

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

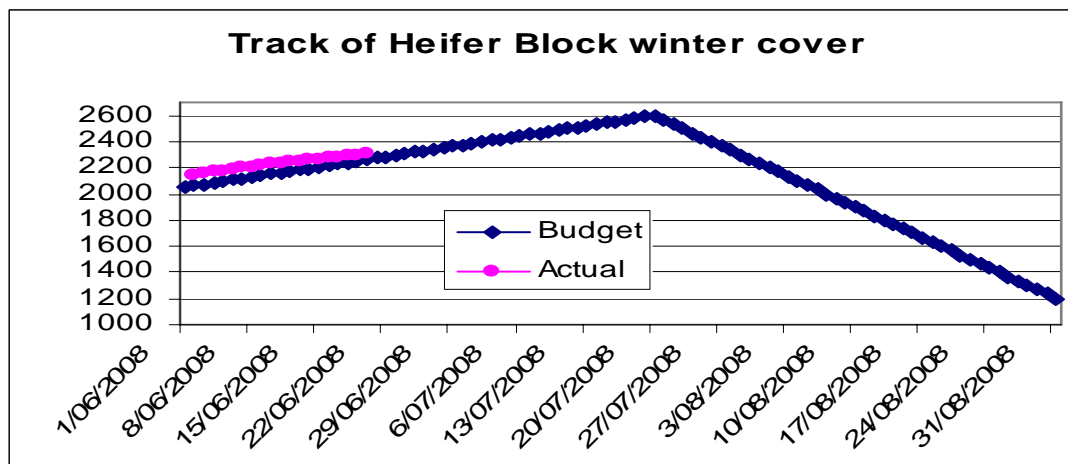
Friday, 20th June 2008

Critical issues for the short term

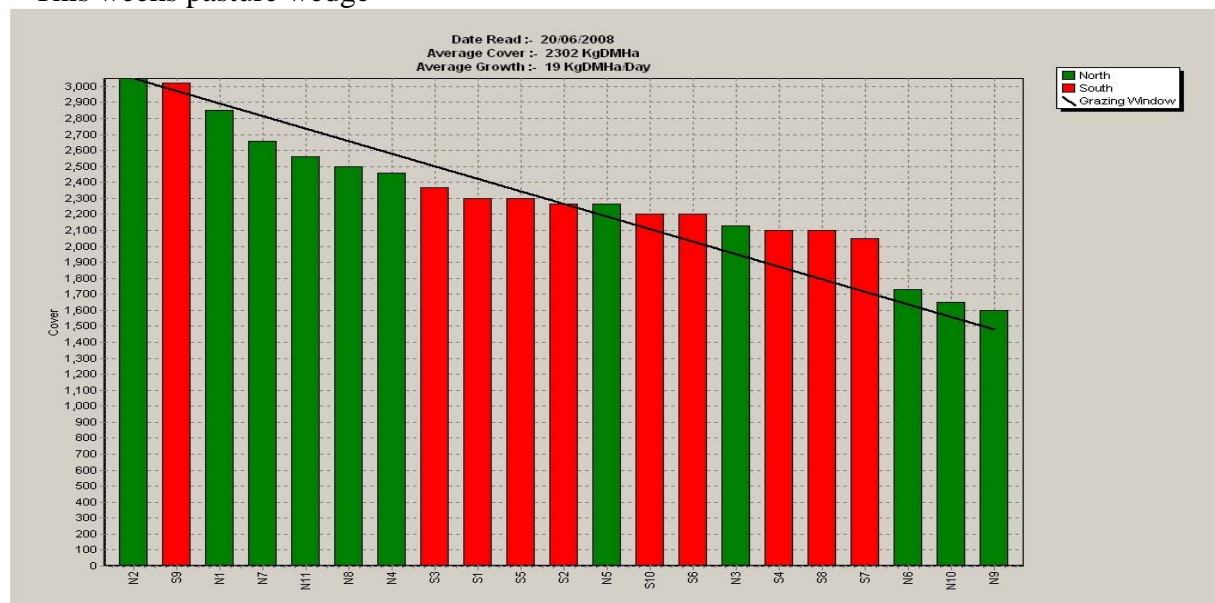
1. Monitor condition score gain and draft out cows not making fast enough progress, particularly those mobs on Kale.

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

2. SOIL TEMP had increased to 10 °C during the week but is now 3 °C.
3. PASTURE GROWTH was 19 kg DM/ha (last week 8 on the milking platform).
4. Average pasture cover has risen from 2190 kg DM/ha to 2302 kg DM/ha which still exceeds our target of 2263 kg DM /ha at 20 June.



5. This week we have had 130 of the thinnest cows on the milking platform getting 12 kg grass and 165 heifers getting 6 kg DM/day for 2 days while we treated them with teat seal.
6. This weeks pasture wedge



7. The target line is at the average cover for our budgets for today and the wedge shows that we have achieved this and the wedge is getting steeper in shape. Ground conditions are also firm.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday, **1st July 2008 at 9.00am.**

Farmers or their managers are always welcome to walk with us. Please call to notify us of your intention and bring your plate meter.

Management Group

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

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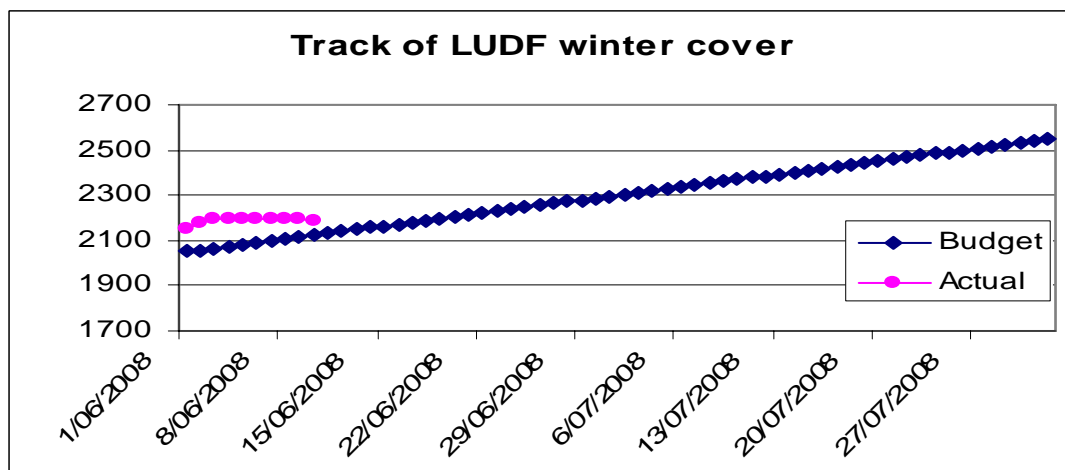
Tuesday, 10th June 2008

Critical issues for the short term

1. Closely observe dry cows for any sign of swollen quarters and treat if found.
2. Monitor condition score gain and draft out cows not making fast enough progress, particularly those mobs on Kale.

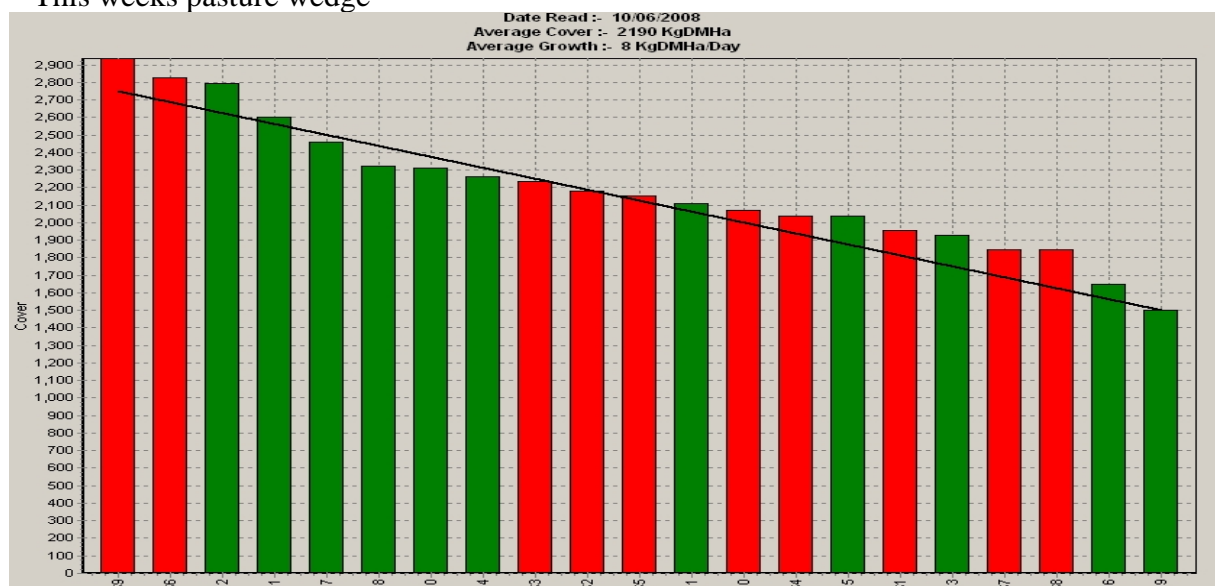
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. SOIL TEMP has been at 5 °C for most of the week.
4. PASTURE GROWTH was 8 kg DM/ha (last week 32) on the milking platform.
5. Average pasture cover has fallen slightly from 2205 kg DM/ha to 2190 kg DM/ha which still exceeds our target of 2124 kg DM /ha at 10 June.



6. We currently have 148 of the thinnest cows on the milking platform getting 7 kg grass and 5 kg silage.

7. This weeks pasture wedge



8. The target line is at the average cover for our budgets for today and the wedge shows that we have achieved this and the wedge is getting steeper in shape. Ground conditions are also firm.
9. Currently the 18ha East Block cover is 2075 same as last week and the 33 Heifer Block cover is risen from 2150 kg DM/ha to 2219 kg DM/ha. The target for both at the planned start of calving is at least 2500 kg DM/ha

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday **17th June 2008 at 9.00am.**

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Management Group

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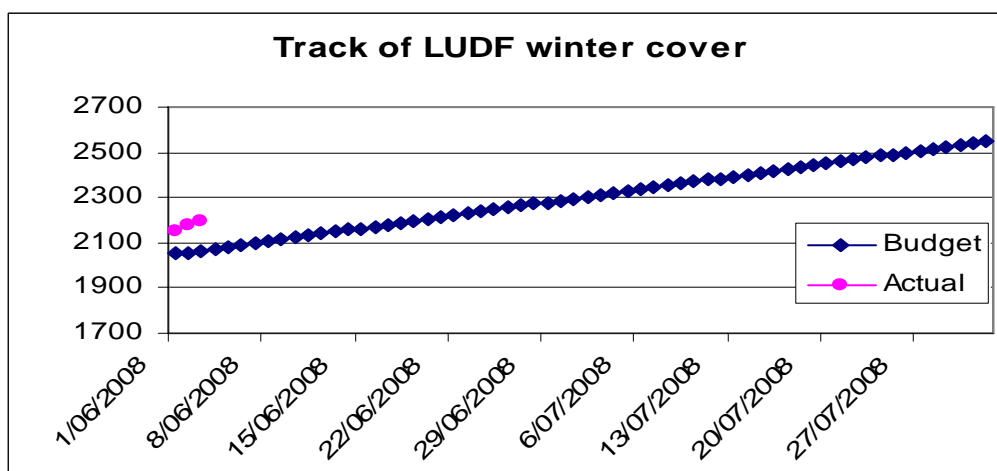
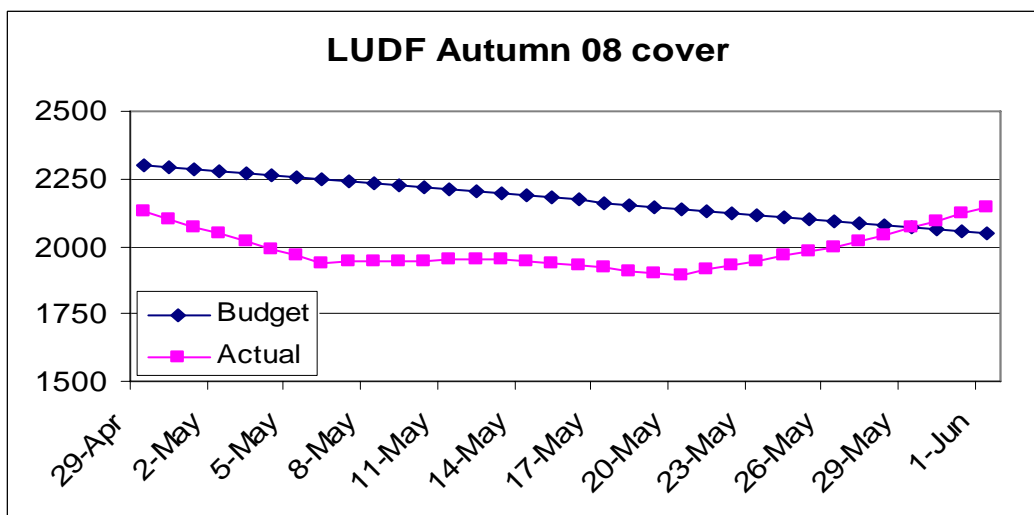
Tuesday, 3rd June 2008

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Closely observe dry cows for any sign of swollen quarters and treat if found.**
2. **Monitor condition score gain and draft out cows not making fast enough progress, particularly those mobs on Kale.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

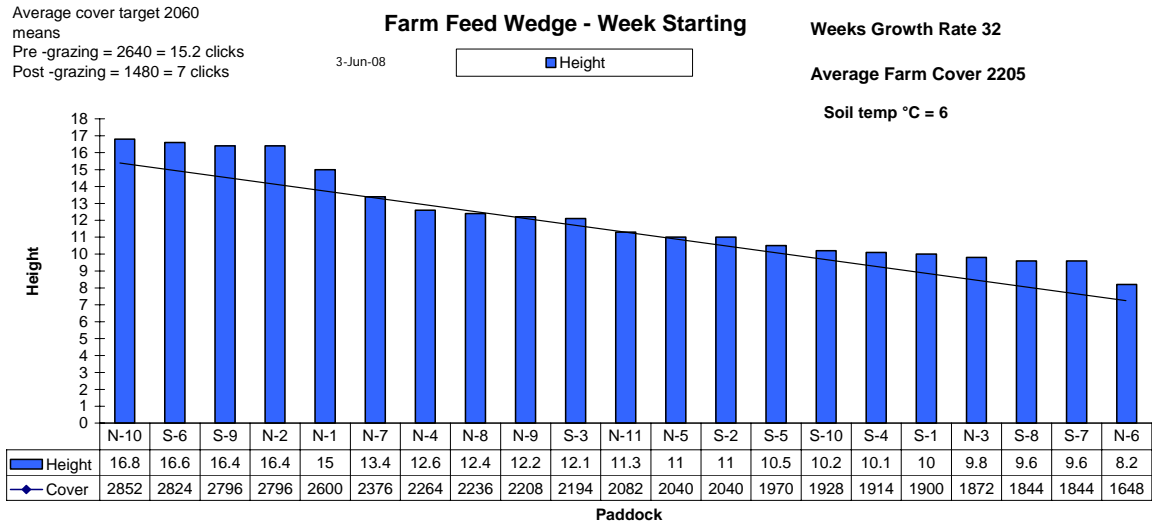
3. SOIL TEMP has been at 5 ° C for most of the week but has now risen to 7 ° C (6.5 last week).
4. PASTURE GROWTH was 32 kg DM/ha (last week 21) on the milking platform. It would seem that last weeks walk during a heavy dew may have resulted in an under reading of cover and so a lower than actual growth rate also reported.
5. Average pasture cover has risen from 2017 kg DM/ha to 2205 kg DM/ha which exceeds our target of 2060 kg DM /ha at 1 June and is tracking slightly above our target line for the winter.



6. We currently have 148 of the thinnest cows on the milking platform getting 6 kg grass and 6 kg silage. With the cover now being above target we will consider reducing the amount of silage and increasing the amount of grass.

7.

This weeks pasture wedge



8. The target line is at the average cover for our budgets for today and the wedge shows that we have achieved this and the wedge is getting steeper in shape. Ground conditions are also firm.

9. The last stages of the sorting of the cows has been done now. We have ended up with 5 mobs. R2yr's, R3yr's, light cows and two mature better conditioned mobs. The two mature fatter mobs are the only cows on Kale. The other three mobs are on grass only (with grass silage if required).

10. Current condition Scores are; R2yr's = 5.5, R3yr's = 4.6, light cows = 4.3, mature mob 1 = 4.6, and mature mob 2 = 4.6. The tag number of the thinnest 5 to 10 cows in each mob has been recorded along with their score and if their score is not improving as fast as the rest of the group they will be given preferential grazing treatment by being removed from the mob and put onto high quality grass.

11. Currently the 18ha East Block cover is 2075 and the 33 Heifer Block cover is 2150. The target for both at the planned start of calving is at least 2500 kg DM/ha

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday 10th June 2008 at 9.00am.

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