

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

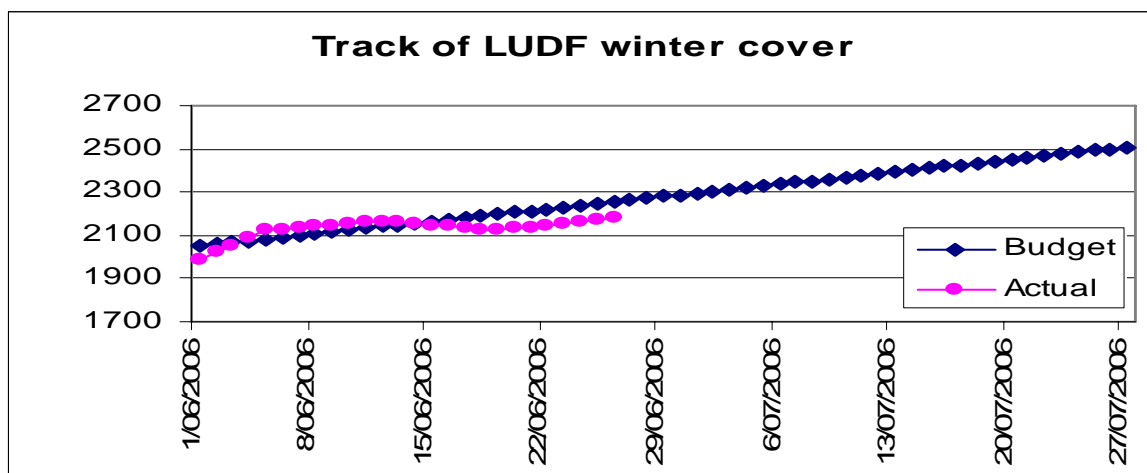
Tuesday, 26th June 2007

Critical issues for the short term

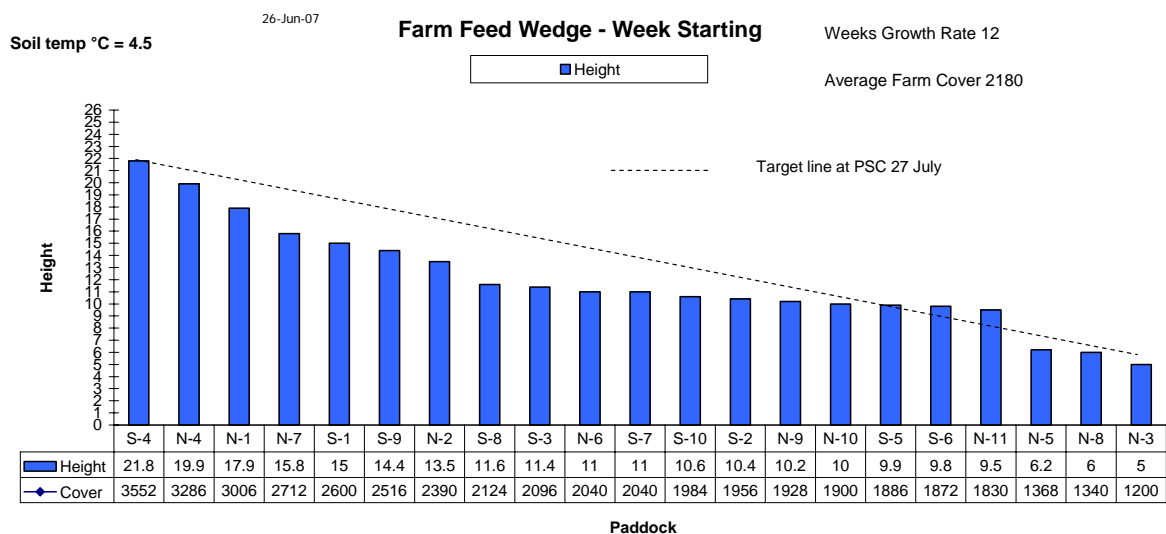
1. Identify and report any animals that have slipped, or any other health issues.
2. Make sure all mobs clean their breaks and do not do pasture damage in wet weather.

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

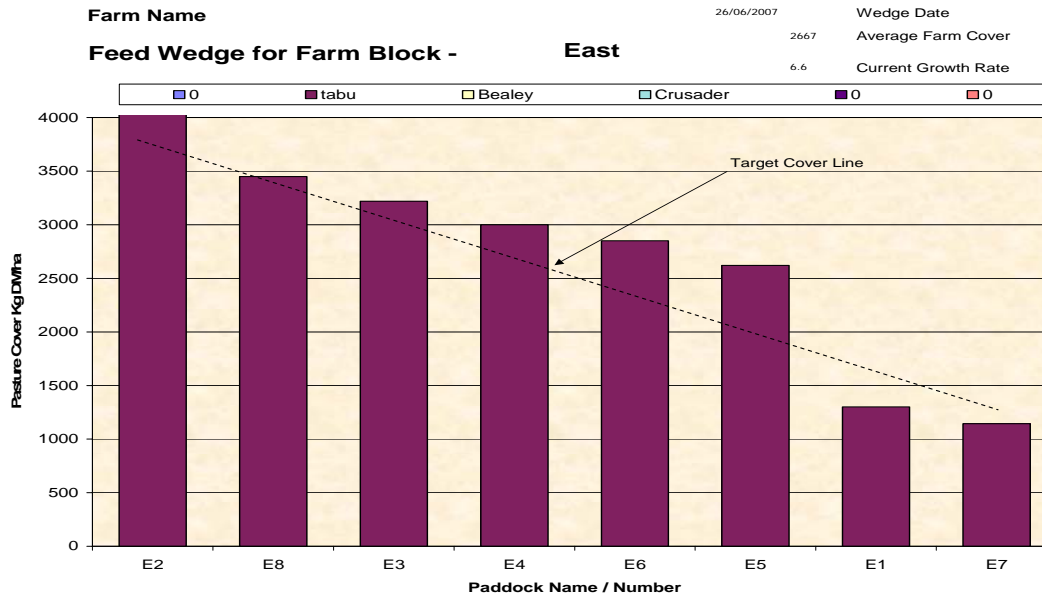
3. SOIL TEMPS have risen from 3.0 °C to 4.5 °C.
4. PASTURE GROWTH was 12 kg DM/ha (last week 8).
5. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has risen from 2123 kg DM/ha to 2180 kg DM/ha.



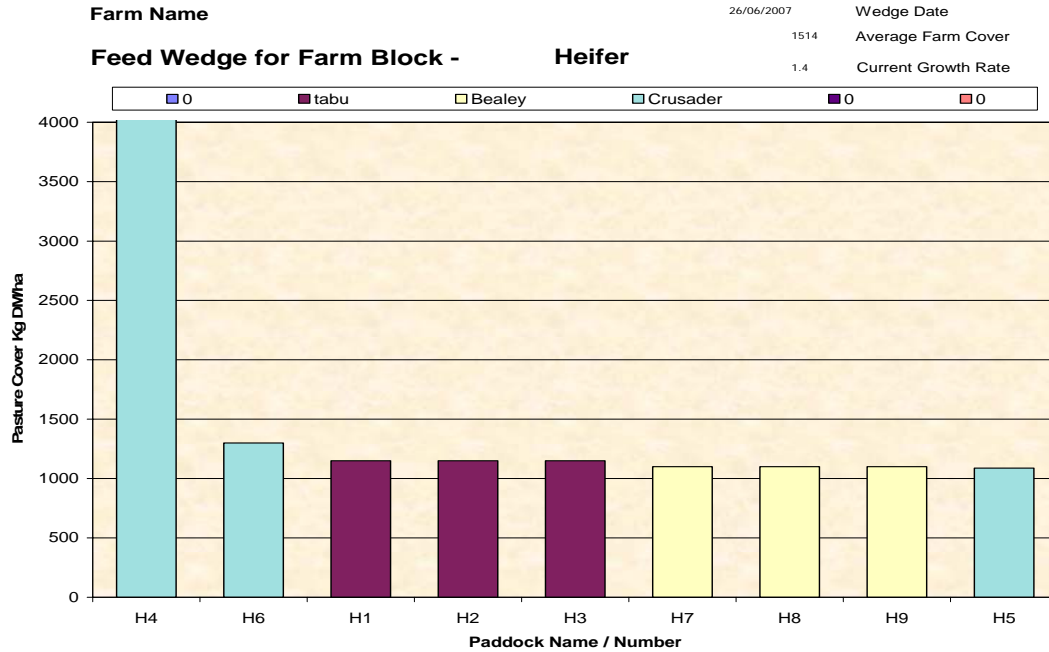
6. We have removed the heifers from the milking platform to make sure that we get to our average farm cover target of 2500 kg DM /ha by the start of calving on the 27 July. The weather forecast holds no promise of an improvement in these cold conditions so we are not expecting growth rates to lift significantly.



7. 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 in of 17 kg DM /ha/day in July. The average for June ended up close to the 20 kg /ha/day we had in our budgets.
8. 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.
9. First heifer has already calved and is in milk.
10. 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.
11. 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. This has definitely made a positive difference to this group. Each week we continue to check through the cows and look for any cows which are not thriving. The condition score of the remainder of the Early cows are an average of 4.7 and the Late cows are at 4.76.



12. The average cover on the East Block has risen from 2614 kg DM/ha to 2664 kg DM/ha which is close to our PSC target. The Growth rate was 6.6 down from 11 kg DM/ha/day last week.
13. The new Heifer block cover continues to be well behind budget with little or no growth occurring on the young grass paddocks. Cover continues to decline as the longest paddock is grazed.



14. The result of very slow growth on the 33ha Heifer block is that our overall feed budget is falling behind by about 2t of feed a week. While this continues we are going to be looking to source replacement feed.
15. The non-effluent areas of the milking platform are now looking N deficient compared with the effluent areas. Our policy is to wait until soil temperatures are consistently above 5 deg C before we will apply N. This usually does not occur until August.
16. 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.
17. Milking machine test and check as been done and various staff are taking holidays.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 3rd July 2007 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

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

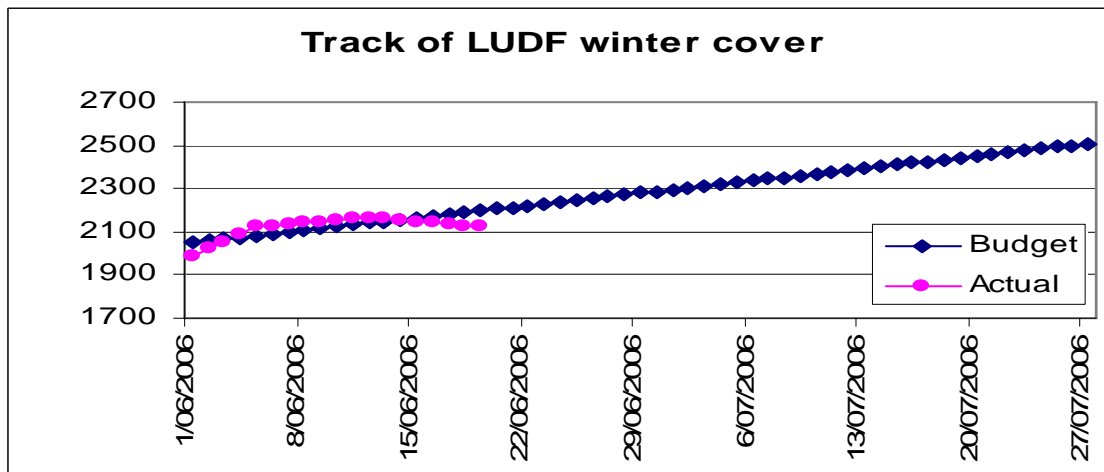
Tuesday 19th June 2007

Critical issues for the short term

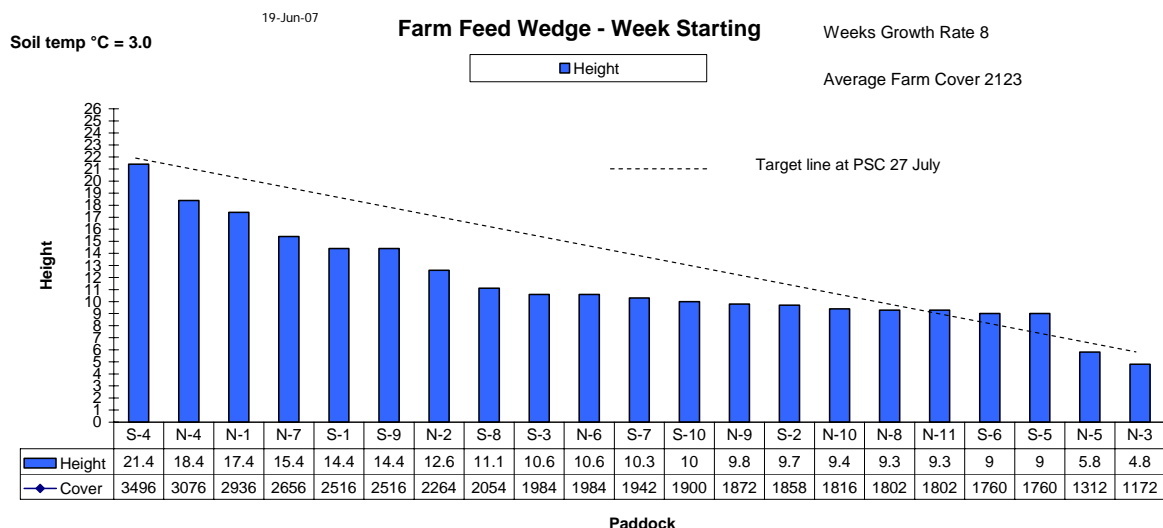
1. Make sure that any cows treated with dry cow therapy do not get sent to the works.
2. Identify and report any animals that have slipped or other health issues.
3. Make sure all mobs clean their breaks.

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

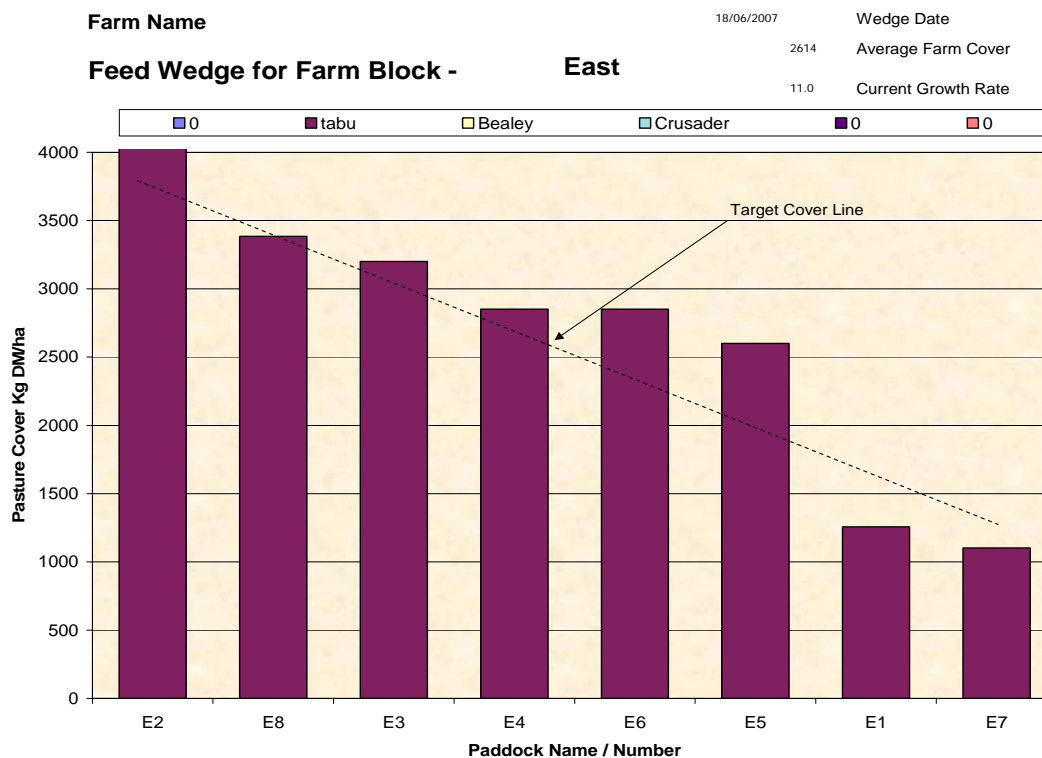
4. SOIL TEMPS dropped from 5.9° C to 3.0° C.
5. PASTURE GROWTH was 8 kg DM/ha (last week 17).
6. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has dropped slightly from 2165 kg DM/ha to 2123 kg DM/ha. This drop is within the margin of measuring error.



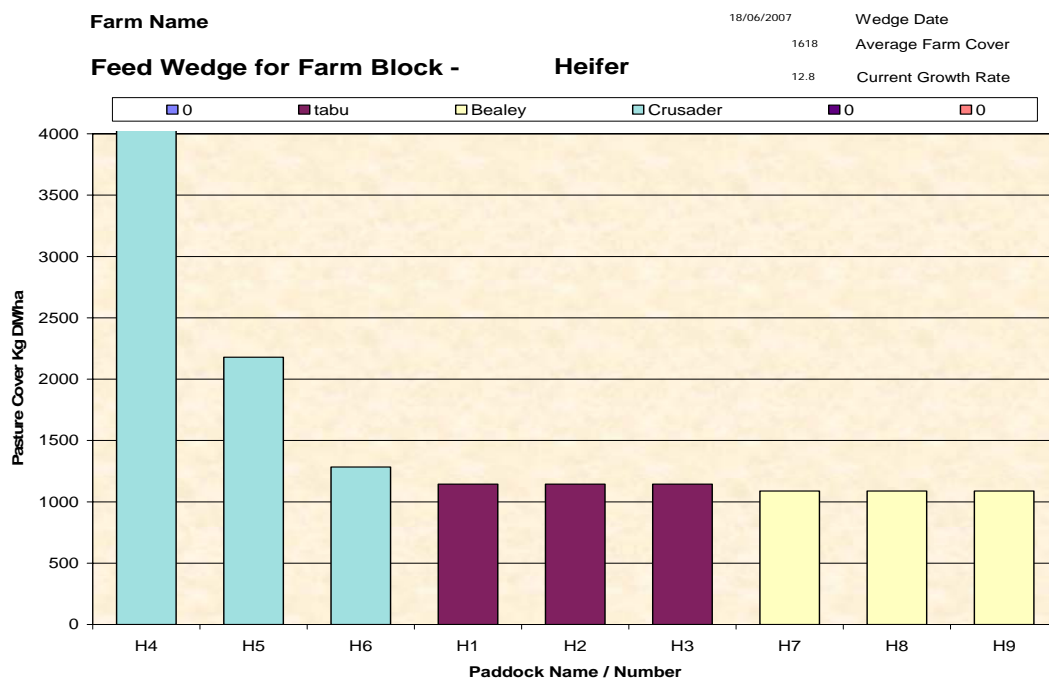
7. We are currently eating all the growth on the milking platform even though the heifer mob are also getting 1.6 kg DM /day of silage. The weather forecast hold no promise of an improvement in these cold conditions so we are not expecting growth rates to lift significantly. The target cover at calving is most critical to achieve, so we will be very aggressively looking for additional feed of farm.



8. We have made no progress towards 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 in June of 20 kg DM /ha/day and 17 kg DM /ha/day in July. The average for June ended up close to the 20 kg /ha/day we had in our budgets.
9. We are rethinking our grazing options in light of low soil temperatures and very slow growth. Our neatest solution would be to find additional off farm grazing for the R1yr heifers. This would then mean that the R2yr heifers could be kept close to the milking platform.
10. The R2 yr heifers are in condition score 5.5 and will only need to be allocated 6 - 8 kgs above residual. They are the first group to calve and so being on the milking platform means that the can be put through the shed to get used to a rotary cowshed as well as being teat sprayed several times a week. This has been a slow process and so far they have got used to being in the yards.
11. First heifer has already calved and is in milk.
12. 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.
13. Twenty seven early calving cows feeding on Kale have not been putting on weight and have been drafted out and will be adlib fed grass. Each week we continue to check through the cows and look for any cows which are not thriving. We have about 3 weeks left to put increased Condition Score on these cows.



14. The average cover on the East Block has risen from 2548 kg DM/ha to 2614 kg DM/ha which is close to our PSC target. The Growth rate was 11 kg DM/ha/day. If we can find additional feed for our R1yr heifers we will calve our R2yr heifers on the East Block until the cover on the milking platform has reached the target. (The cover for this block was reported at 2627, this figure was incorrect due to a pasture cover error on one paddock)
15. The new Heifer block is well behind because 2/3 of the block was only sown into pasture in April and has just had its first nip off this week. Our average target cover has continued to drop. This week it has dropped from 1827 to 1618 kg DM/ha even though the growth rate has been 12.8 kg DM/ha/day. We have slowed the calves down with the use of some silage and now expect that we will get a further 14 to 18 days of feed off this block before we will be looking for grass off the East Block for these animals.



16. Review important aspects in the Operations Manual with new staff e.g. effluent management, dairy shed wash down and vat wash down.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 26th June 2007 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

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

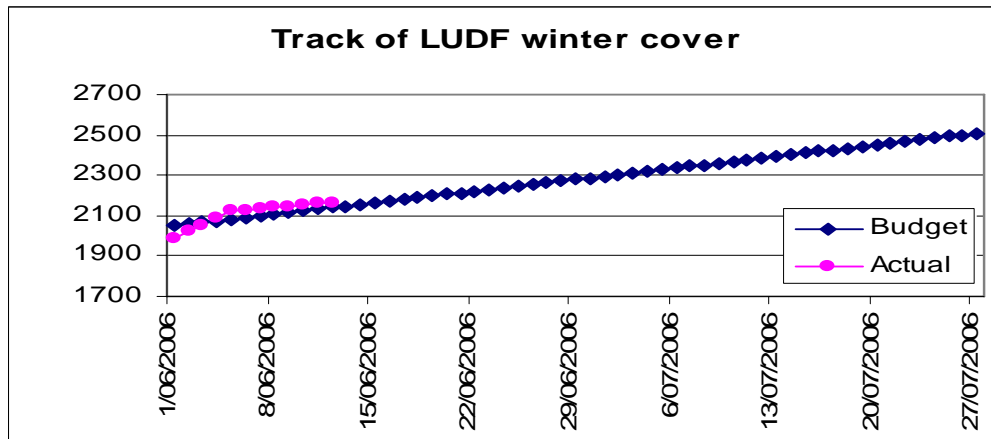
Tuesday 12th June 2007

Critical issues for the short term

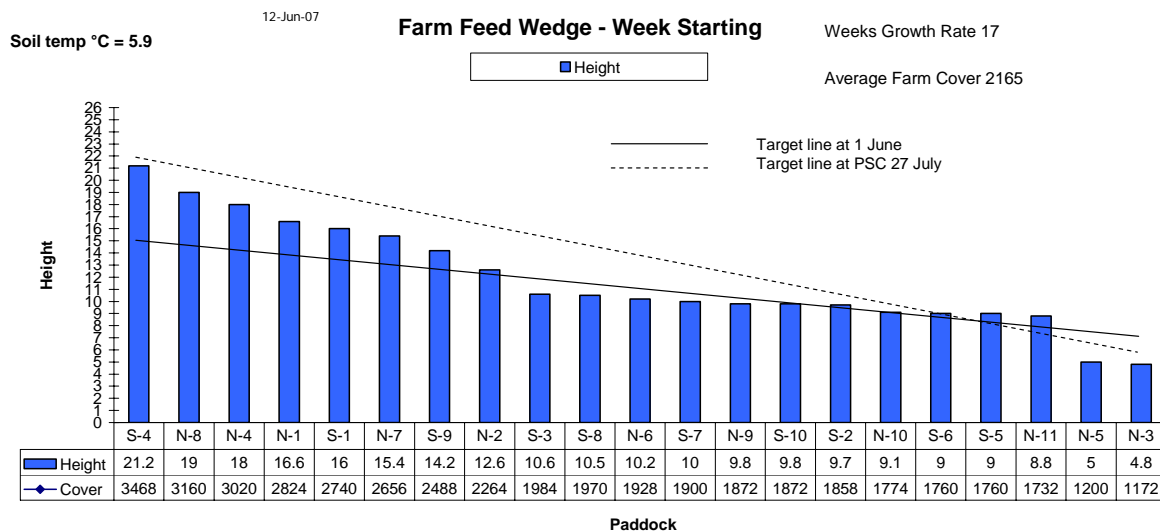
1. Make sure that any cows treated with dry cow therapy do not get sent to the works.
2. Identify and report any animals that have slipped or other health issues.
3. Book annual shed check.

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

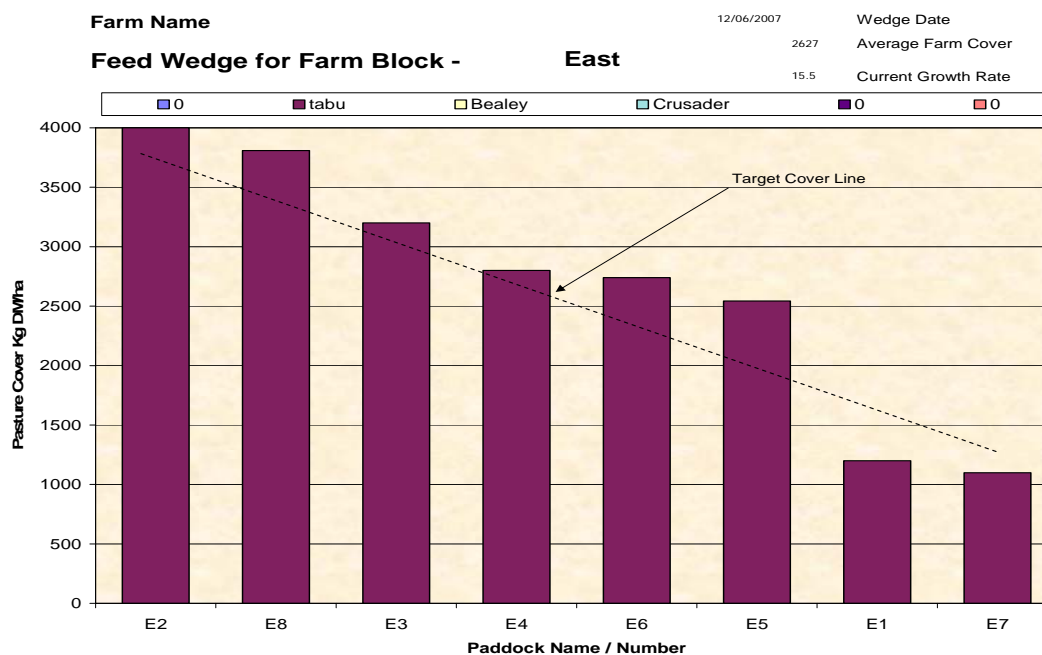
4. SOIL TEMPS dropped from 7.5° C to 5.9° C.
5. PASTURE GROWTH was 17 kg DM/ha (last week 23).
6. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has risen from 2124 kg DM/ha to 2165 kg DM/ha.



7. We are slowly filling the gap between the cover on 1 June and the minimum target for Planned Start of calving (27 July). Our winter feed budgets are based on a growth rate in June of 20 kgs /ha/day and an over winter feed demand from the heifers of 6.5 kg DM/ha.
8. This weeks feed wedge

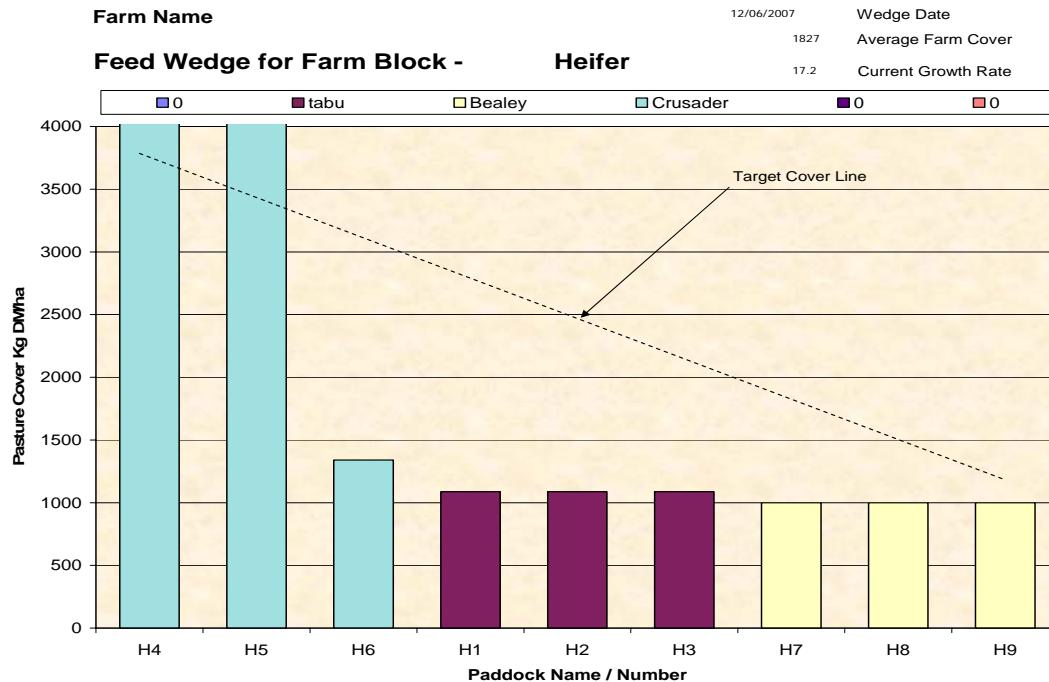


9. The R2 yr heifers are in condition score 5.5 and will only need to be allocated 6 - 8 kgs above residual. They are the first group to calve and so being on the milking platform means that they can be put through the shed to get used to a rotary cowshed as well as being teat sprayed several times a week.
10. 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 kale plus straw. These cows are receiving Iodine in their water supply.
11. Eighteen early calving cows feeding on Kale have not been putting on weight and have been drafted out and will be adlib fed grass. We have about 3 weeks left to put increased Condition Score on these cows. Their condition score is between 4.0 and 4.25.
12. The remaining early calving cows have an average condition score of 4.65. They will be monitored fortnightly and next time any cows not above 4.5 will also be drafted into the all grass mob.
13. The target cover lines on the two following graphs represent the budgeted average pasture cover for 1 June. The plan is to build cover on the East Block to an average of over 2600 by the PSC. The new heifer grazing block will not have enough pasture on it this winter to feed our R1yr heifers. If required these animals will be grazed on the East block and if further feed is required we will be purchasing additional short term grazing to make this feed budget work.



14. The average cover on the East Block has risen from 2619 kg DM/ha to 2627 kg DM/ha which is close to our PSC target. The Growth rate was 15.5 kg DM/ha/day. Our R1yr heifers will be used to graze any surplus grass above the 2500 average cover required on this block by PSC.

15. The new Heifer block is well behind because 2/3 of the block was only sown into pasture in April and has just had its first nip off this week. Our average target cover has continued to drop. This week it has dropped from 1951 to 1827 kg DM/ha even though the growth rate has been 17.2 kg DM/ha/day. We expect that we will get a further 14 days of feed off this block before we will be looking for grass off the East Block for these animals.



16. All the essential preparation jobs that must be done for the farm to be fully set up for calving have been put onto a job list. The jobs have been prioritised and a person has been allocated to each job.

17. Review important aspects in the Operations Manual with new staff e.g. effluent management, dairy shed wash down and vat wash down.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 19th June 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

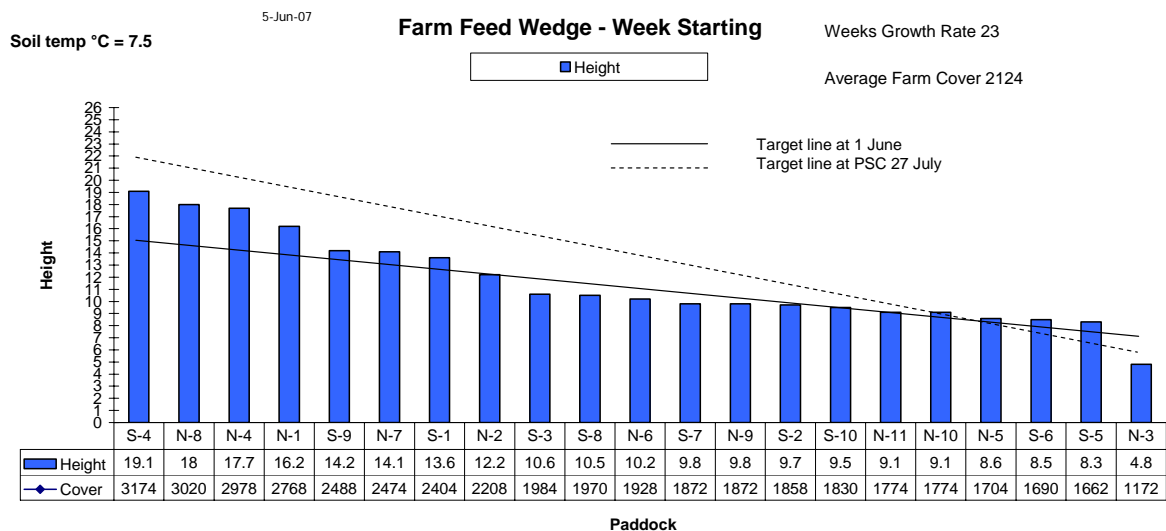
Tuesday, 5th June 2007

Critical issues for the short term

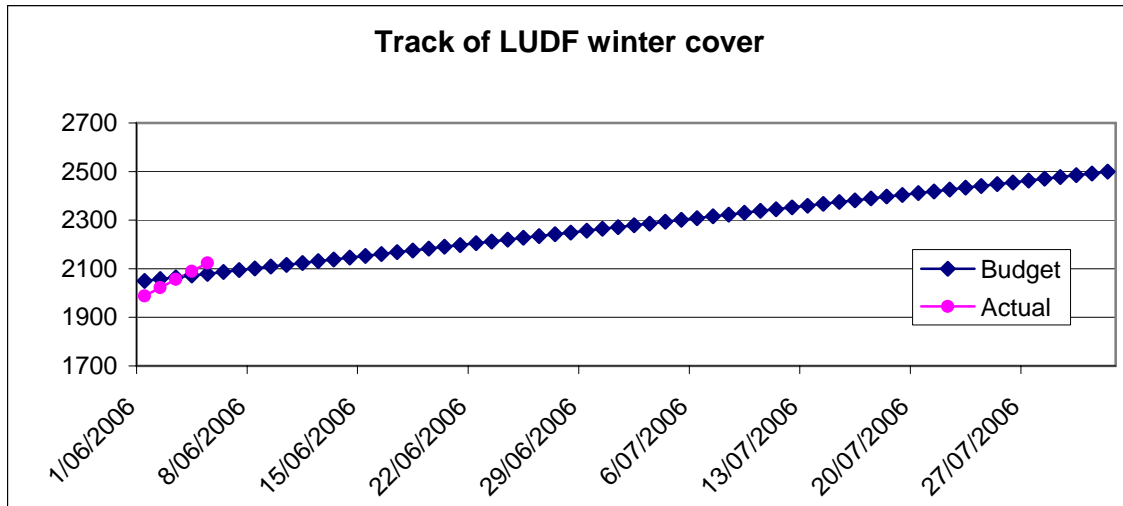
1. Make sure that any cows treated with dry cow therapy do not get sent to the works.
2. Identify and report any animals that have slipped, or have other health issues.

<h3>Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance</h3>

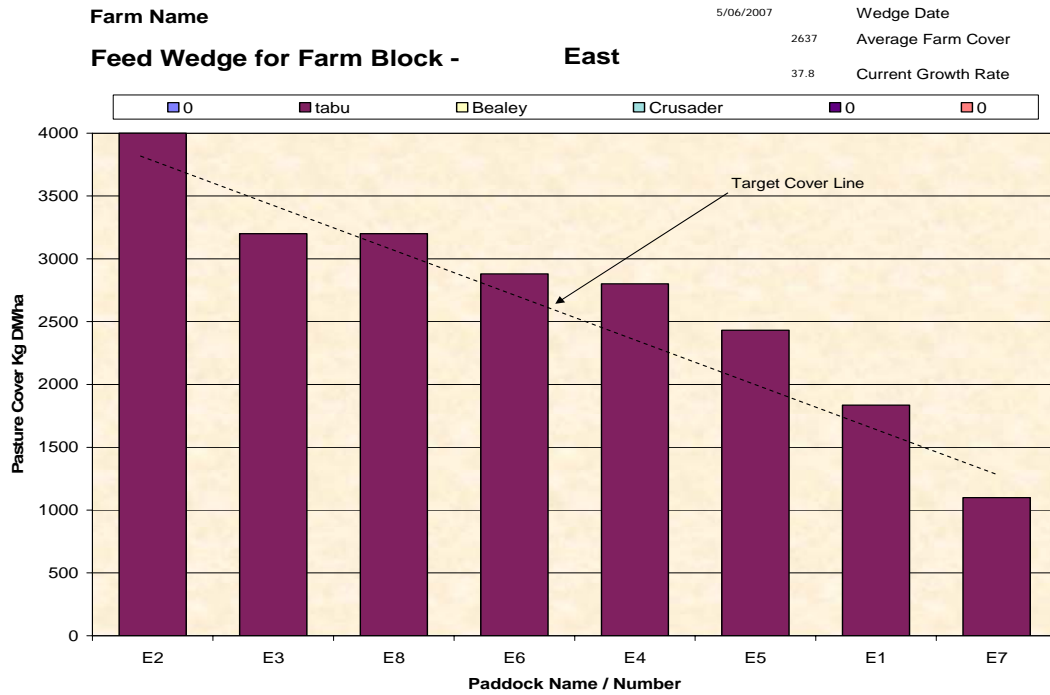
3. SOIL TEMPS dropped to 7.5° C.
4. PASTURE GROWTH was 23 kg DM/ha (last week 26).
5. Is soil moisture limiting? Last week we were considering irrigating. Prior to the rain we had soil moisture deficit readings that were about half way between field capacity and stress point. This indicates that there was no need to irrigate. It has rained a little and temperatures have dropped, soils remain quite dry with cattle able to graze to target residuals with no soiling.
6. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has risen 2124 kg DM/ha from 1988 kg DM/ha a week ago as we have reduced demand by drying off the herd. In last weeks notes we reported a lower cover on the milking platform.
7. All empty cows have been culled, and the last of the late calving cows that have been sold have left the property.
8. This weeks feed wedge



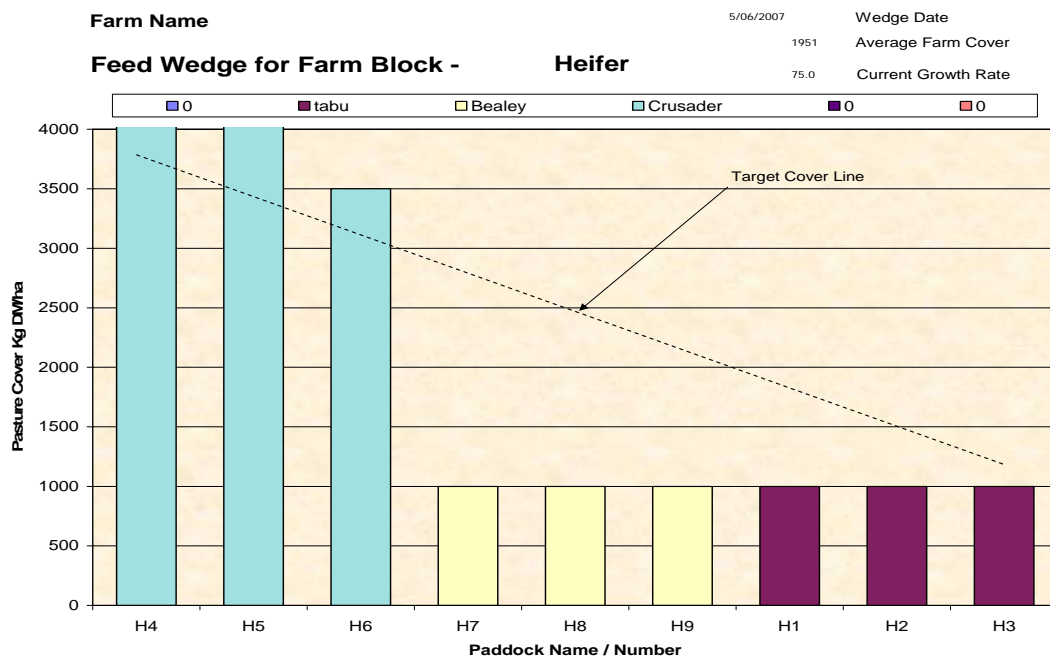
9. We are slowly filling the gap between the cover on 1 June and the minimum target for Planned Start of calving (27 July). Our winter feed budgets are based on a growth rate in June of 20 kgs /ha/day. These weeks of better growth rates are welcome.



10. From now on it is very important to monitor how average pasture cover is tracking on the milking platform, and updated every week. Every week we update our feed budget and make decisions about where stock are and their allocation to make sure that we reach the target cover at PSC. Some cows will be on farm to keep this pasture cover in the shape of a wedge.
11. The R2yr heifers will come to the milking platform in about 2 days. Our feed budgets, which are based on average growth rate over June & July, indicate that even with our 160 R2yr heifers on the milking platform over the winter we should reach the target average cover required at the PSC.
12. The R2 yr heifers are in condition score 5.5 and will only need to be allocated 6 - 8 kgs above residual. They are the first group to calve and so being on the milking platform means that they can be put through the shed to get used to a rotary cowshed, as well as being teat sprayed, several times a week.
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 kale plus straw. These cows are receiving Iodine in their water supply.
14. Some early calving light cows will be drafted from dry cows on the Kale and will be adlib fed grass.
15. From now on we are also going to do regular monitoring of pasture covers and the shape of the wedge on our two support blocks. The 18ha East Block and the 33 ha Heifer Block.
16. The target cover lines on the two following graphs represent the budgeted average pasture cover for 1 June. The plan is to build cover on the East Block to an average of over 2600 by the PSC. The new heifer grazing block will not have enough pasture on it this winter to feed our R1yr heifers. If required these animals will be grazed on the East block and if further feed is required we will be purchasing additional short term grazing to make this feed budget work.



17. The average cover on the East Block is 2637 which is close to our PSC target. Our R1yr heifers will be used to graze any surplus grass.



18. The new Heifer block is well behind because 2/3 of the block was only sown into pasture in April and has just had its first nip off this week. Our average target cover has dropped from 2352 to 1951 kg DM/ha. We expect that we will get a further 21 days of feed off this block before we will be looking for grass off the East Block for these animals.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 12th June 2007 9.00am.**

Management Group

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