

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

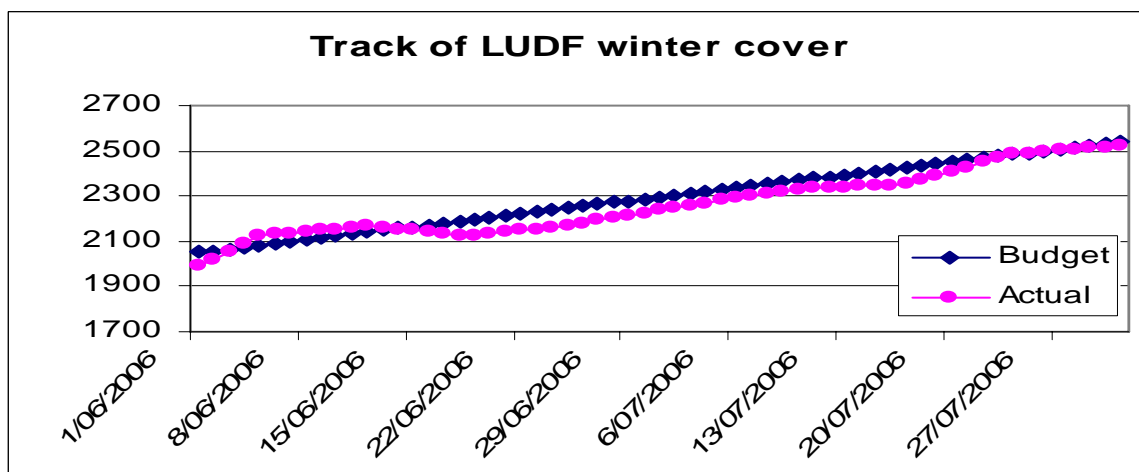
Tuesday 31st July 2007

Critical issues for the short term

1. Make sure all mobs clean their breaks and do not do pasture damage in wet weather.
2. **Back fence mobs on grass.**
3. **Make sure all cows are getting MgO dusted.**

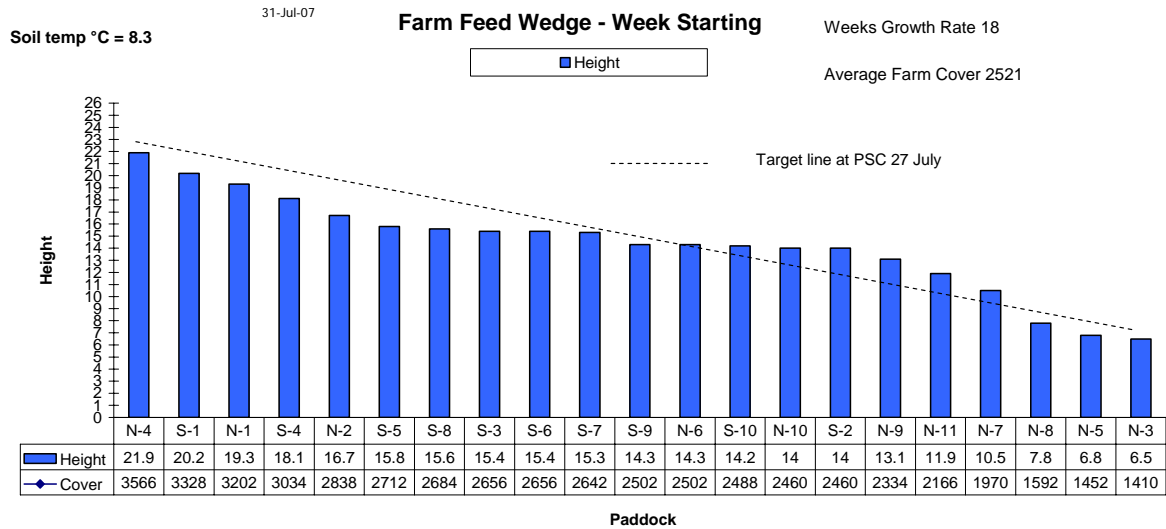
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

4. SOIL TEMPS have risen a little from 6.5° C to 8.3° C by this morning.
5. PASTURE GROWTH was 18 kg DM/ha (last week 27). The grass was wet so this weeks walk may have under estimated this weeks growth because of the amount of water accumulating on the platemeter.
6. We have 149 calved cows (an average grazing on the farm each day of 117 for the week) which have used a total of 3.9 ha of pasture for the week i.e. 1/290th of the farm. This is exactly the area calculated in our 60 day First Round grazing planner. At the moment we are planning on the conservative side hence the 60 day first round. If weather conditions result in above average growth rates we can easily shorten the first round slightly. In the past we have reduced the first round to 50 days.
7. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has risen from 2486 kg DM/ha to 2521 kg DM/ha. This is our target cover for calving.

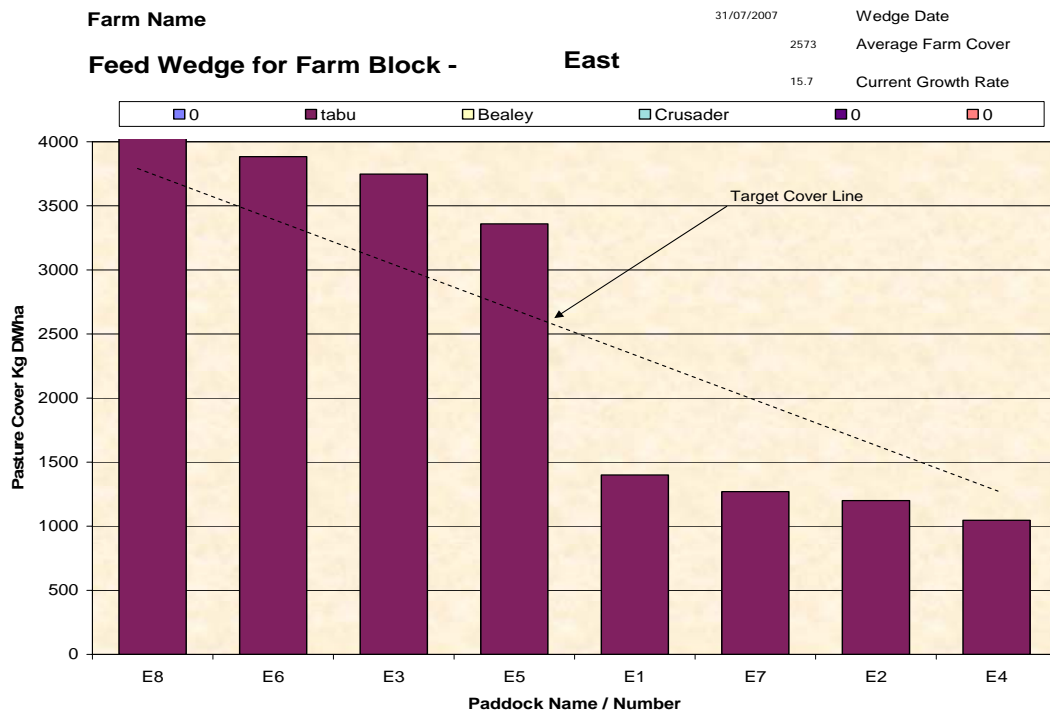


8. We are on/off grazing and back fencing all mobs to prevent pugging damage. On days when the ground is dry we are feeding out silage to the calved cows to limit the amount of grass allocated. We are targeting an intake between 11 and 12 kg DM /cow /day (most of the calved cows are heifers). This was made up of 10 kg DM of grass plus 1.4 kg silage /cow/day. The calved cows are getting milked OAD. This will continue until half the herd has calved which will be about 7 days from now. Trial work and farmer experience shows that a short period of OAD milking at the start of the season has no effect on peak yields or annual production.
9. The springers are currently getting 5 kg DM grass plus 3.3 kg DM silage.

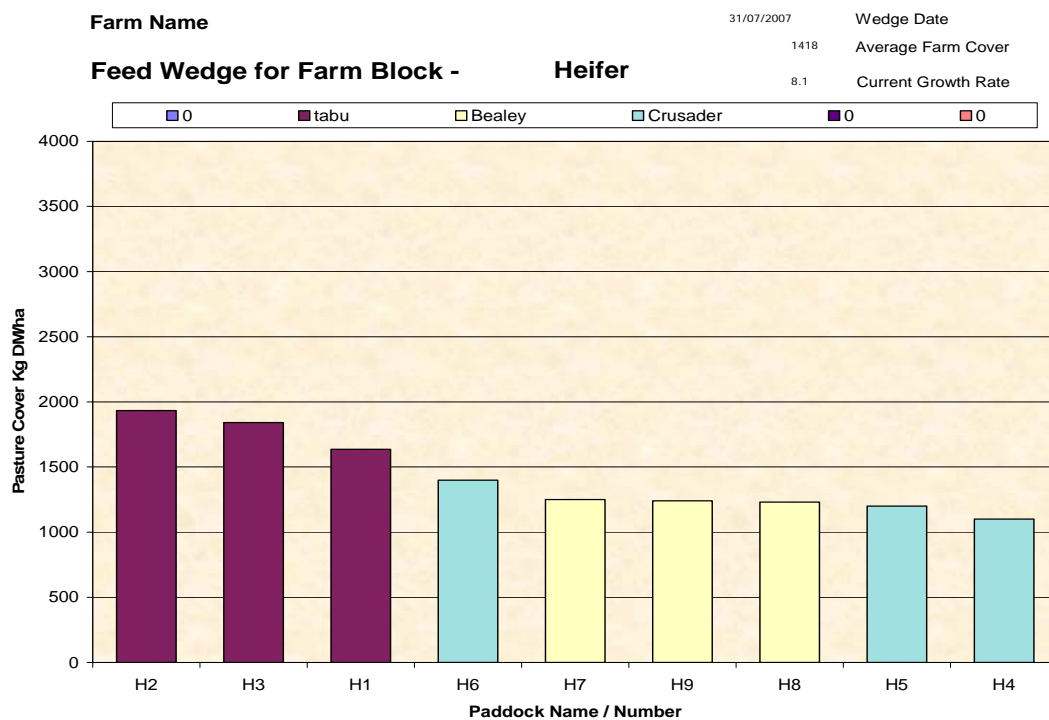
10. We are feeding silage now to reduce grass usage at a time when we still have plenty of time in the day for this extra job and the amount of silage is small.
11. We have updated our feed budgets with current pasture cover and number of cows calved and average growth rates for August and September, and our feed budget continue to show that we are exactly where we want to be.
12. This weeks feed wedge



13. Our wedge is not ideal but is workable. Paddocks N1, S9 and N7 are currently being grazed. We are alternating between wet and drier paddocks as weather conditions required. Our average cover is now on target and another week of growth like we have just had will make a big difference. Most of our soils are dry and firm with the only issue is when it is raining and the day after.
14. Our first application of 25 kg N/ha fertilizer has been applied to just over a third of the farm covering those paddocks with covers between 1900 and 2300 kg DM/ha. We will follow the grazing cows with an application of 40 kg N/ha.



15. The East block cover is holding at 2573 kg DM/ha and had a growth rate of 16 this last week. The very long paddocks grazed in June now have about 1500 kg DM re-growth which will be just perfect for the first batch of calves when they come out of their pen. This will happen in the next fortnight.
16. The time spent training heifers to the cow shed is now paying big dividends in staff time and ease.
17. The East block cover is now just above our budgeted cover for the end of July. We will be using this area to calve cows.
18. Mag Oxide is being spread on the pasture at 100gm /cow/day and will increase to 100 gm /cow/day. Mag Chloride is also going through the water supply at 40 gms /cow/day and will also increase. So far only one case of milk fever (very slight) .



19. There is now finally some cover in the Tabu new grass paddocks in the heifer block. H3 is the driest paddock so we will graze this one first. The R1yr heifers will return to this block tomorrow. We will be restricting grass and feeding silage. About 50% of their diet will be silage at this stage. As grass growth improves we will reduce silage.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 7th August 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

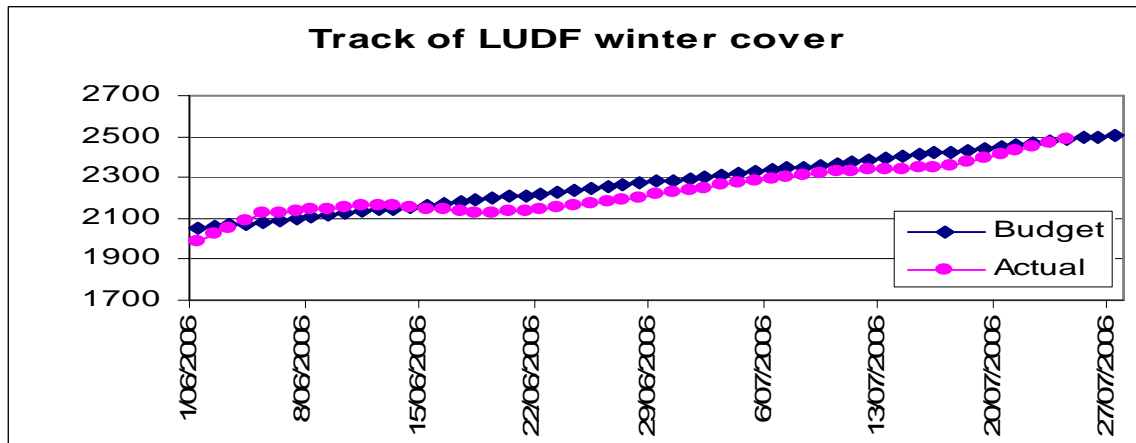
Tuesday 24th July 2007

Critical issues for the short term

1. Make sure all mobs clean their breaks and do not do pasture damage in wet weather.
2. **Back fence mobs on grass.**
3. **Make sure all cows are getting MgO dusted.**

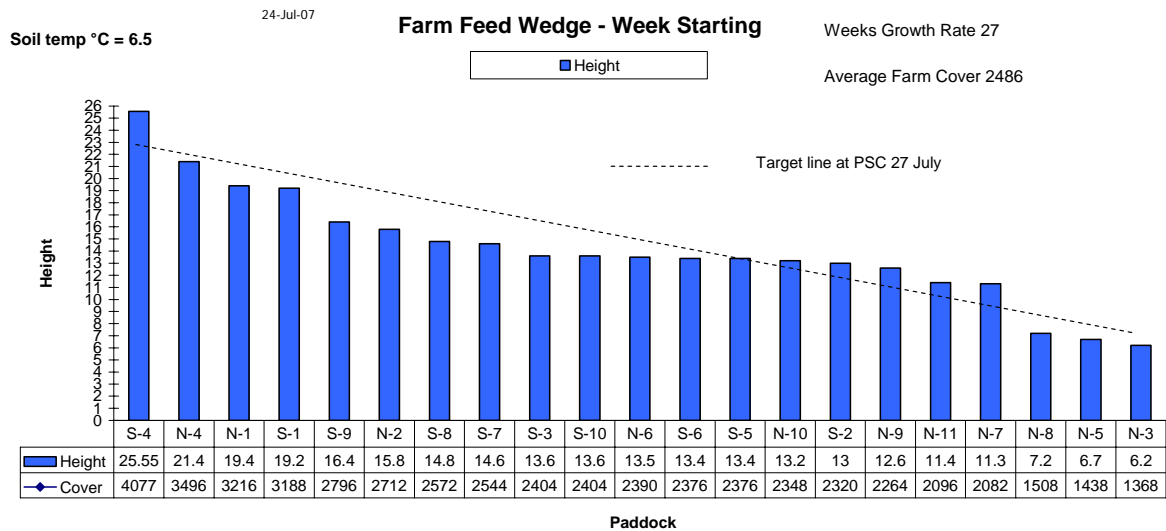
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

4. SOIL TEMPS have risen a little from 5.5° C to 6.5° C by this morning.
5. PASTURE GROWTH was up significantly to 27 kg DM/ha (last week 10). Nitrogen deficiency is even more evident in the non-effluent area of the farm.
6. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has risen from 2353 kg DM/ha to 2486 kg DM/ha. This is now almost our target cover for calving.



7. Calving is now in full swing. We have over 80 heifers calved and the main herd are now about to calve also. On days when the ground is dry we are feeding out silage to the calved cows to limit the amount of grass allocated. We are targeting an intake of 8 kg DM of grass plus 3 kg silage /cow/day. The calved cows are getting milked OAD. This will continue until half the herd has calved which will be about 14 days from now. Trial work and farmer experience shows that a short period of OAD milking at the start of the season has no effect on peak yields or annual production.
8. The springers are getting 5.4 kg DM grass plus 3 kg DM silage.
9. We are feeding silage now to reduce grass usage at a time when we still have plenty of time in the day for this extra job and the amount of silage is small.
10. We have updated our feed budgets with the current covers and using average growth rates for August and September, and our feed budget works for the first time.

11. This weeks feed wedge

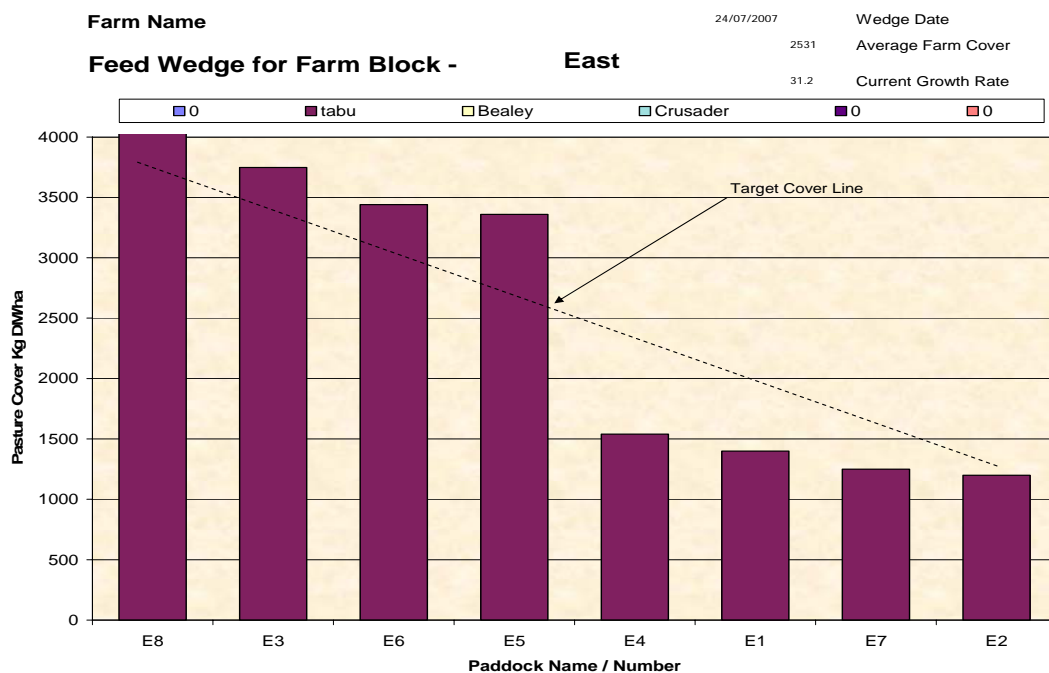


12. Our wedge is not ideal but is workable. Our average cover is now on target and another week of growth like we have just had will make a big difference. Most of our soils are dry and firm with the only issue is when it is raining and the day after.

13. Our first application of 25 kg N/ha fertilizer will happen at the end of this month if soil temperatures hold. We plan to apply this to just over a third of the farm covering those paddocks with covers between 1900 and 2300 kg DM/ha.

14. The late calving cows have finished their Kale and are now grazing on grass before they come home on the 3 August. Our early calving mature cows and late calving R2yr heifers are currently grazing a paddock of grass at the neighbours which will last until the 3 August.

15. The East block cover is holding at 2500 kg DM/ha and had a growth rate of 31 this last week.



16. The East block cover is at our PSC target.
17. Mag Oxide is being spread on the pasture at 80gm /cow/day and will increase to 100 gm /cow/day. Mag Chloride is also going through the water supply at 40 gms /cow/day and will also increase.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 31st July 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

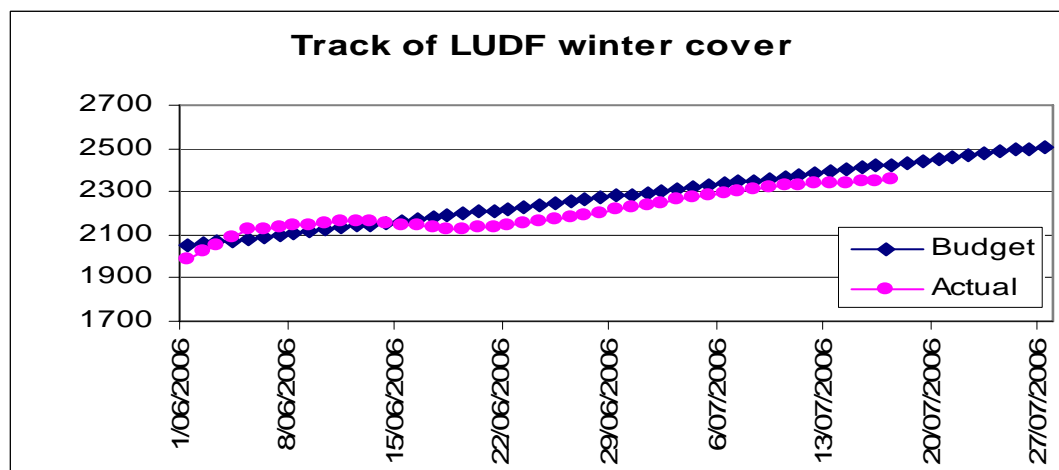
Tuesday 17th July 2007

Critical issues for the short term

1. Make sure all mobs clean their breaks and do not do pasture damage in wet weather.
2. Back fence mobs on grass.

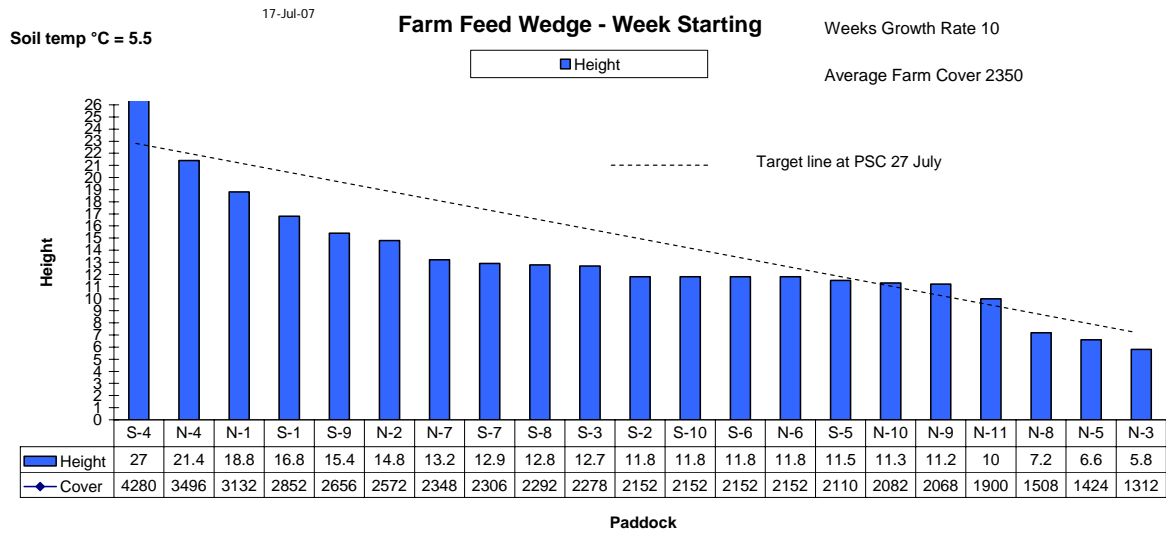
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. SOIL TEMPS had risen a little from 4.1 ° C to 5.5 ° C by this morning.
4. PASTURE GROWTH was again 10 kg DM/ha (last week 14). Nitrogen deficiency is even more evident in the non-effluent areas of the farm.
5. Application of N fertilizer is not expected to occur until August because July soil temperatures are not reliably above 5 ° C. We will review this if the weather becomes unseasonably warm and soil temperatures lift.
6. We continue to send pasture samples for analysis. These show the normal lift in %DM that we see in the winter. The DM% is now up to 24%. Our target average farm pasture cover of 2,500 kg DM /ha at PSC also assumes that this increase in DM% will occur.
7. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has risen from 2330 kg DM/ha to 2353 kg DM/ha but because of lower than budgeted growth rates we are still struggling to get to target cover at calving.



8. The heifers are back on the milking platform because they are about to start calving (19 July). They are getting an allocated intake of 3 kg DM of grass plus 3 kg silage /cow/day. They are getting access to the paddock at night and are being stood off during the day.
9. The 10 calved heifers are getting allocated 8 kgs grass plus 3 kgs of silage.
10. We are feeding silage now to reduce grass usage at a time when we still have plenty of time in the day for this extra job and the amount of silage is small.

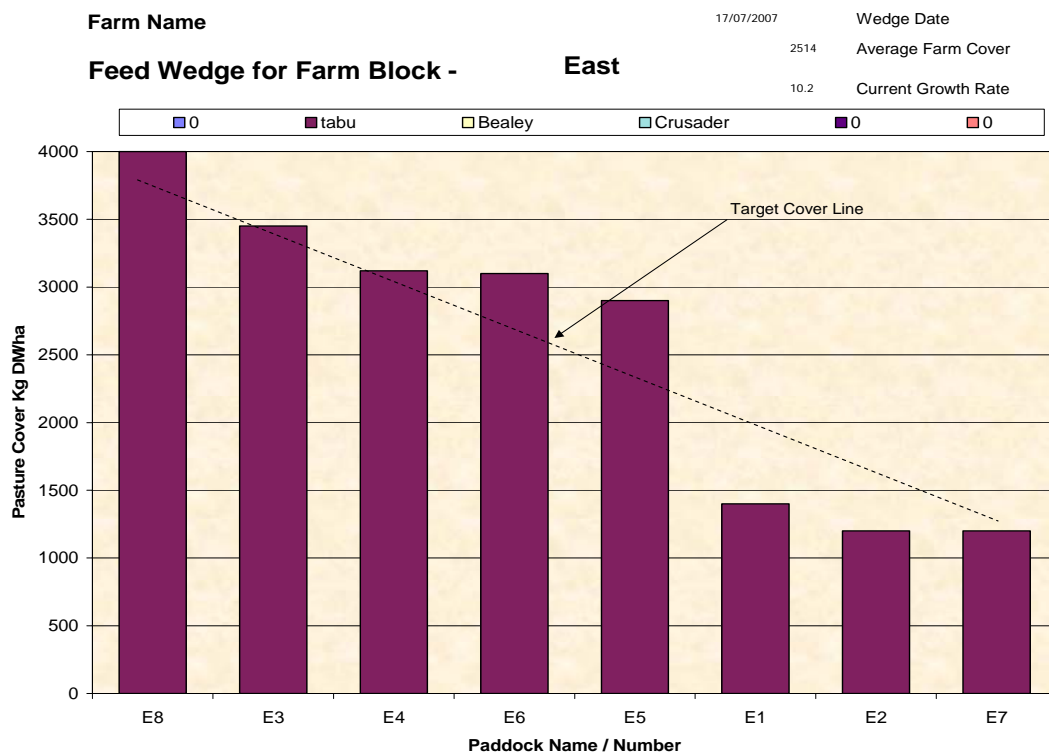
11. This weeks feed wedge



12. We are making slow progress towards filling the gap between the current cover and the minimum target for Planned Start of calving (27 July).

13. We have found 6 weeks grazing for our R1yr heifers. This has freed up grass on the Heifer and East Blocks for the R2yr heifers. We have also found another week of off farm grazing for the early calving cows. This paddock is on the farm boundary.

14. The late calving cows have a further 7 days of Kale before they will also get a period of grazing on grass before they come home. To make our feed budgets work we ideally need to be able to keep these cows off farm until the 10 Aug.



15. The average cover on the East Block has fallen from 2664 kg DM/ha to 2534 kg DM/ha after the longest paddock was grazed by the R2yr heifers. This cover is close to our PSC target. The Growth rate over the last 2 weeks was 10.2 kg DM /ha/day.
16. The cows were condition scored again. Both the early and late calving mobs had an average score of 4.9 and the range of scores was between 4.5 and 5.5. We still have 10% of cows in the early calving mob that are below 4.8 condition score. Light cows at calving will be monitored and milked on OAD leading up to mating.
17. Mag Oxide is being spread on the pasture at 50gm /cow/day and will increase to 100 gm /cow/day. Mag Chloride is also going through the water supply at 40 gms /cow/day and will also increase.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 24th July 2007 9.00am.**

Management Group

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

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

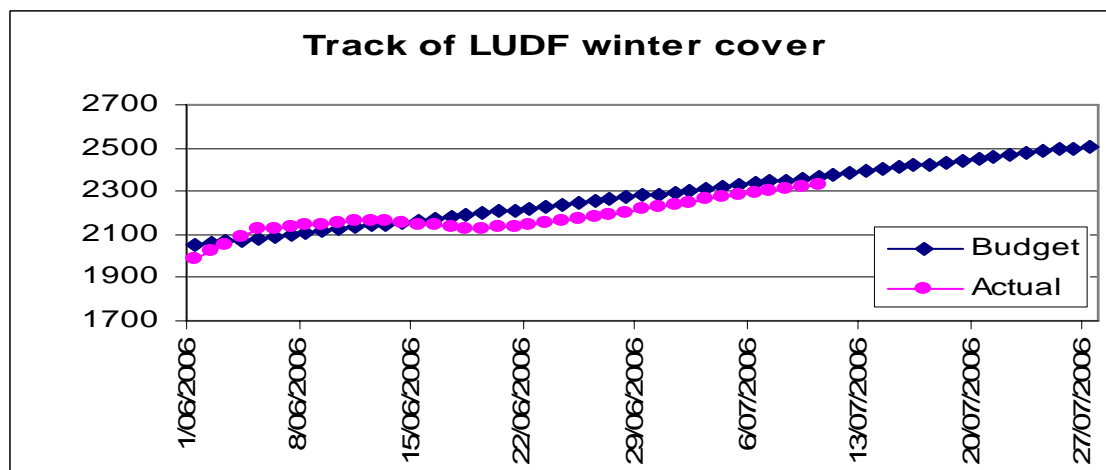
Tuesday, 10th July 2007

Critical issues for the short term

1. Make sure all mobs clean their breaks and do not cause pasture damage in wet weather.
2. Back fence mobs on grass.

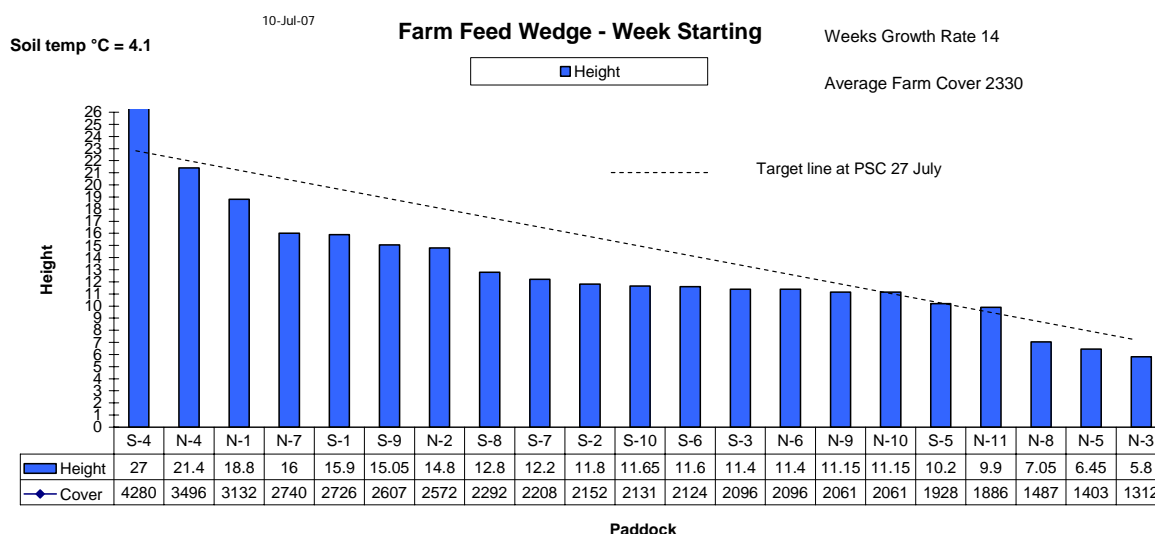
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. SOIL TEMPS have dropped again to 4.1 ° C from 8.6 ° C by this morning.
4. PASTURE GROWTH was again 14 kg DM/ha (last week 14). There is now clear evidence that the 130 ha of non-effluent areas of the farm have become nitrogen deficient. The urine patches are continuing to grow and stay green while in the areas between there is very little growth, and the leaves are yellow and showing lots of frost damage. We have not seen this in the past. The difference this year is that the last round of N applications began in the beginning of March and finished on the 4th April. In previous year this last application began in mid April and finished about the 15th May. The effluent areas continued to get applications of shed effluent through May. This area is lush, green and growing at over 20 kgs DM/day.
5. Application of N fertilizer is not expected to occur until August because July soil temperatures are not reliably above 5 ° C. We will review this if the weather becomes unseasonably warm and soil temperatures lift.
6. We continue to send pasture samples for analysis. These show the normal lift in %DM that we see in the winter. The DM% is now up to 24%. Our target average farm pasture cover of 2,500 kg DM /ha at PSC also assumes that this increase in DM% will occur.
7. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has risen from 2261 kg DM/ha to 2330 kg DM/ha.



8. We have removed the heifers from the milking platform to make sure that we get to our average farm cover target of 2500 kg DM /ha by the Start of calving on the 27 July.

9. This weeks feed wedge



10. We are again making progress towards filling the gap between the current cover and the minimum target for Planned Start of calving (27 July).
11. We have found 6 weeks grazing for our R1yr heifers. This has freed up grass on the Heifer and East Blocks for the R2yr heifers. The R2yr heifers are currently grazing the longest grass on the East Block.
12. The early calving cows are about to finish their kale and will then have 10 days grazing on grass before they come home to calve. Over the last week we have been reducing their kale allocation and increasing their access to grass.
13. The late calving cows have a further 12 days of Kale before they will also get a period of grazing on grass before they come home.
14. The average cover on the East Block has risen from 2664 kg DM/ha to 2757 kg DM/ha which is close to our PSC target. The Growth rate was 12.4.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 17th July 2007 9.00am.**

Management Group

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

NEXT FOCUS DAY - 12 July and the Dunsandel Community Hall

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

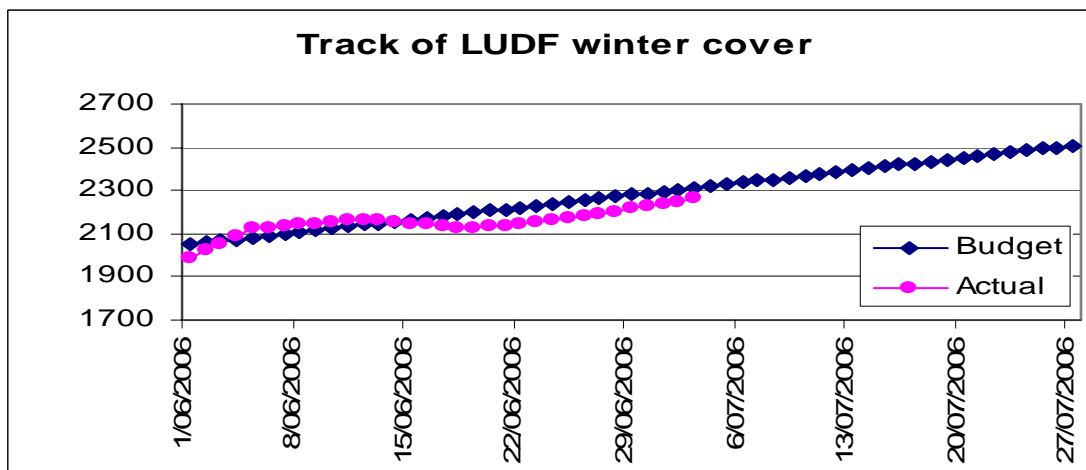
Tuesday, 3rd July 2007

Critical issues for the short term

1. Identify and report any animals that have slipped or other health issues.
2. Make sure all mobs clean their breaks and do not do pasture damage in wet weather.
3. Back fence mobs on grass.

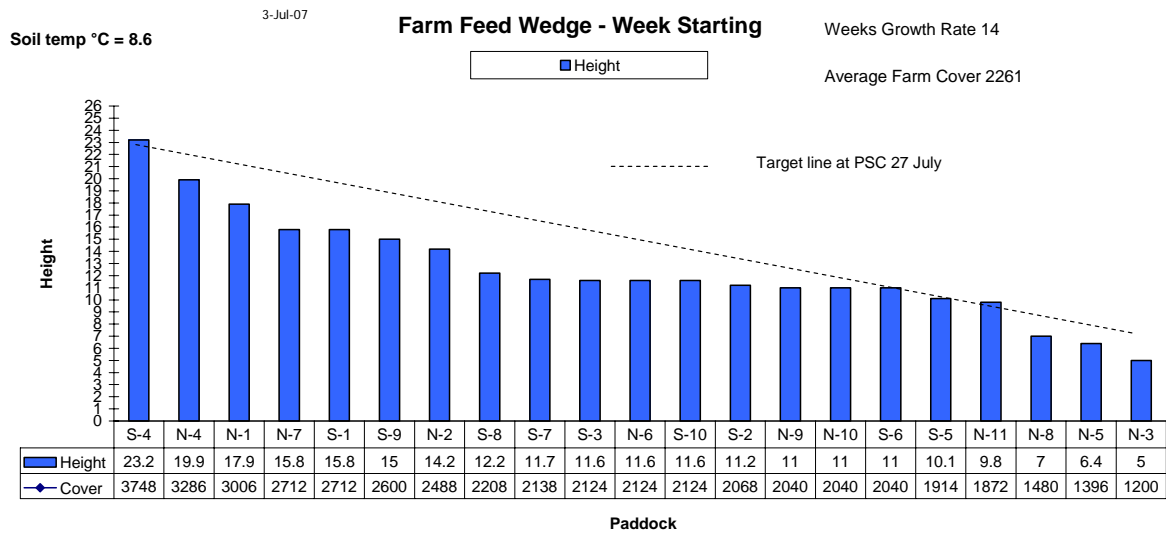
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

4. SOIL TEMPS have risen from 4.5° C to 8.6° C by this morning; the average for the week was 6 degrees.
5. PASTURE GROWTH was 14 kg DM/ha (last week 12). This growth rate is lower than expected. There is now clear evidence that the 130 ha of non-effluent areas of the farm have become nitrogen deficient. The urine patches are continuing to grow and stay green while in the areas between there is very little growth, and the leaves are yellow and showing lots of frost damage. We have not seen this in the past. The difference this year is that the last round of N applications began in the beginning of March and finished on the 4 April. In previous year this last application began in mid April and finished about the 15 May. The effluent areas continued to get applications of shed effluent through May. This area is lush, green and growing at over 20 kgs DM/day.
6. Application of N fertilizer is not expected to occur until August because July soil temperatures are not reliably above 5° C. We will review this if the weather becomes unseasonably warm and soil temperatures lift.
7. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has risen from 2180 kg DM/ha to 2261 kg DM/ha.

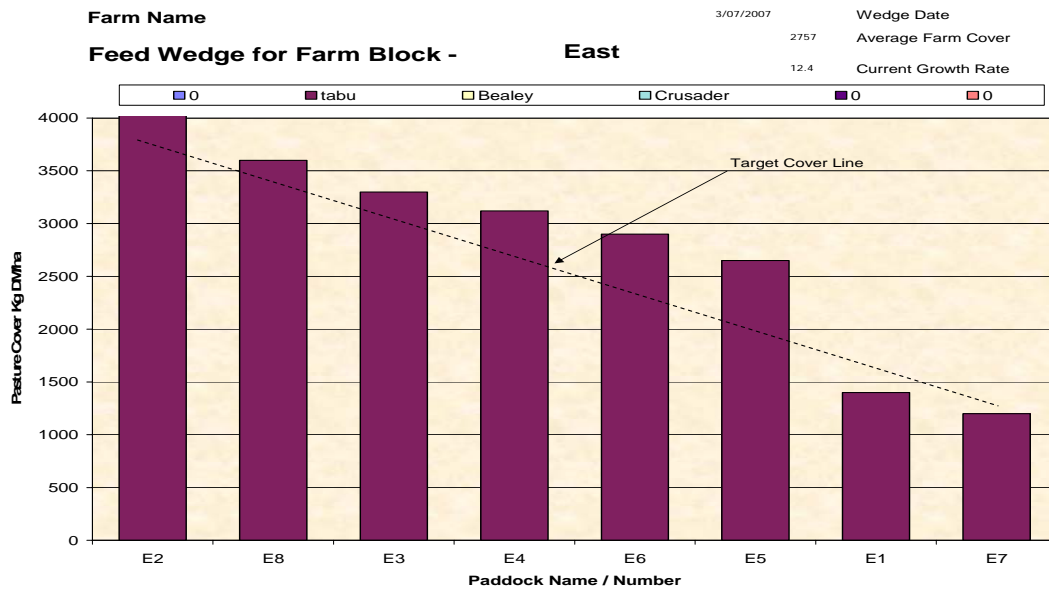


8. We have removed the heifers from the milking platform to make sure that we get to our average farm cover target of 2500 kg DM /ha by the start of calving on the 27 July. The current short period of warm weather is helping us close the gap but the forecast holds no promise of a longer term improvement in these cold conditions so we are not expecting growth rates to lift significantly.

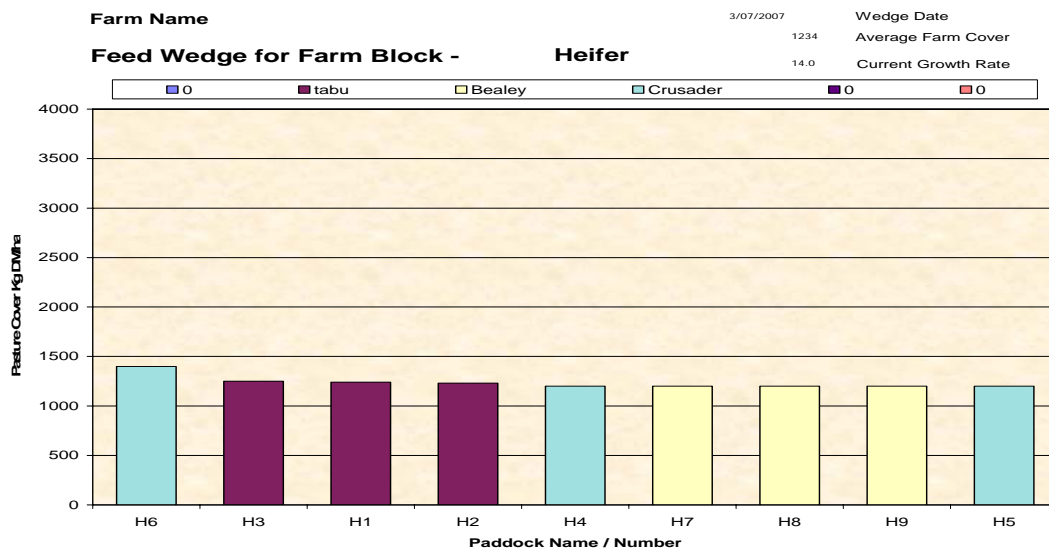
9. This weeks feed wedge



10. We are again making progress towards filling the gap between the current cover and the minimum target for Planned Start of calving (27 July). Our winter feed budgets are based on a growth rate of 17 kg DM /ha/day in July. The average for June ended up at 15, five below the 20 kg /ha/day we had in our budgets.
11. We have found 6 weeks grazing for our R1yr heifers. This has freed up grass on the Heifer and East Blocks for the R2yr heifers. We will now be able to keep them off the milking platform until the start of calving while keeping them close to the milking platform.
12. So far, after one month of winter, we have had 1 death, 1 early slip that has not come into milk, and two early calved animals which are in milk. The lame cows have fully recovered, including the four worst cases which were kept on the milking platform.
13. All our dry cow mobs will be getting Kale as part of their winter diet. We have transitioned this slowly into their diet by giving them limited but increasing access to the Kale for the first 7 days. This week the cows on kale will be getting 10 kg DM kale plus 2 kg DM straw. These cows are receiving Iodine in their water supply. The aim is to get through the Kale while soil conditions are dry and then have the cows fully transitioned back onto all grass well before they come home to calve.
14. We are drafting more thin cows from the early calving cows feeding on Kale. We will have 45 cows that have not been putting on weight as fast as they need to and are now adlib fed grass. Each week we continue to check through the cows and look for any cows that are not thriving. This week a further 3 cows have been identified to be added to the all grass mob. The first cows to go into this all grass mob have caught up with their herd mates on the Kale. We will leave them in the all grass mob.
15. Last week the condition score of the remainder of the Early cows are an average of 4.7 and the Late cows are at 4.76.
16. The average cover on the East Block has risen from 2664 kg DM/ha to 2757 kg DM/ha which is close to our PSC target. The Growth rate was 12.4.



17. The new Heifer block cover continues to be well behind budget. Growth this week was 14 kg DM /ha/day and finally some growth is occurring on the young grass paddocks. Cover continues to decline as the longest paddock is grazed.



18. We are continuing to find ongoing pasture damage from grass grub. The badly affected area is limited to about 16 ha or 10% of the farm with slight damage elsewhere. We expect this will impact on early spring growth in the affected paddocks.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY, 10th July 2007 at 9.00am.**

Management Group

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

NEXT FOCUS DAY - 12 July at the Dunsandel Community Hall