

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 24th January 2012

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Maintain the intake of the herds above 215MJME to maintain milk production and generate some gain in live weight and body condition score.**
2. **Maintain consistent post grazing residuals to ensure pasture quality at the next grazing.**
3. **Monitor average pasture cover and respond to surplus or deficit.**
4. **Use back-fences on all herds whenever paddock grazing takes more than 36 hours.**
5. **Continue Mg supplementation via water system.**
6. **Administer bloat oil through dosatron.**

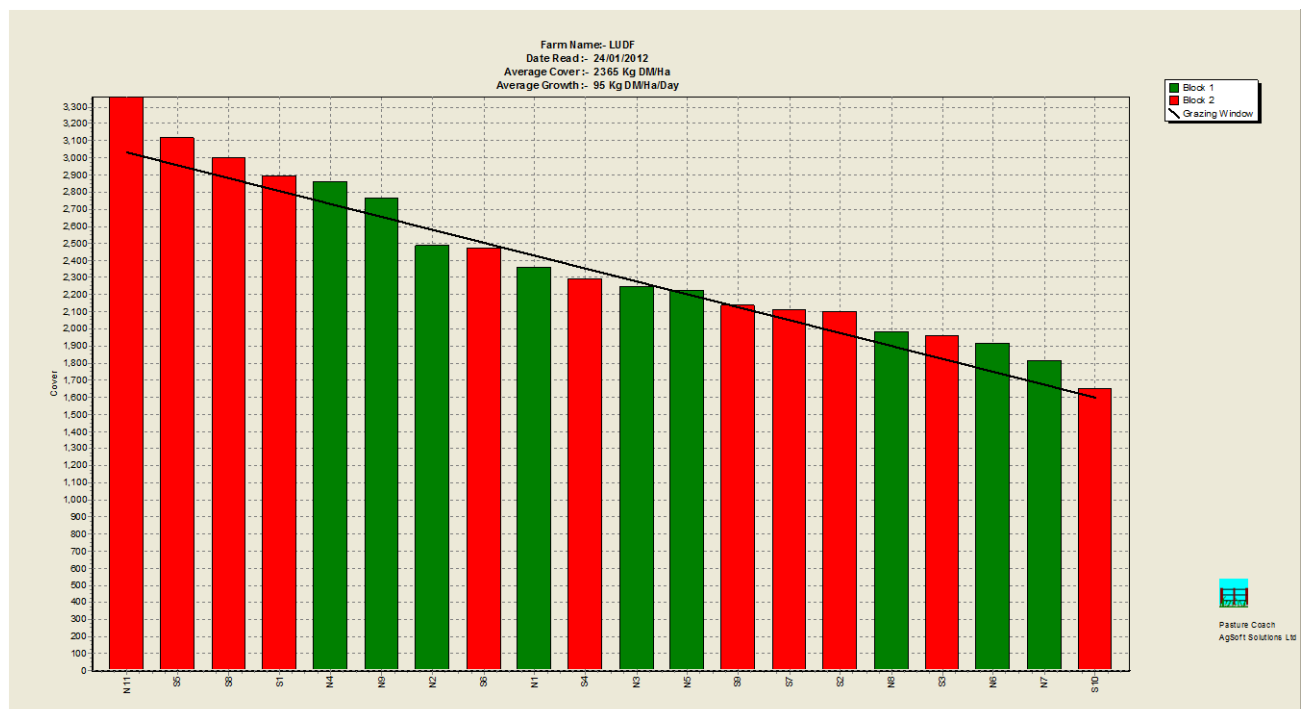
7. There are now 609 cows milking twice a day in the silo. There are 202 cows in the Small herd, now made up from lighter condition cows with expected early calving dates. First calvers have priority but will need to be lighter or early calving to have remained in this herd. The two herds will continue to be managed separately for the remainder of the season.

Growing conditions

8. Pasture growth this last week has been 95kg DM/ha/day, 99kg DM/ha was recorded last week.
9. Soil temperatures at 9 am have been variable and lower at the end of the week. Average of 16°C.
10. 10.2mm rain this week. Irrigation ran for 5 days on the North block and for 4 days on the South block. The Aquaflex soil moisture meters indicate that soil moisture levels are now at 80% of field capacity.

Feeding levels

11. The walk over weighing indicates that the herd made a weight gain this week of 4kg/cow with the monitor group now close to the weight they recorded soon after calving. They should get above that weight as a number of these are young cows.
12. The milkers need about 215 MJME to produce 1.78 kg MS, maintain themselves, and allow for 1 - 3 kg weight gain per week.
13. Feed Wedge for this week shows the farm has 10t surplus.



14. Average cover of 2,365kgDM/ha, is a comfortable drop after 23t of silage was harvested off 15.3ha during the week. No additional silage will be taken this week. The third and final paddock for re-grassing, N10 [we are re-grassing 15% of the platform this season], has been sprayed out (5th Jan) and was cultivated sown (19th Jan).
15. Currently round length is 17 days. The small surplus should force the round back to the targeted 20 days.
16. Paddocks mown only for silage this week. 142 ha has been mowed either in front [107ha] or behind [35ha] of the herds so far this season.
17. This week 30kg N/ha applied to 54ha.

Mating

18. Mating has now finished. Our initial 6 week in-calf rate from scanning is 73%.
19. We had 10 weeks of mating, 6 weeks AI and 4 weeks natural mating. 622 cows were mated in 42 days [98.7%]. The herd at the beginning of mating was 635 cows. Submission rate of 88% for the first 3 weeks. No hormone intervention has been used.
20. Heifer AB mating finished after 21 days with 147 of the 152 top BW heifers mated. Jersey bulls were removed from the R2s on 15th December.
21. The Heifers were pregnancy tested confirming pregnancies from the first 5 weeks of mating. 158 R2 heifers in calf from 184 currently owned, 86%. During the week a final scan showed 6% were not in calf.

LUDF Weekly report	3-Jan-12	10-Jan-12	17-Jan-12	24-Jan-12
Farm grazing ha (available to milkers)	153	153	153	160
Dry Cows on farm / East blk / other	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0
Culls (Includes culls put down & empties)	0	0	0	0
Culls total to date	26	26	26	26
Deaths (Includes cows put down)	0	0	0	0
Deaths total to date	9	9	9	9
Calved Cows available (Peak No. 638...)	628	623	623	623
Treatment / Sick mob total	0	1	2	2
Mastitis clinical treatment	0	1	1	1
Mastitis clinical YTD (tgt below 64 yr end)	58	59	60	61
Bulk milk SCC (tgt Avg below 150)	135	NA	135	138
Lame new cases	6	4	12	10
Lame ytd	62	66	78	88
Lame days YTD (Tgt below 1000 yr end)	661	717	829	913
Other/Colostrum	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Milking twice a day into vat	620	614	605	609
Milking once a day into vat	8	8	16	12
Small herd	230	225	200	202
Main Herd	391	389	405	407
MS/cow/day (Actual kg /Cows into vat only)	1.80	1.83	1.74	1.78
MS/cow to date (total kgs / Peak Cows 640)	248	260	272	284
MS/ha/day (total kgs / ha used)	7.07	7.13	6.75	6.90
Herd Average Cond'n Score	4.10	0.00	0.00	4.10

	3-Jan-12	10-Jan-12	17-Jan-12	24-Jan-12
Monitor grp LW kg WOW 157 early MA calvers	469	473	474	478
Soil Temp Avg Aquaflex	17.0	16.8	17.2	16.1
Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	95	104	99	95
Plate meter height - ave half-cms	13.6	0.0	0.0	13.3
Ave Pasture Cover (x140 + 500)	2405	2392	2597	2365
Surplus/[deficit] on feed wedge- tonnes	11.4	8.2	40t	10t
Pre Grazing cover (ave for week)	3018	3112	3174	3303
Post Grazing cover (ave for week)	1550	1550	1550	1550
highest pregrazing cover	3230	3266	3400	3400
Area grazed / day (ave for week)	9.20	8.68	7.65	8.90
Grazing Interval	17	18	20	18
Milkers Offered/grazed kg DM pasture	18.0	16.8	16.5	17.0
Estimated intake pasture MJME	215	0	205	215
Milkers offered kg DM Grass silage	0	0	0	0
Silage MJME/cow offered	0	0	0	0
Estimated intake Silage MJME	0	0	0	0
Estimated total intake MJME	215	215	205	215
Tgt total MJME Offered/eaten (incls 6% waste)	215	215	215	215
Pasture ME (pre grazing sample)	0.0	12.6	13.2	12.4
Pasture % Protein	0.0	27.1	32.0	26.3
Pasture % DM - Concern below 16%	0.0	15.9	14.3	16.9
Pasture % NDF Concern < 33	0.0	40.6	45.5	49.2
Supplements fed to date kg per cow (640 peak)	72.3	72.3	72.3	72.3
Supplements Made Kg DM / ha cumulative	465	465	465	609
Units N applied/ha and % of farm	30units/33%	30units/67%	0	30units/35%
Kgs N to Date (whole farm)	0	0	0	0
Kgs/ha N to Date (on NON-effluent area 128ha)	240	270	270	280
Rainfall (mm)	1.4	3	4.6	10.2
Aquaflex topsoil rel. to fill point target 60-80%	40-90	30-80	60 - 80	80

The next weekly farm walk will be on 31st January, 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), Steve Lee (DairyNZ).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 17th January 2012

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Maintain the intake of the herds above 215MJME to maintain milk production and generate some gain in live weight and body condition score**
2. **Maintain consistent post grazing residuals to ensure pasture quality at the next grazing.**
3. **Monitor average pasture cover and respond to surplus or deficit.**
4. **Use back-fences on all herds whenever paddock grazing takes more than 36 hours.**
5. **Continue Mg supplementation via water system.**
6. **Administer bloat oil through dosatron**

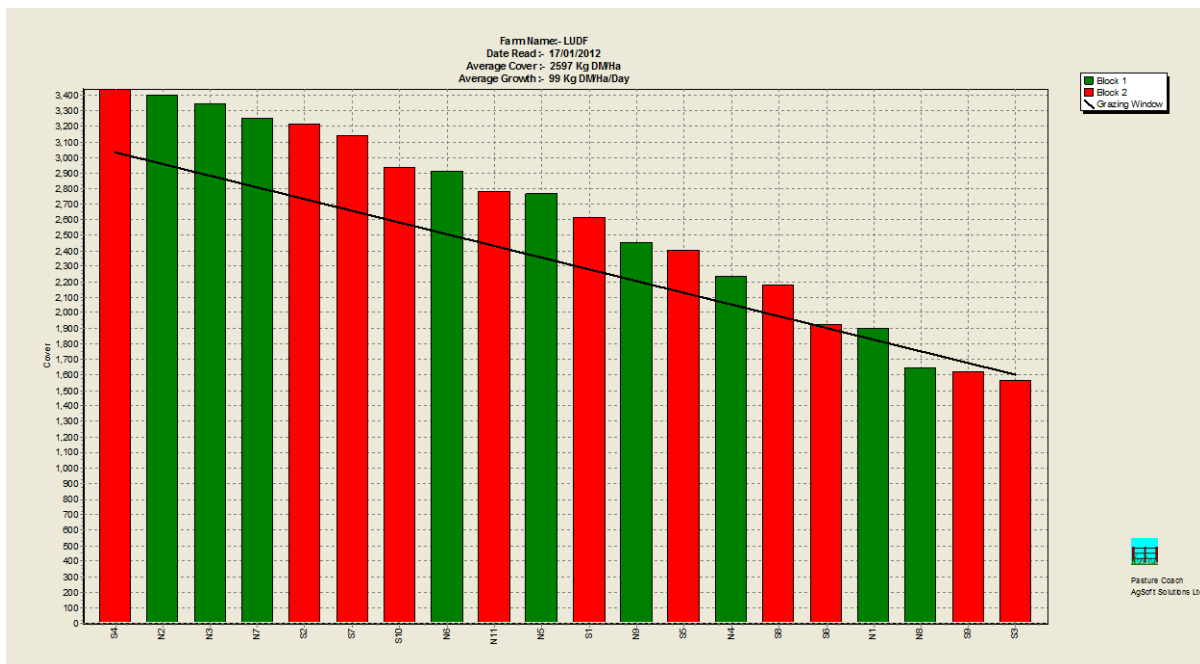
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7. There are now 605 cows milking twice a day in the silo. There are 200 cows in the Small herd, now made up from lighter condition cows with expected early calving dates. First calvers have priority but will need to be lighter or early calving to remain in this herd. The two herds will continue to be managed separately for the remainder of the season.

Growing conditions

8. Pasture growth this last week has been 99kg DM/ha day – 5 kg DM/ha more than last week.
9. Soil temperatures at 9 am have been more variable but average 17.2°C.
10. There has been 4.6mm rain this week. Irrigation ran for 5 days on the North block and for 4 days on the South block. The Aquaflex soil moisture meters indicate that soil moisture levels are now at 60% - 80% of field capacity.

Feeding levels

11. The walk over weighing indicates that the herd made a weight gain this week of 1 – with the monitor group now close to the weight they recorded soon after calving. They should get above that weight as a number of these are young cows.
12. The milkers need about 215 MJME to produce 1.78 kg MS, maintain themselves, and allow for 1 - 2 kg weight gain per week.
13. Feed Wedge for this week shows the farm has 40t surplus.



14. Average cover of 2,597kgDM/ha, a significant lift. This farm grows well in North West conditions. A significant pasture surplus will be dealt with by taking two paddocks for silage this week. The third and final paddock for regrassing N10, [we are regrassing 15% of the platform this season], has been sprayed out and is cultivated and will be sown in the next couple of days.
15. Currently round length is 20 days, two days longer than last week. The surplus beginning to occur is forcing the round longer. 20 days is our current target.
16. We have mown 2.3 paddocks behind the herd this week. 142 ha has been mowed either in front [107ha] or behind [35ha] the herds so far this season.
17. No Nitrogen applied this week – it will be caught up in the next few days at 30kg N/ha.

Mating

18. Mating has now finished. The initial 6 week in-calf rate from scanning is 73%.
19. We had 10 weeks of mating - 6 weeks AI and 4 weeks natural mating. 622 cows were mated in 42 days [98.7%]. The herd at the beginning of mating was 635 cows. Submission rate of 88% for the first 3 weeks. No hormone intervention has been used.
20. Heifer AB mating finished after 21 days, 147 of the 152 top BW heifers were mated. Jersey bulls were removed from the R2s on 15th December.
21. The Heifers were pregnancy tested two weeks ago confirming pregnancies from the first 5 weeks of mating. 158 R2 heifers in calf from 184 currently owned 86%.
18. The herd was vaccinated for BVD on 3rd October. The herd has had 3 clear bulk milk tests for BVD which covered all the cows now in milk.

LUDF Weekly report	27-Dec-11	3-Jan-12	10-Jan-12	17-Jan-12
Farm grazing ha (available to milkers)	153	153	153	153
Dry Cows on farm / East blk / other	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0
Culls (Includes culls put down & empties)	0	0	0	0
Culls total to date	26	26	26	26
Deaths (Includes cows put down)	0	0	0	0
Deaths total to date	9	9	9	9
Calved Cows available (Peak Number 638...)	628	628	623	623
Treatment / Sick mob total	1	0	1	2
Mastitis clinical treatment	0	0	1	1
Mastitis clinical YTD (tgt below 64 yr end)	58	58	59	60
Bulk milk SCC (tgt Avg below 150)	134	135	NA	135
Lame new cases	7	6	4	12
Lame ytd	56	62	66	78
Lame days YTD (Tgt below 1000 yr end)	605	661	717	829
Other/Colostrum	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Milking twice a day into vat	621	620	614	605
Milking once a day into vat	6	8	8	16
Small herd	230	230	225	200
Main Herd	391	391	389	405
MS/cow/day (Actual kg / Cows into vat only)	1.84	1.80	1.83	1.74
MS/cow to date (total kgs / Peak Cows 640)	235	248	260	272
MS/ha/day (total kgs / ha used)	7.20	7.07	7.13	6.75
Herd Average Cond'n Score	4.10	4.10	0.00	0.00

	27-Dec-11	3-Jan-12	10-Jan-12	17-Jan-12
Monitor group LW kg WOW 157 early MA calvers	472	469	473	474
Soil Temp Avg Aquaflex	16.8	17.0	16.8	17.2
Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	101	95	104	99
Plate meter height - ave half-cms	13.6	13.6	0.0	0.0
Ave Pasture Cover (x140 + 500)	2410	2405	2392	2597
Surplus/[deficit] on feed wedge- tonnes	9.5	11.4	8.2	40t
Pre Grazing cover (ave for week)	2989	3018	3112	3174
Post Grazing cover (ave for week)	1550	1550	1550	1550
highest pregrazing cover	3200	3230	3266	3400
Area grazed / day (ave for week)	9.70	9.20	8.68	7.65
Grazing Interval	16	17	18	20
Milkers Offered/grazed kg DM pasture	18.0	18.0	16.8	16.5
Estimated intake pasture MJME	218	215	0	205
Milkers offered kg DM Grass silage	0	0	0	0
Silage MJME/cow offered	0	0	0	0
Estimated intake Silage MJME	0	0	0	0
Estimated total intake MJME	0	215	215	205
Target total MJME Offered/eaten (incl. 6% waste)	218	215	215	215
Pasture ME (pre grazing sample)	12.7	0.0	12.6	13.2
Pasture % Protein	29.2	0.0	27.1	32.0
Pasture % DM - Concern below 16%	15.9	0.0	15.9	14.3
Pasture % NDF Concern < 33	36.8	0.0	40.6	45.5
Supplements fed to date kg per cow (640 peak)	72.3	72.3	72.3	72.3
Supplements Made Kg DM / ha cumulative	465	465	465	465
Units N applied/ha and % of farm	30units/41%	30units/33%	30units/67%	0
Kgs N to Date (whole farm)	0	0	0	0
Kgs/ha N to Date (on the NON-effluent area 128ha)	229	240	270	270
Rainfall (mm)	0	1.4	3	4.6
Aquaflex topsoil relative to fill point target 60 - 80%	25 - 60	40-90	30-80	60 - 80

The next weekly farm walk will be on 24th January, 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), Steve Lee (DairyNZ).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 10th January 2012

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Maintain the intake of the herds above 215MJME to maintain milk production and generate some gain in live weight and body condition score.**
2. **Maintain consistent post grazing residuals to ensure pasture quality at the next grazing.**
3. **Monitor average pasture cover and respond to surplus or deficit.**
4. **Use back-fences on all herds whenever paddock grazing takes more than 36 hours.**
5. **Continue Mg supplementation via water system.**
6. **Administer bloat oil through dosatron.**

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7. There are 622 cows milking twice a day in the silo. There are 225 cows in the Small herd, mainly first calvers and 4 – 4.5 condition score MA cows, and 397 in the Main herd. The two herds will be managed separately for the remainder of the season. The composition of the Small herd will change as MA light cows from the main herd become lower in condition than cows in the herd already. Early next week we will look to move some late calving cows out of the Small herd and replace them with some lighter early calving cows from the Main herd.

Growing conditions

8. Pasture growth this last week has been 104kg DM/ha day – 6 kg DM/ha more than last week.
9. Soil temperatures at 9 am have been more variable but average 16.8°C, virtually the same as last week.
10. There has been 3mm of rain this week. Irrigation ran for 3 days on the North block and for 1 day on the South block. The Aquaflex soil moisture meters indicate that soil moisture levels are now at 30% - 80% of field capacity.

Feeding levels

11. The walk over weighing indicates that the herd made a weight gains this week of 4kg, regaining the losses measured last week.
12. The milkers need about 215 MJME to produce 1.83 kg MS, maintain themselves, and allow for 3 - 4 kg weight gain per week.
13. Feed Wedge for this week shows the farm has 8.2t surplus.



14. Average cover of 2,392kgDM/ha, the same as last week and it appears that the threatened surplus of pasture has not occurred as the round has only lengthened by a day. The third and final paddock for regrassing N10, [we are regrassing 15% of the platform this season], has been sprayed out and will be cultivated over the next couple of days and sown on Friday.
15. It is not clear why we are not accumulating a surplus faster given that we are measuring a growth rate of 104 kg DM/ha/day. The contention that cow intake [given production and weight change] can be more than 74kg DM/ha/day is not supported. We estimate that the difference is largely due to a measurement discrepancy caused by varying pasture dry matter, plus some impact of the lengthened grazing round [+1 day] and a very small amount of pasture mown to waste [possibly contributing 3-4 kg DM/ha over the week].
16. Currently round length is 18 days, one day longer than last week. The surplus beginning to occur is forcing the round longer. 20 days is our target but in the short term the quality of feed and the level of the pre-grazing covers has actually been a good situation for ongoing high intakes of high quality pasture.
17. 2 paddocks were mown behind the herd this week. 123ha has been mowed either in front [107ha] or behind [16ha] the herds so far.
18. This week 107 ha had 30kgN/ha.

Mating

19. Mating has now finished. Our initial 6 week in-calf rate from scanning is 73%.
20. We had 10 weeks of mating, 6 weeks AI and 4 weeks natural mating. 622 cows were mated in 42 days [98.7%]. The herd at the beginning of mating was 635 cows. Submission rate of 88% for the first 3 weeks. No hormone intervention has been used.
21. Heifer AB mating finished after 21 days, 147 of the 152 top BW heifers were mated. Jersey bulls were removed from the R2s on 15th December.
22. The Heifers were pregnancy tested two weeks ago confirming pregnancies from the first 5 weeks of mating. 158 R2 heifers in calf from 184 currently owned - 86%.
18. The herd was vaccinated for BVD on 3rd October. The herd has had 3 clear bulk milk tests for BVD which covered all the cows now in milk.

LUDF Weekly report	20-Dec-11	27-Dec-11	3-Jan-12	10-Jan-12
Farm grazing ha (available to milkers)	160	160	160	160
Dry Cows on farm / East blk / other	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0
Culls (Includes culls put down & empties)	0	0	0	0
Culls total to date	26	26	26	26
Deaths (Includes cows put down)	0	0	0	0
Deaths total to date	9	9	9	0
Calved Cows available (Peak Number 638...)	628	628	628	623
Treatment / Sick mob total	2	1	0	1
Mastitis clinical treatment	1	0	0	1
Mastitis clinical YTD (tgt below 64 yr end)	58	58	58	59
Bulk milk SCC (tgt Avg below 150)	160	134	135	NA
Lame new cases	2	7	6	4
Lame ytd	49	56	62	66
Lame days YTD (Tgt below 1000 yr end)	563	605	661	717
Other/Colostrum	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Milking twice a day into vat	618	621	620	614

	20-Dec-11	27-Dec-11	3-Jan-12	10-Jan-12
Milking once a day into vat	8	6	8	8
Small herd	230	230	230	225
Main Herd	388	391	391	389
MS/cow/day (Actual kg / Cows into vat only)	1.85	1.84	1.80	1.83
MS/cow to date (total kgs / Peak Cows 640)	223	235	248	260
MS/ha/day (total kgs / ha used)	7.23	7.20	7.07	7.13
Herd Average Cond'n Score	4.20	4.10	4.10	0.00
Monitor group LW kg WOW 157 early MA calvers	469	472	469	473
Soil Temp Avg Aquaflex	15.3	16.8	17.0	16.8
Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	91	101	95	104
Plate meter height - ave half-cms	12.6	13.6	13.6	0.0
Ave Pasture Cover (x140 + 500)	2268	2410	2405	2392
Surplus/[deficit] on feed wedge- tonnes	-4	9.5	11.4	8.2
Pre Grazing cover (ave for week)	2929	2989	3018	3112
Post Grazing cover (ave for week)	1550	1550	1550	1550
highest pregrazing cover	3300	3200	3230	3266
Area grazed / day (ave for week)	10.20	9.70	9.20	8.68
Grazing Interval	16	16	17	18
Milkers Offered/grazed kg DM pasture	17.5	18.0	18.0	16.8
Estimated intake pasture MJME	215	218	215	0
Milkers offered kg DM Grass silage	0	0	0	0
Silage MJME/cow offered	0	0	0	0
Estimated intake Silage MJME	0	0	0	0
Estimated total intake MJME	215	0	215	0
Target total MJME Offered/eaten (incl. 6% waste)	225	218	0	0
Pasture ME (pre grazing sample)	12.4	12.7	0.0	12.6
Pasture % Protein	24.0	29.2	0.0	27.1
Pasture % DM - Concern below 16%	15.2	15.9	0.0	15.9
Pasture % NDF Concern < 33	47.8	36.8	0.0	40.6
Supplements fed to date kg per cow (640 peak)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplements Made Kg DM / ha cumulative	465	465	465	0
Units N applied/ha and % of farm	40units/30%	30units/41%	30units/33%	30units/67%
Kgs N to Date (whole farm)	0	0	0	0
Kgs/ha N to Date (on the NON-effluent area 128ha)	212	229	240	270
Rainfall (mm)	22.4	0	1.4	3
Aquaflex topsoil relative to fill point target 60 - 80%	0	25 - 60	40-90	30-80

The next weekly farm walk will be on 17th January, 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), Steve Lee (DairyNZ).