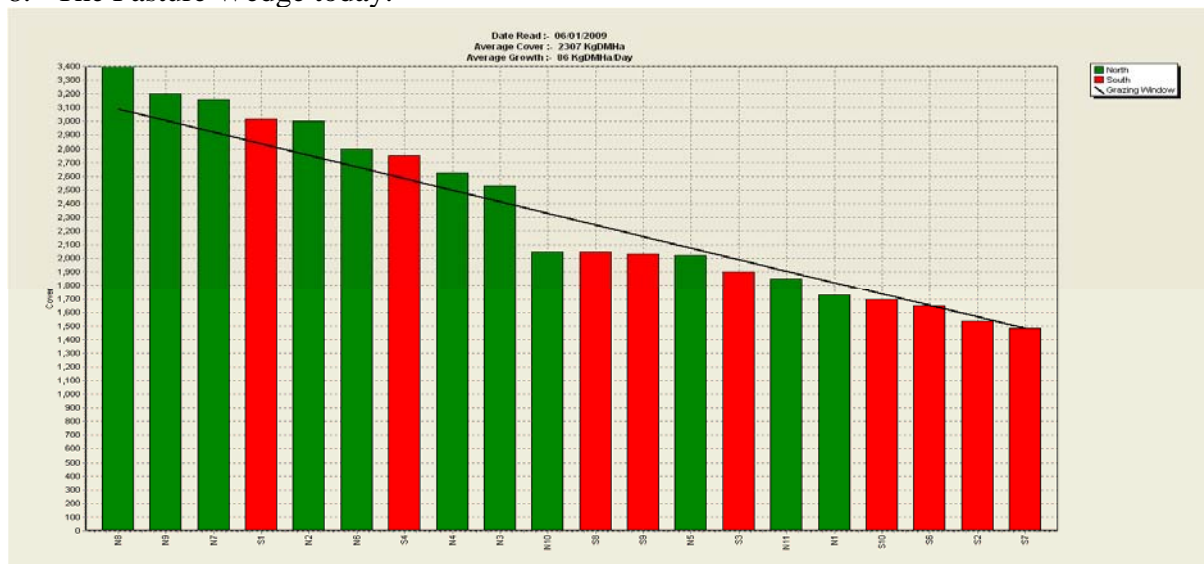
Tuesday, 6th January 2009

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 temperature have been between 16 and 17.5°C with day time maximums below 25°C.
4. SOIL MOISTURE levels are still falling on the freer draining North Block soils even with full time irrigation. Irrigation is holding soil moisture levels on the silts of the North Block and the heavier clay soils of the South Block. There are clear signs that the guns on the runoffs are not keeping up with the water loss happening on these light soils.
5. PASTURE GROWTH was 86 kg DM/ha (previous week 93).
6. Average pasture cover has risen to 2307 kg DM/ha (last week 2292 kg DM/ha).
7. Last week the overall rotation length was 19 days
8. The Pasture Wedge today.



9. The wedge target line reflects the pre-grazing target for a 21 day rotation, feeding an average of 17 kg DM/cow at a stocking rate of 4.53. $(4.53 \times 21 \times 17) + 1480 = 3085$.
10. The wedge shows a genuine surplus. We expect weather conditions continue to be warm for the rest of the week so as long as we can keep up with irrigation we expect another week of pasture growth above demand (76). This will definitely see the small deficit in a 12 days time disappearing so we can be aggressive at making the two longest paddocks into silage. This surplus has arrived even faster than we predicted.

11. Tomorrow's wedge if we drop out two paddocks and allocate 1/19 of the remaining area/day.



12. The deficit is more pronounced but in reality should not be a problem. This deficit will reduce for several reasons; a) pasture growth rates are expected to continue above demand, b) the silage paddocks will be cut today and will be back in the round thereby increasing the area in the grazing round, and c) the young grass paddock will be getting its first nip off this week and then will also be back into the grazing round. At a rotation length of 19 days, and feeding 17 kg DM/cow/day, plus the whole of the farm back into the grazing round we only require a cover of 2868 which is very close to what we predict the situation will be in a week time.



13. There is a small risk that we will need to fed out silage for a couple of days but this is much better to do financially than for the cows to continue to eat lower quality pasture for another two weeks, which is what would happen if we used the current surplus to slow down the round and allow extra days for the small deficit to disappear.

14. Currently the cows are still getting over 20ME which is sufficient for their current production plus over 40 ME for weight gain. The walk over weighing data shows that the herd has continued to increase in weight. The total gained over the last four weeks has been 15 kg and the herd is now almost at the same weight as this time last year.
15. Production /ha has risen slightly from 6.62 kg MS/ha/day to 6.67 kg MS/ha/day. Per cow production has also risen slightly from 1.56 kg MS/cow/day to 1.57 kg MS/cow/day.
16. All mating will cease this Thursday (10 weeks). We will do a full herd pregnancy scan on the 19 January to confirm the 6 week in-calf rate.
17. The average Somatic cell count ended the week up at 223,000 after starting at 167,000 with out finding any new mastitis cows.
18. The number of lame cows has increased to 14 lame cows.
19. We also monitor the pasture covers on the two runoffs each week using the C-Dax Rapid Pasture Meter. Ryan Moffat one of the farm staff has this responsibility and we use this information to schedule the removal of surpluses into silage.

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