

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

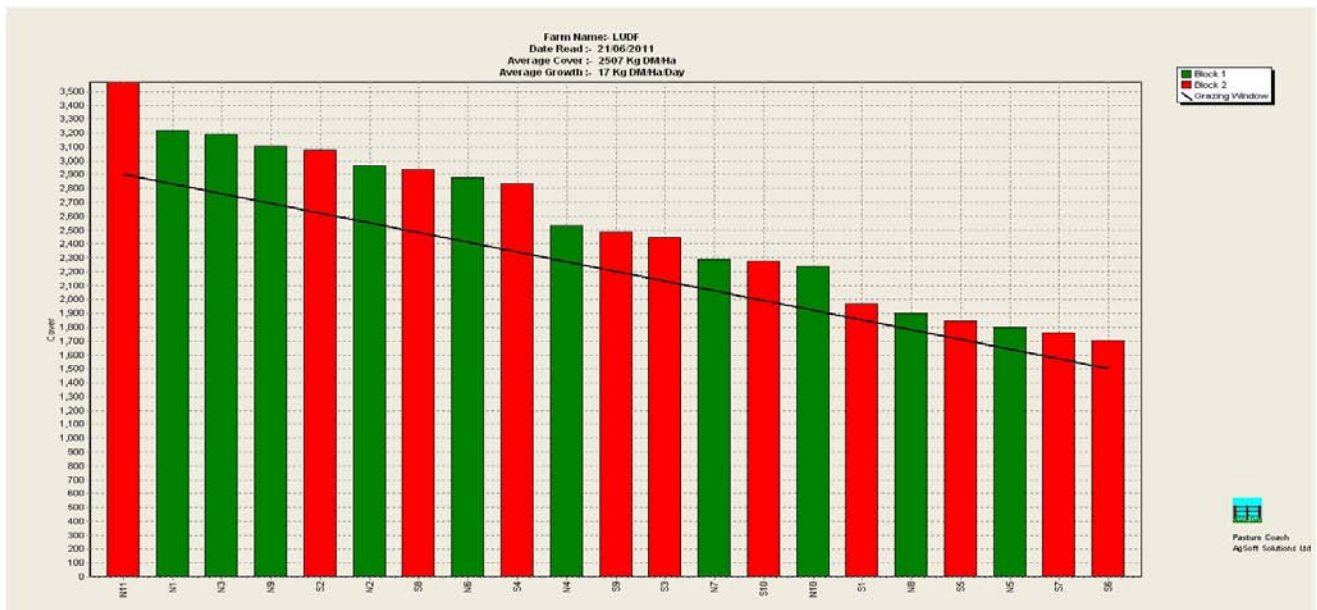
Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011

## CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. Monitor cow condition for cows staying on milking platform and at graziers and make necessary changes to achieve targets
2. Closely observe cows for any signs of mastitis
3. Monitor average pasture cover and track against budget
4. Keep grazing residuals to the desired 7 clicks on milking platform
5. Avoid pasture damage
6. Ensure shed upgrade work is completed well in advance of start of calving

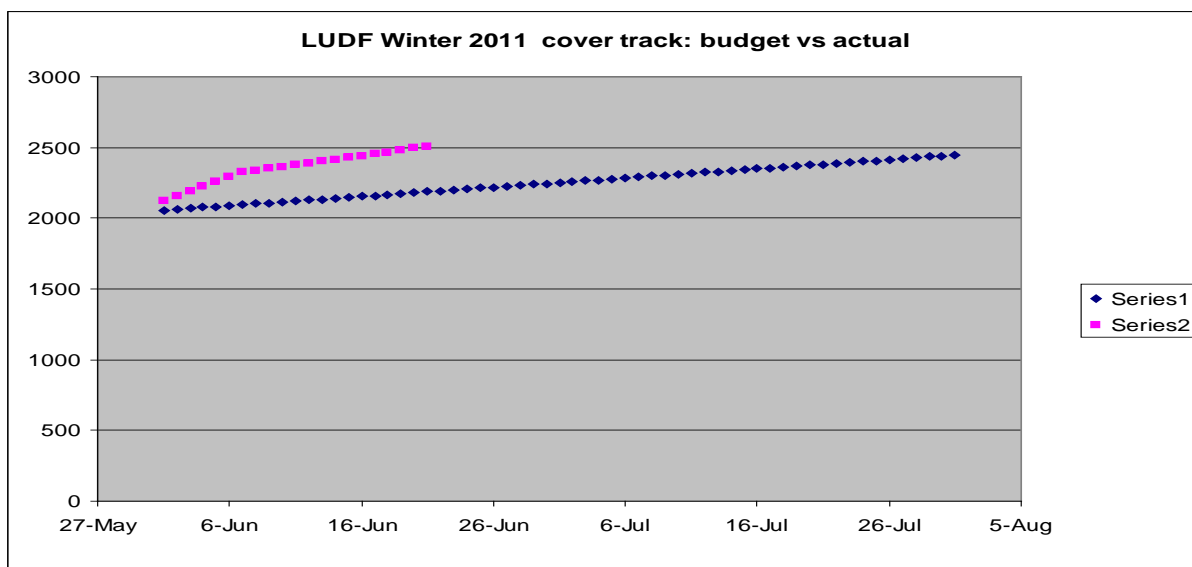
### Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

7. Average soil temperature at 9.00 am this week was 7.5°C, lower than 2 weeks ago at 9.1°C.
8. There has been 13 mm of rain this week. Current soil conditions are good with no damage occurring during grazing.
9. PASTURE GROWTH was 17 kg DM/ha/day, 2 weeks ago 36 kg DM/ha/day.
10. Average PASTURE COVER was measured at 2,507 kg DM/ha, last week 2,324 kg DM/ha.
11. Cows were dried off on 26 May. Final production for the season was 1,653 kg MS/ha and 398 kg MS/cow.
12. The only cows on farm are a group of 55 light cows, these grazed 2.03 ha for the week, an average of 0.29 ha/day or 551 day round.
13. Today's feed Wedge:



The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 2,874 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1,500 kg DM/ha, this is the line that represents an average farm cover of 2,187 kg DM/ha. The feed wedge has a surplus of 50t DM.

14. The feed budget done for the winter has a target average pasture cover as shown in the graphic below, targeting a cover on 1<sup>st</sup> August of 2,450 kg DM/ha. This cover is what is needed to feed the herd on grass without having to feed any supplements until the first grazing round finishes.



15. Current growth rate is now much closer to the average experienced in previous seasons. The higher than targeted cover is of concern. Calving with 2800kgDM/ha cover, which could now occur, is very undesirable from a pasture quality and pasture growth point of view. Some of this surplus will be dealt with before calving. R2 heifers will be returning to the platform on 29<sup>th</sup> June for teat sealing and will stay on farm. We also will bring back 178 cows around 17<sup>th</sup> July. As long as ground conditions allow and winter growth rates are near average the farm can manage the current average pasture cover. Very little feed will be used on the support land. (East Block and small lease block nearby).

#### Wintering Mobs:

- Milking platform on grass: 55 light cows with calving dates before 25<sup>th</sup> August, grazing to 1500kg DM residual). They were conditioned scored last Thursday with an average of 4.7.
  - On kale 9kg and grass 2.5kg plus straw: 179 early calvers (before 25 August) and BCS > 4.25. They were conditioned scored last Thursday with an average of 4.75.
  - Rape 11kgDM + 2kg Grass Silage + 1.5kg Straw: 199 late calvers (after 25 August) mixed BCS - conditioned scored last Thursday with an average of 4.7.
  - Rape and Silage basically all they can eat leaving 1600kgDM residual (no straw): 91 light cows - conditioned scored last Thursday with an average of 4.8.
  - Rape + Grass + 2 kg DM Grass Silage: 142 R2 – 10 kg - conditioned scored last Thursday with an average of 5.5.
16. The proactive approach to monitoring body condition meant that most cows achieved the body condition target at the end of May.
17. Last week's condition scoring indicates there should be less than 20 cows below CS 5 at calving.
18. There has been no cases of mastitis in the herd so far this winter.
19. Total Nitrogen application for the season was 325 kg N per ha over the non effluent area (128 ha), equivalent to 260 kg N/ha across the whole of the milking platform (160 ha).

Next farm walk over winter will be on: **5<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> July, and 26<sup>th</sup> July, 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

**N.B. LUDF Focus Day on Thursday, 7 July, in S1, Stewart Bldg, Lincoln Campus, starting at 1.00 pm. See Events for further details.**

#### Management Group

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), Steve Lee (DairyNZ).

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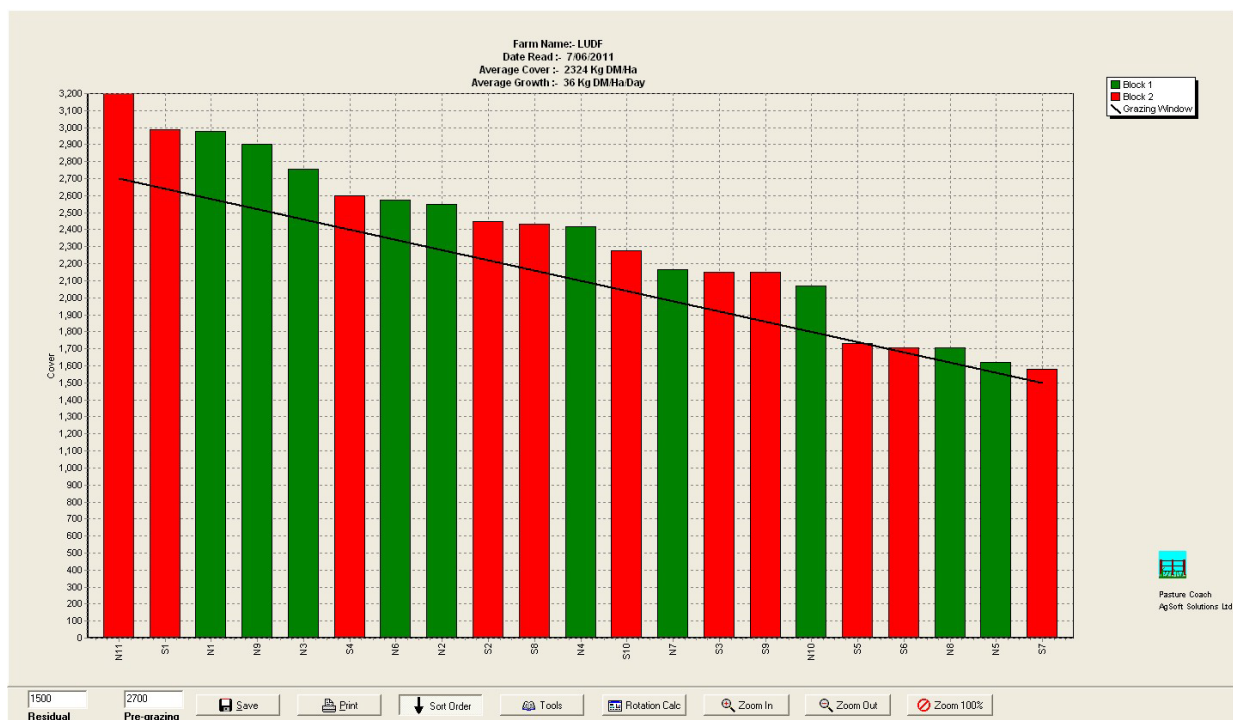
Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011

## CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Monitor cow condition for cows staying at milking platform and at graziers and make necessary changes to achieve the targets.**
2. **Closely observe cows for any signs of mastitis**
3. **Monitor average pasture cover and track against budget**
4. **Keep grazing residuals to the desired 7 clicks on milking platform**
5. **Avoiding pasture damage**

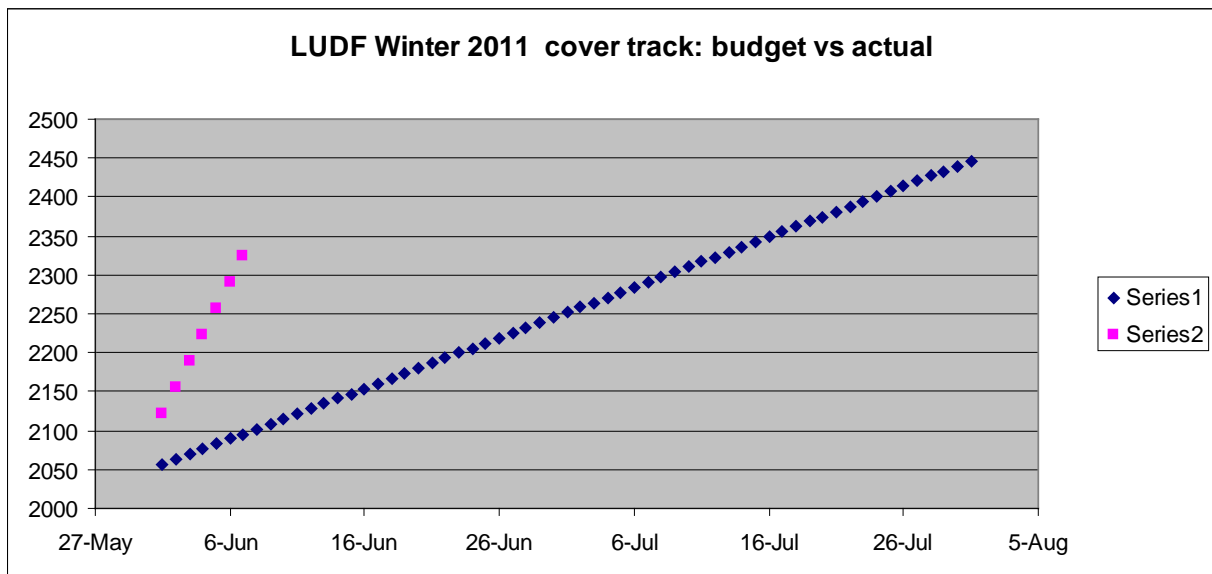
### Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

6. Average soil temperature at 9.00 am this week was 9.1°C, similar to last week at 9.3°C.
7. No rain this week. Current soil conditions are good with no damage occurring during grazing.
8. PASTURE GROWTH was 36kg DM/ha/day, last week 27kg DM/ha/day.
9. Average PASTURE COVER was measured at 2,324kg DM/ha, last week 2,088kg DM/ha.
10. Cows were dried off on Thursday (26 of May). Final production for the season was 1,653kg MS/ha and 398kg MS/cow.
11. Drying off cows had their feed restricted for 2 days before and 4 days after drying off (6 kg Silage cow / 4kg Grass cow). All cows dried off last week were treated with a short acting antibiotic and were teat sealed.
12. The only cows on farm are our group of 55 light cows, these grazed 4.2 ha for the week, an average of .6 ha/day or 266 day round.
13. Today's feed Wedge:



The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 2,700kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1,500kg DM/ha, this is the line that represents an average farm cover of 2,096kg DM/ha. The feed wedge has a surplus of 36.8t DM.

14. The feed budget for the winter has a target average pasture cover as shown in the graph below. We are targeting a cover of 2,450kg DM/ha on 1 August. This cover is what is needed to feed the herd on grass without having to feed any supplements until the first grazing round finishes.



15. Current growth rate is twice as high as could be expected for this period of June. The higher than targeted cover is of concern. Calving with say 2800kgDM/ha cover which could now occur is very undesirable from a pasture quality and pasture growth point of view.

#### Wintering Mobs:

- 55 light cows with calving dates before 25<sup>th</sup> August - milking platform on grass. Grazing to 1500kg DM residual).
  - 179 early calvers (before 25 August) and BCS > 4.25 on kale 9kg and grass 2.5kg plus straw.
  - 199 late calvers (after 25 August) mixed BCS - Rape 11 kg DM + 2 kg Grass Silage + 1.5 kg Straw
  - 91 light cows Rape and Silage basically all they can eat leaving 1600kgDM residual (no straw).
  - 142 R2 – 10 kg Rape + Grass + 2 kg DM Grass Silage.
16. The close monitoring of body cow condition and the proactive approach meant that most cows achieved the target body condition target for the end of May. An assessment of all the mobs will be done next week.
17. Total Nitrogen application for the season was 325 kg N per ha over the non effluent area (128 ha), equivalent to 260kg N/ha across the whole of the milking platform (160 ha).

Farm walks over winter will be on: **June, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> July, and 26<sup>th</sup> July, at 9.00 am.**

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