

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

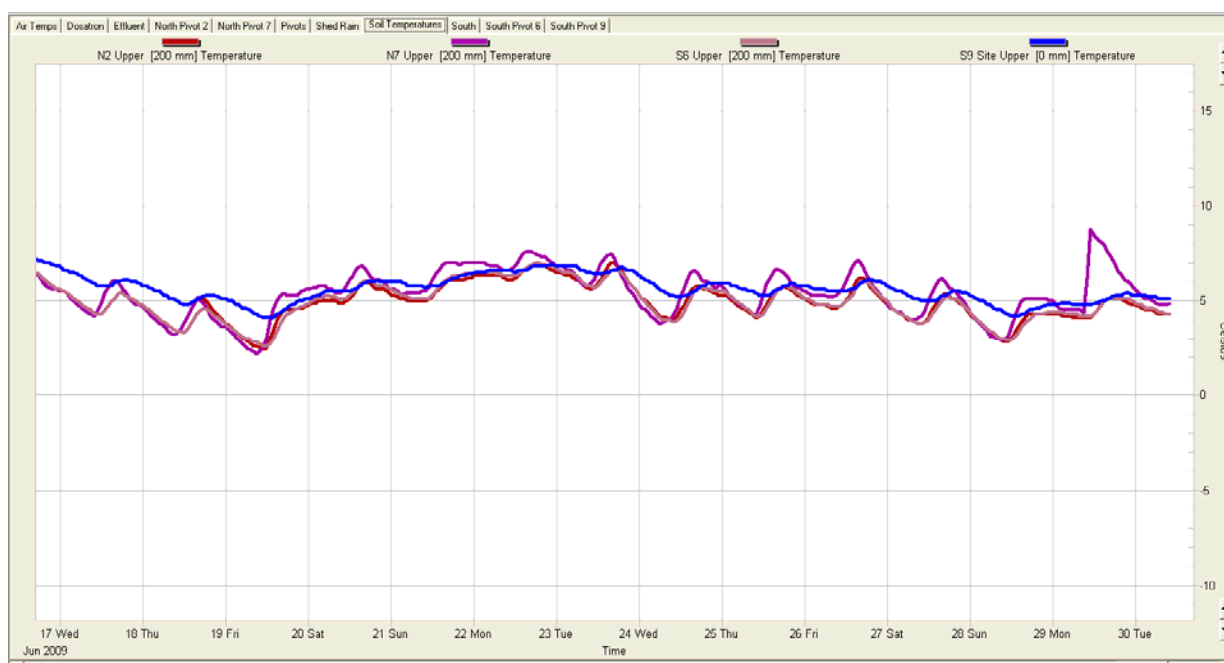
Tuesday, 30th June 2009

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Closely observe dry cows for any sign of swollen quarters and treat if found.**
2. **Avoid pasture damage on the milking platform.**
3. **Maintain grazing residuals to 7 “clicks”.**
4. **Monitor Cow Condition and act if necessary.**

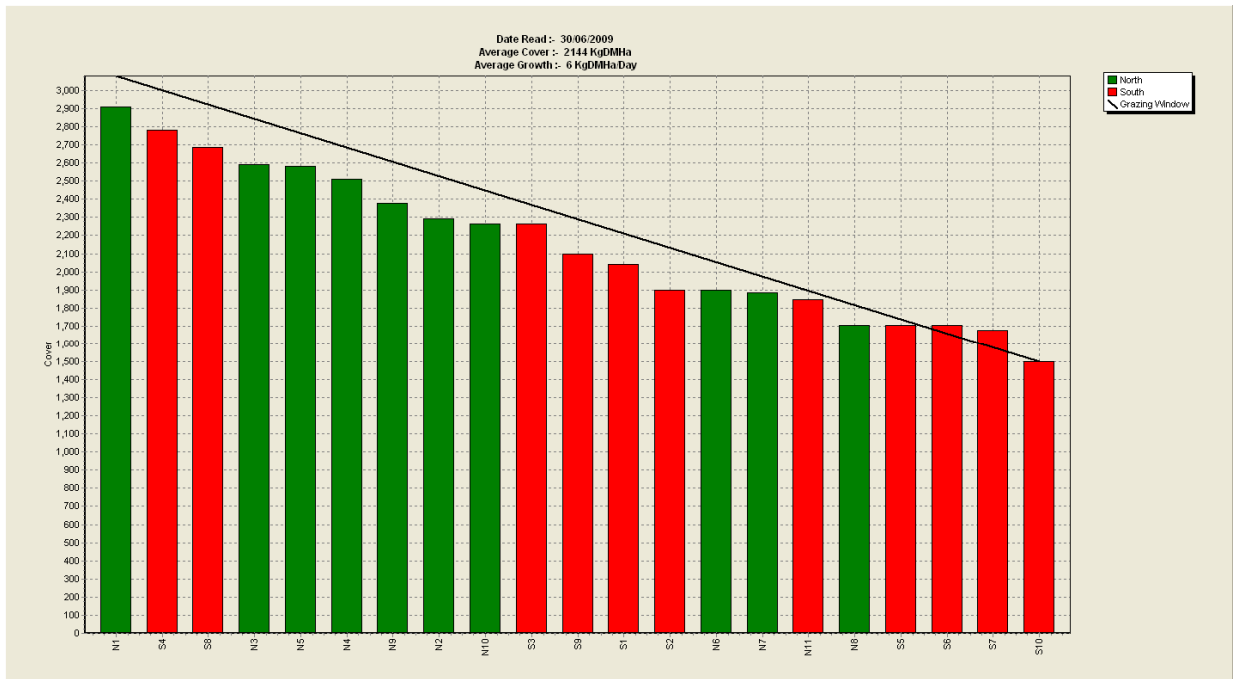
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

5. Soil Temperatures at 9 am have been consistently around 5°C for most of the week. We had frosts on 4 of the seven days of the week and frost damage can be seen in most paddocks.



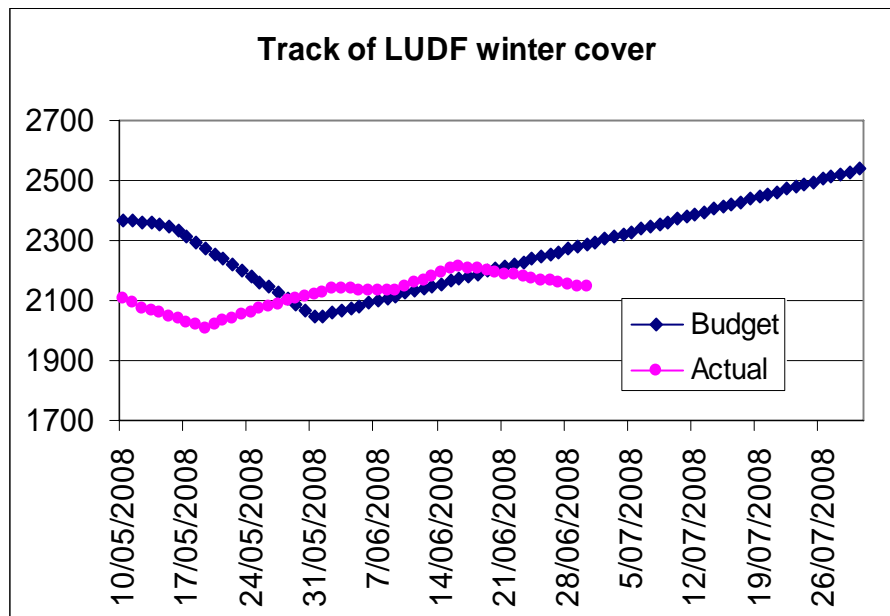
6. We had some rain on Saturday, a total of 1 mm for the week. Most paddocks in the North block are quite firm and cows in general are not making much damage. The South Block is a bit wetter and took a small amount of damage from cows after just 8mm of rain last week. It is crucial at this time of the year (as always) to avoid pasture damage at all cost.
7. PASTURE GROWTH was 6 kg DM/ha, a significant drop from the 22 kg DM/ha grown two weeks ago. Soil temperature being the factor affecting this change.
8. Average pasture cover decreased to 2144 kg DM/ha from 2215 kg DM/ha two weeks ago.

9. The Feed Wedge Today



The target line in the wedge below reflects the pre-grazing target of 3094 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1480 kg DM/ha which gives us the average pasture cover that we want for the end of the week of 2287 kg DM/ha.

- The average pasture cover at the moment is 2144 kg DM/ha. The target line (the blue line on the graph below) to achieve our targeted of 2,470 – 2,500 pasture cover at calving.



- Because we are below the target Average Pasture Cover line on the milking platform we will be taking all cows off this area for at least two weeks.
- The herd of 110 cows that have been on the milking platform has been split into two herds according to condition, 38 were Body Condition Score (BCS) 5+ and 72 are a little lighter. There are no cows in this group below BCS 4.5.

13. Area being used so far

Period	Total area used	Area Used /day	Round Days	Cows on farm
1-16 June	17.5 ha	1.25 ha	127	115
17-23 June	5.9 ha	0.84 ha	189	110
24-30 June	11.6 ha	1.65 ha	96	163 (R2's home briefly)

14. The herd of 150 (August calving good condition cows) were about 4.8 when condition scored on the 9th of June and most of these cows are above 4.5, these will be reassessed during this week. The 230 cows that we trucked to Hororata were about 4.4 with a larger range. We have some concern about some lighter cows and may take some of them off the Kale and bring them to pasture at Springston or the East block.
15. The cows that are at Springston are being visited every day because our team have responsibility to manage the break fences there. The cows at Hororata are being visited once or twice a week by the team.
16. The 188 heifers had Teat Seal infused yesterday. The opportunity to tag them was taken, and they were also given a mineralised drench. Well done team. We expect that the teat seal will reduce the incidence of mastitis at calving by at least 50%.

Next farm walk will be on Tuesday, 7th July 2009.

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), Virginia Serra (DairyNZ), George Reveley (for SIDDC).

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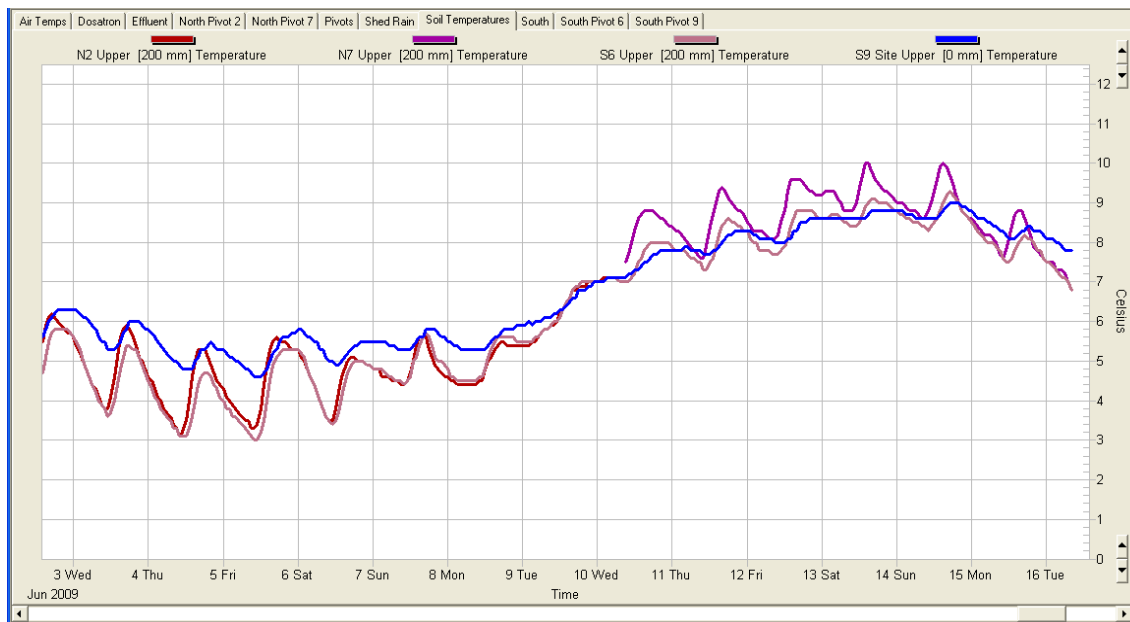
Tuesday, 16th June 2009

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Closely observe dry cows for any sign of swollen quarters and treat if found.**
2. **Avoid pasture damage on the milking platform.**
3. **Maintain grazing residuals to 7 “clicks”.**
4. **Monitor Cow Condition and act if necessary.**

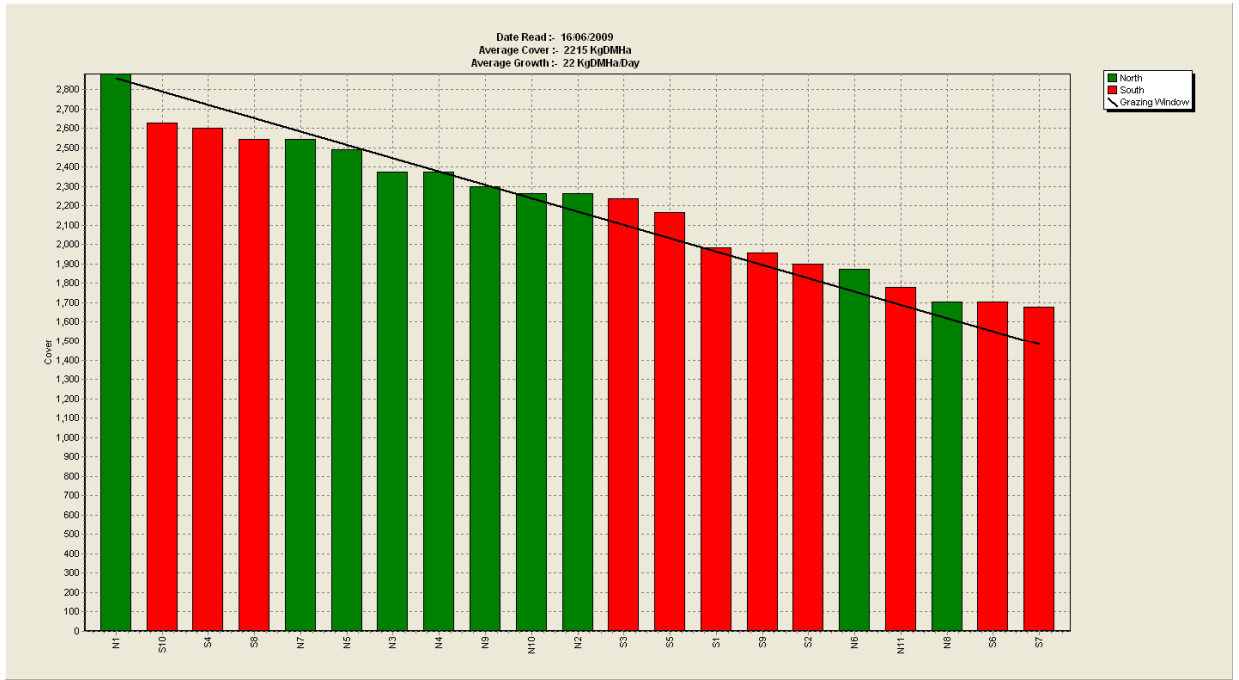
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

5. Soil Temperatures at 9 am have increased significantly with an average of about 9°C for the week compared with 4°C the week before.



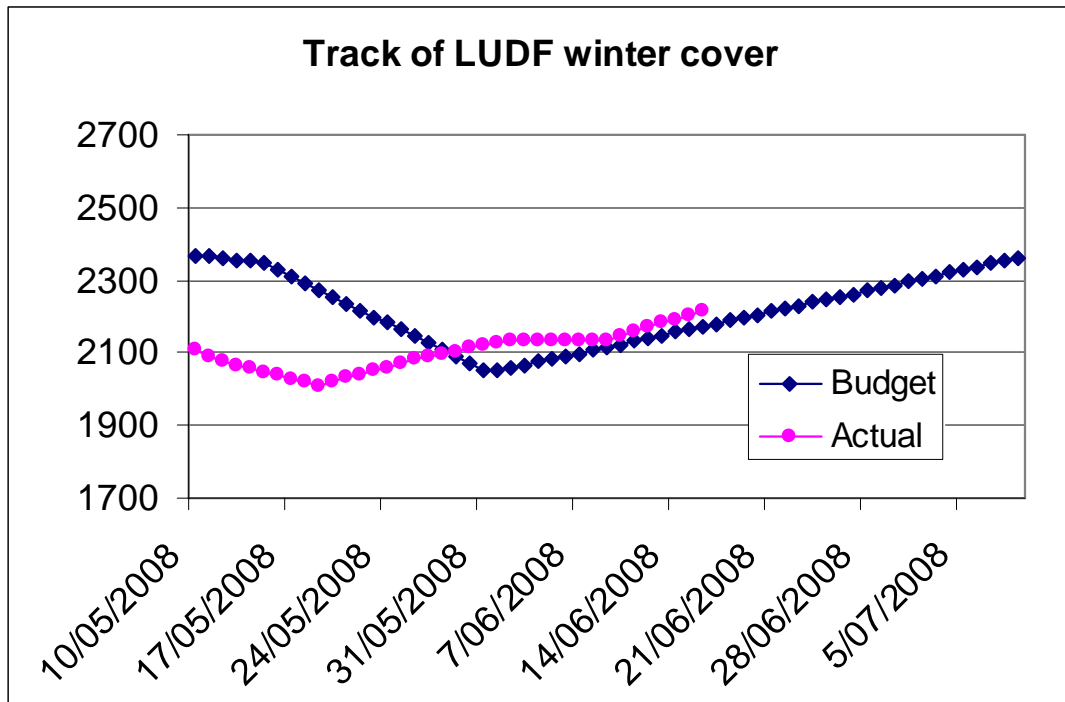
6. We had a light shower over night and the paddock where cows are grazing, S5, is a bit wet, which may present a challenge to achieve the target residual. We may need to back graze that area to get to residual when the ground conditions allow. It is crucial at this time of the year (as always) to avoid pasture damage at all cost.
7. PASTURE GROWTH was 22 kg DM/ha, much higher than the 10 kg DM/ha grown last week, which can be expected considering the increase in soil temperature this week.
8. Average pasture cover increased to 2215 kg DM/ha from 2136 kg DM/ha last week.

9. The Feed Wedge Today

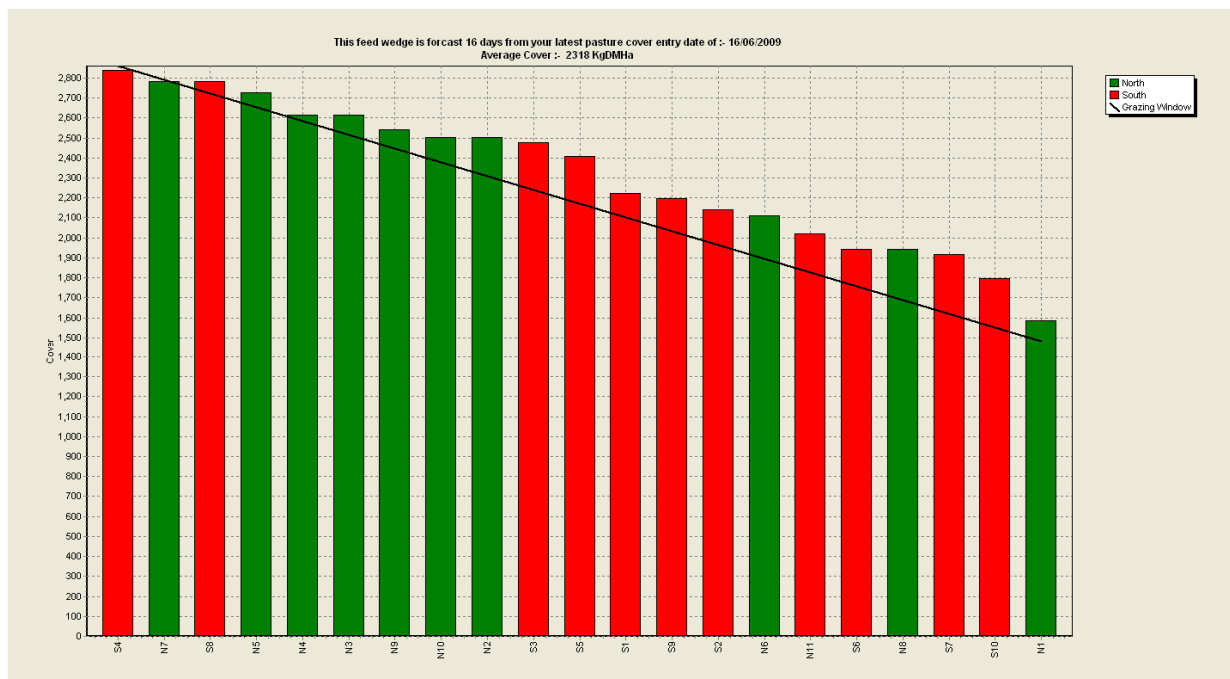


The target line in the wedge below reflects the pre-grazing target of 2860 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1480 kg DM./ha which gives us the average pasture cover that we want for the end of the week i.e. 2173 kg DM/ha.

10. The average pasture cover at the moment is above the target line (the blue line on the graph below) to achieve our targeted of 2,470 – 2,500 pasture cover at calving.



11. Predicted Feed Wedge for the next 15 days



The predicted wedge represents 110 cows, offering 12 kg DM/cow and an estimated growth of 15 kg DM/ha.

- The 115 early calving, light cows remaining on the milking platform over winter will be grazing pastures to 7 clicks. It is very important that these cows do not graze lower than this because we have found it takes too long for pastures to recover by early September and supply adequate pre grazing pasture heights.
- Considering the feed wedge and the average pasture track on the farm we will not be feeding any silage to the cows. Cows will be offered 12 kg DM/cow/day of the longest and driest paddocks on the farm.
- We visited all the herds last week to assess their condition. The herd of 115 cows that are on the milking platform (early thin cows that we dried off earlier than the rest of the herd) were averaging condition of 4.6 and the range is close. We may consider splitting the herd to ensure that all cows achieve target condition.
- The herd of 150 (early good condition cows) were about 4.8 and most cows are above 4.5. The 230 cows that we trucked to Hororata are in about 4.4 and the range is bigger than the other herds. We are a bit concerned because there are a few cows lighter than what we would like but they are the late calvers so they have time to put condition on. We will be monitoring them closely and if we are not happy with the condition of these cows we will remove the lighter cows from the Kale and bring them back to grass.
- The cows that are at Springston are being visited everyday because our team have responsibility to manage the break fences there. The cows at Hororata are being visited once or twice a week by the team.

Due to the SIDE conference we will NOT be having a farm walk next Tuesday

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Management Group

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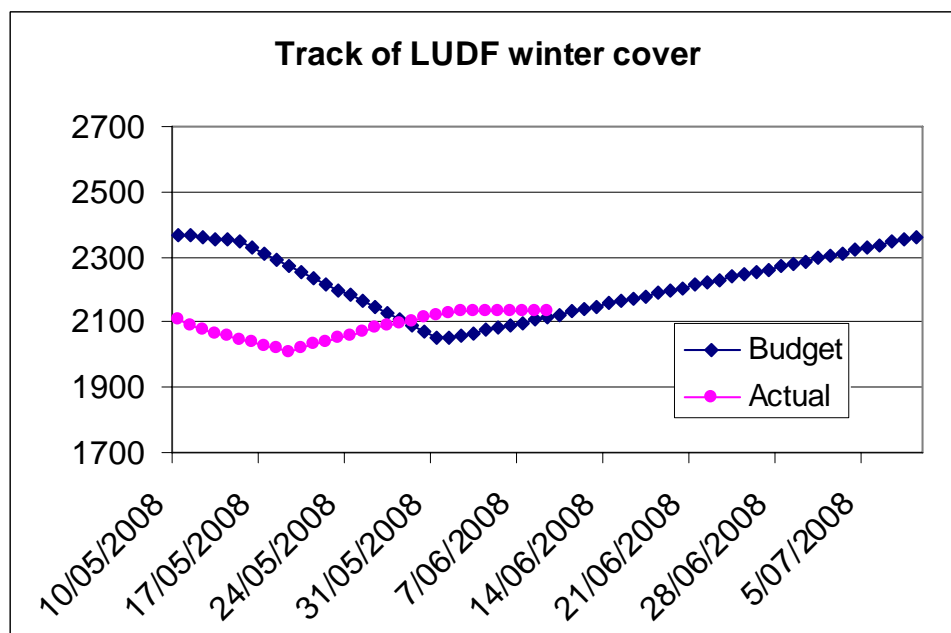
Tuesday, 9th June 2009

Critical issues for the short term

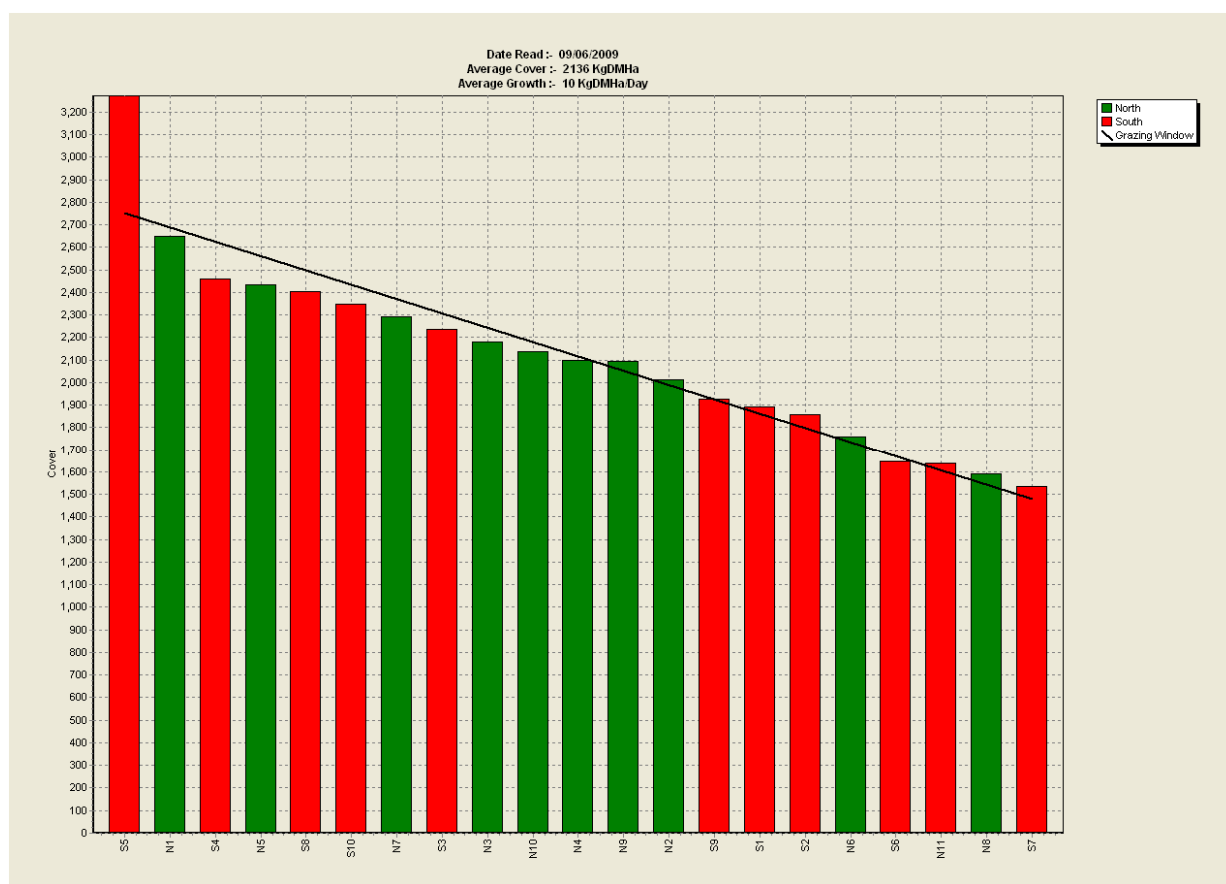
1. **Closely observe dry cows for any sign of swollen quarters and treat if found**
2. **Avoid pasture damage on the milking platform**
3. **Maintain grazing residuals to 7 “clicks”**
4. **Monitor Cow Condition and act if necessary**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

5. Soil Temperatures at 9 am have been the lowest we have seen for the year so far. The average for the week was about 4°C.
6. We had 6 mm of rain last night. Soils have been dry and cows are able to stay on the pastures without causing damage.
7. PASTURE GROWTH was 10 kg DM/ha, lower than the 17 kg DM/ha grown last week.
8. Average pasture cover is the same as last week at 2136 kg DM/ha. The average pasture cover at the moment is above the target line (the blue line on the graph below) to achieve our targeted of 2,470 – 2,500 pasture cover at Calving.



9. The Feed Wedge Today



The target line in the wedge below reflects the pre-grazing target of 2750 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1480 kg DM./ha which gives us the average pasture cover that we want for the end of the week of 2115 kg DM/ha.

10. We have 115 early calving, light cows grazing on the milking platform.
11. The cows staying on the milking platform over winter will be grazing pastures to 7 clicks. It is very important that these cows do not graze lower than this because we have found it takes too long for pastures to recover to supply adequate pre grazing pasture heights by early September.
12. Considering the feed wedge and the average pasture track on the farm we will not be feeding any silage to the cows. Cows will be offered 12 kg DM/cow/day of the longest and driest paddocks on the farm.
13. We visited all the herds today to asses their condition. The herd of 115 cows that are on the milking platform (early thin cows that we dried off earlier than the rest of the herd) are in average condition of 4.6 and the range is considerably close. We may consider splitting the herd to ensure that all cows achieve the target condition. The herd of 150 (early good condition cows) are about 4.8 and most cows are above 4.5. The 230 cows that we trucked away to Hororata are in about 4.4 and the range is bigger than the other herds. We are a bit concerned because there are a few cows lighter than what we would like but they are the late calvers so they have time to put condition on. We will be monitoring them closely and if we are not happy with the condition of these cows we will remove the lighter cows from the Kale and we will bring them back on to grass.

14. The cows that are at Springston are being visited everyday because our team have responsibility to manage the break fences there. The cows at Hororata are being visited once or twice a week by the team.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday, **16th June 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

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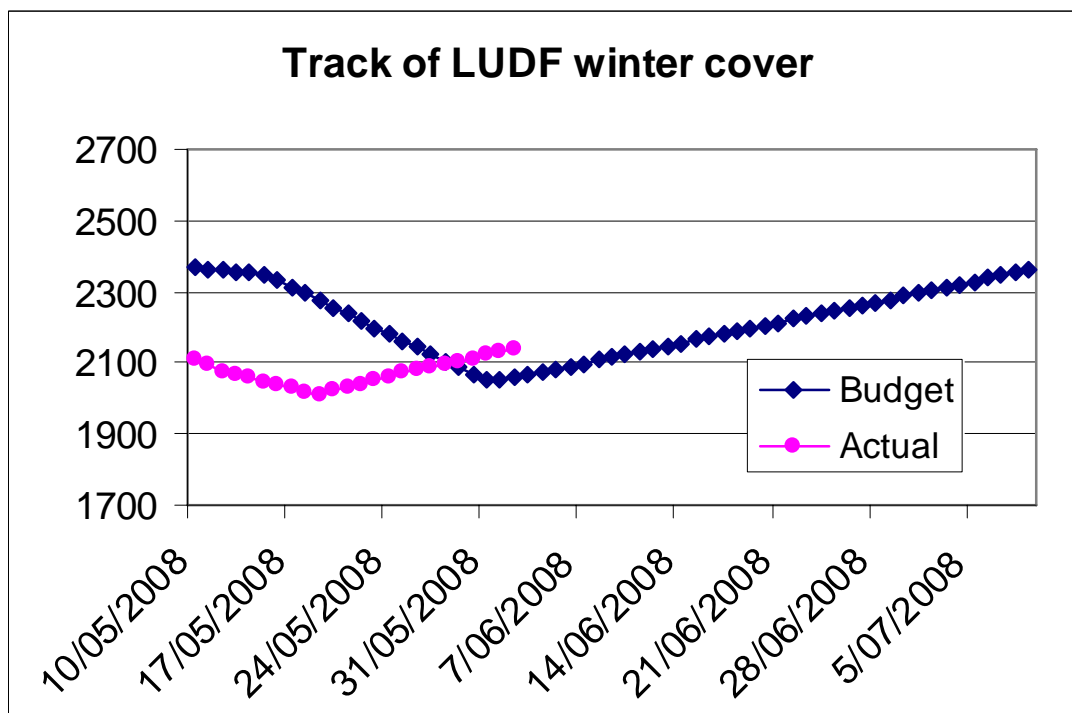
Tuesday, 2 June 2009

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Closely observe dry cows for any sign of swollen quarters and treat if found.**
2. **Avoid pasture damage on the milking platform**
3. **Maintain grazing residuals to 7 “clicks”**
4. **Monitor Cow Condition and act if necessary**

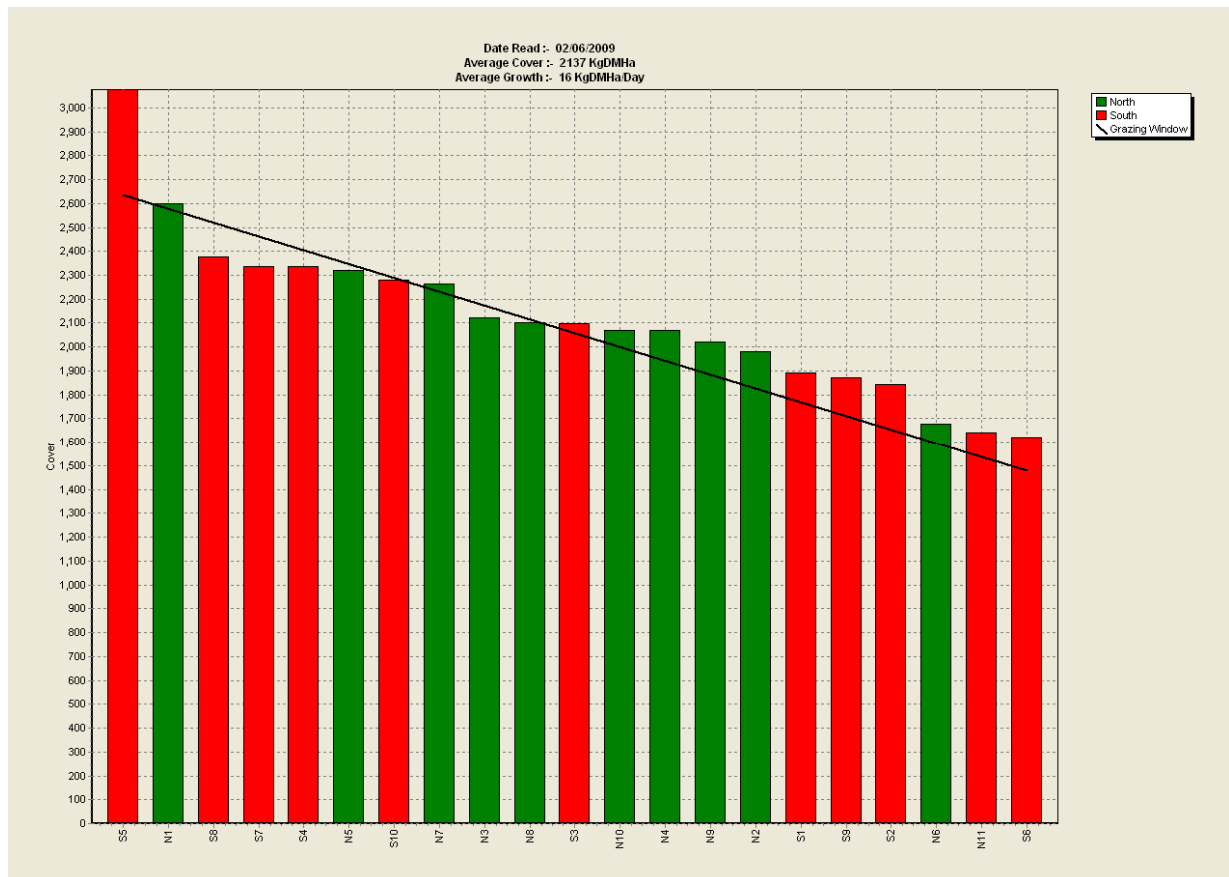
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

5. Soil Temperatures at 9 am have been between 4-6°C. The average for the week was about 5°C.
6. We had only 6 mm of rain last week. Soils remain quite saturated but are starting to dry out and cows are able to stay on the pastures without causing significant damage.
7. The weather forecast for the week is for fine weather and southerlies coming over the weekend.
8. PASTURE GROWTH was 16 kg DM/ha similar to the 17 kg DM/ha grown last week.
9. Average pasture cover has come back up 2137 kg DM/ha from 2082 kg DM/ha last week. The average pasture cover at the moment is above the target line (the blue line on the graph below) to achieve our targeted of 2,470 – 2,500 pasture cover at Calving.



10. The Feed Wedge Today

The target line in the wedge below reflects the pre-grazing target of 2636 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1480 kg DM./ha which gives us the average pasture cover that we want for the end of the week of 2058 kg DM/ha.



- There was an average of 130 cows on farm over the last week. 265 cows came back to the milking platform last Thursday, and 150 went off grazing on Sunday near Springston (4-5km from the farm). The rest, 115 early calving, light cows stay on the milking platform.
- The cows staying on the milking platform over winter will be grazing pastures to 7 clicks. It is very important that these cows do not graze lower than this because we have found it takes too long for pastures to recover to supply adequate pre grazing pasture heights by early September.
- Considering the feed wedge and the average pasture track on the farm we will not be feeding any silage to the cows. Cows will be offered 12 kg DM/cow/day of the longest and driest paddocks on the farm.
- All cows were treated with Dry Cow antibiotics at drying off. The 230 cows which went on a truck to grazing were treated with teat seal as well.
- The cows that are at Springston will be visited every day because our team have responsibility to manage the break fences there. The cows at Hororata will be visited once or twice a week by the team. We will be monitoring cow condition and if targets are not being met actions will be taken to improve the situation, e.g. cows on kale not putting condition on may be brought back to the farm to grass.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Tuesday, 9th June 2009 at 9.00am.

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