

Lincoln University Dairy Farm – Farm Walk notes

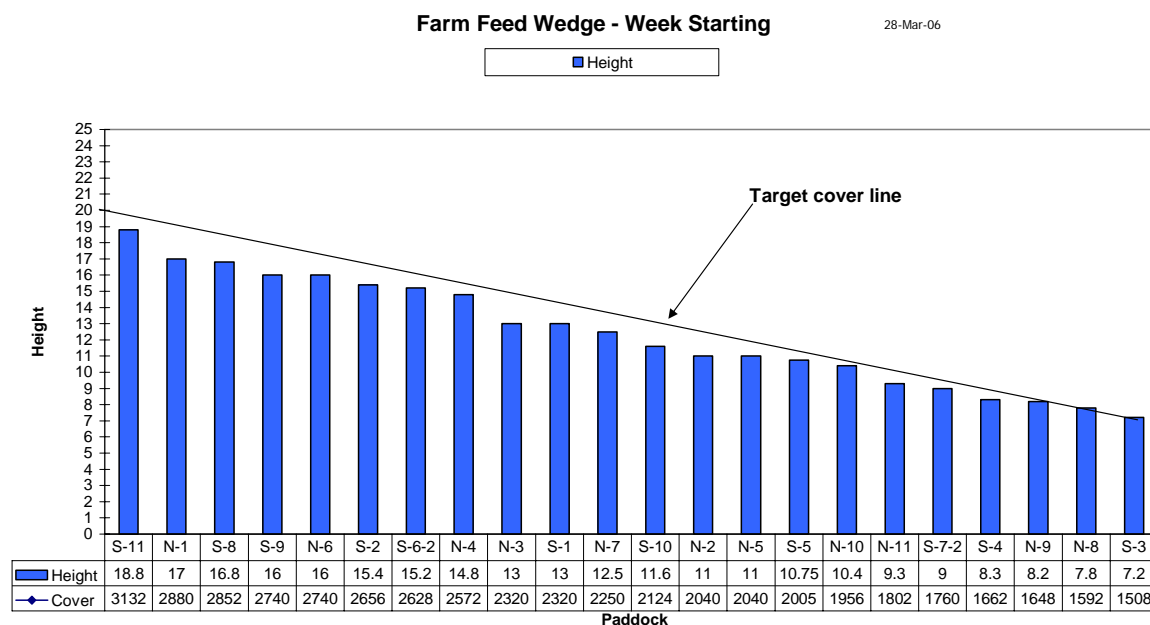
Tuesday 28th March 2006

Critical issues for the short term

- Careful daily allocation of pasture and attention to residuals, especially now that we have higher pregrazing covers.

Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

- Ave PASTURE COVER has lifted slightly to 2233 kgDM/ha, up 30 on last weeks 2203/ha. This is still below our targeted cover of 2300 kgDM/ha.
- PASTURE GROWTH estimated at 56 kgDM/ha for last week, below above our required demand of 65.
- Soil Temperature has dropped to 13.6 °C at Tuesday mornings reading, 2 degrees lower than this time last year.
- Grazing RESIDUALS remain on target of 7 clicks or 1480 kgDM/ha. Note this is despite feeding up to 5+ kg DM silage per day.
- PREGRAZING PASTURE HEIGHTS at about 3000 kg DM/ha remain below our target of around 3300 kgDM/ha.
- Pasture QUALITY is high, the latest tests (15 March) show ME 12.9, DM 17%, protein 24% - see these results on the website sidc.org.nz
- Per cow PRODUCTION is still holding at 1.53kgs MS/cow/day and 6.0 kg MS/ha/day, well above target. March 2006 production looks like being 8% ahead of March 2005.
- As per our FEEDPLAN, we continue feeding baleage to supplement the cows and are holding ROTATION LENGTH at 28 days. We have NOT been able to lengthen round.



- The FEED WEDGE shows that we are struggling to achieve both our target cover and wedge shape. This is because pasture growth continues to be below demand, and our silage feeding is holding the status quo, not improving it.
- We would like to further lengthen our round, but given current weather pattern and poor growth, don't fancy our chances of achieving this.

12. We have three options

- (a) Continue as we are: – hoping growth improves to bring up pregrazing covers, and slowly reduce supplements - *our response to this option: unlikely to achieve this in the short to medium term*
- (b) Feed out more supplement: – we could simply keep feeding to hold production and improve feed cover - *our response to this option: we are currently feeding 5.7 kgDM/cow, and reluctant to lift this significantly. We budgeted on feeding 180 t supplement (280 kgDM/cow) to milkers across the autumn, and we plan to stick to this maximum.*
- (c) Reduce stocking rate: - we could bring forward our planned reduction in stocking rate - *our response to this option: our plan was to drop 20% of our culls (25 cows) each fortnight through April and May, to try and match feed demand with falling feed supply. We will accelerate this option.*

The following was our original late lactation plan for milkers.

	Early April	Late April	Early May	Late May	Early June
Milkers	610	580	480	400	300
Culls to go	20	20	20	20	20

Most of our culls have gone, we now have empties left to go.

Summary:

- (i) We will drop 30 milkers immediately, made up of any light (condition score 4 or less) cows plus empties.
- (ii) We will investigate the possibility of purchasing up to 50tDM good quality silage (ME>11) for spring use, releasing the same amount of our current silage on hand for use NOW, to help secure more total days in milk. This option is price sensitive, but cows are currently producing well, and converting silage well.
- (iii) We will review the plan weekly.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 4th April 10.00am.**

Management Group

Shaun Back, Farm Manager, Peter Gaul (SIDDC) and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel) with support from Corrigan Sowman, Canterbury Consulting Officer (Dexcel).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm – Farm Walk notes

Tuesday 21st March 2006

Critical issues for the short term

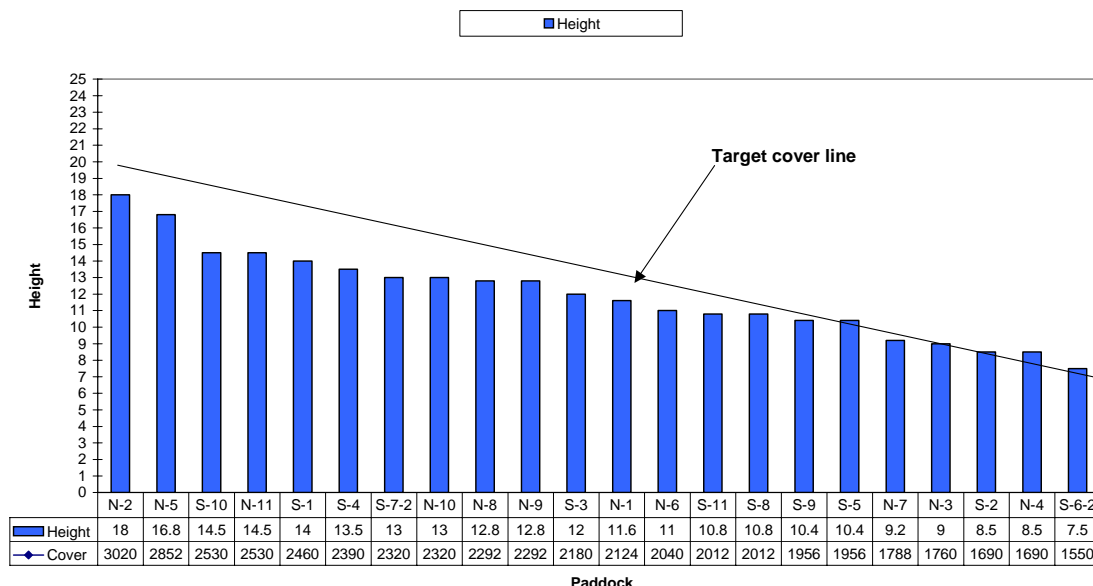
1. Accurate allocation of supplements are needed to hold the current rotation length, and the need to spread them thinly in the paddock to maximise utilisation.

Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

2. Ave PASTURE COVER has lifted from 2193 kg DM/ha to 2203 after a week of better growth at 55 kgs/DM/day (46 previous weeks). Average cover is now better than this time last year and we are already on a longer rotation.
3. Soil Temperature has held at 15.1 °C at Tuesday morning's reading.
4. Grazing RESIDUALS target remains 7 clicks or 1480 kg DM/ha and must be closely monitored as we feed out increasing amounts of supplement.
5. PRODUCTION continues to hold very well at 1.53kgs MS/cow/day and 6.1 kg MS/ha/day.
6. We have had excellent results from the nitrogen applications (40 units N) over the last two weeks and we will follow the cows for the rest of this round of the farm.

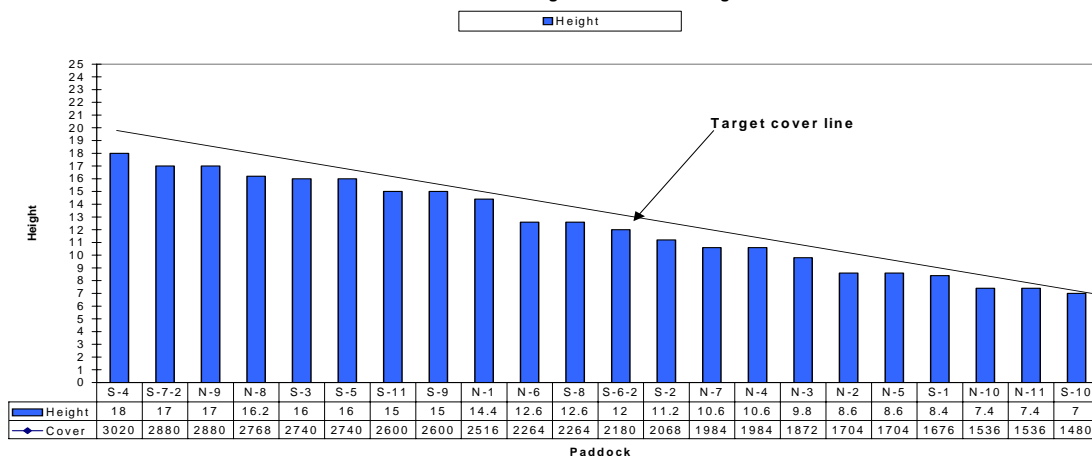
Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

14-Mar-06



Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

21-Mar-06



7. We have held the round at 28.3 days by allocating only 5.6ha and the deficit has reduced. Supplement inputs have averaged 5kg DM /cow/day. Our objective is to hold the pasture allocation at 5.6ha/day (28.3 day round) and if the opportunity presents we would like to increase the round to 30 days (5.38ha/day).
8. The current objective is to continue to supply our cows with 200 ME. This is sufficient for maintenance plus 1.6 kgs MS/cow/day plus another 30ME for weight gain. We currently have 12.2 ME pasture (ME is increasing) so this means that we still have to provide our cows with 16.5 kgs DM/day because of the increasing proportion of silage.
9. Herd monitor group condition score is now 4.6.
10. Our latest whole herd PD has confirmed 89.8% of the herd in-calf after 15 weeks of mating.
11. 10 cows were culled cows last Friday.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 28th March 10.00am.**

Management Group

Shaun Back, Farm Manager, Peter Gaul (SIDDC) and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel) with support from Corrigan Sowman, Canterbury Consulting Officer (Dexcel).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm – Farm Walk notes

Tuesday 14th March 2006

Critical issues for the short term

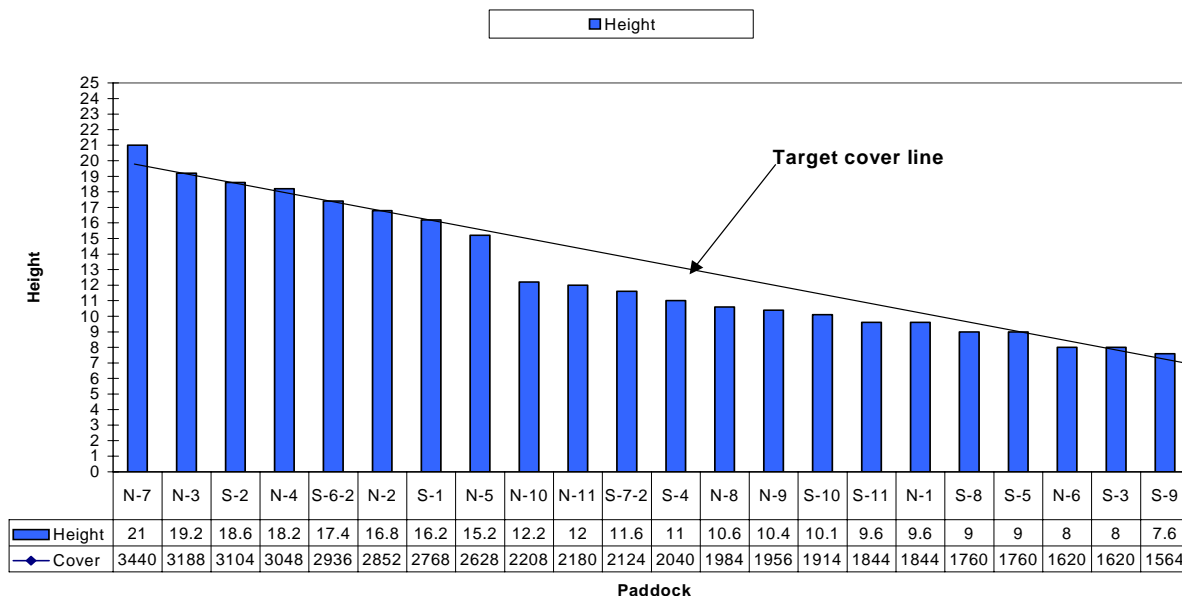
1. Accurate allocation of supplements that are needed to hold the current rotation length, and the need to spread them thinly in the paddock to maximise utilisation.

Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

2. Ave PASTURE COVER has continued to drop and is now 2193 kg DM/ha, from last weeks 2290/ha with PASTURE GROWTH estimated at 46 kg DM/ha for the last week (59 previous week). Average cover is now the same as this time last year but we are already on a longer rotation.
3. Soil Temperature has continued to drop and is now 15.3 °C at Tuesday mornings reading.
4. Grazing RESIDUALS target remains 7 clicks or 1480 kg DM/ha and must be closely monitored as we feed out increasing amounts of supplement.
5. PRODUCTION continues to hold well at 1.5kgs MS/cow/day and 6.0 kg MS/ha/day.
6. We have had excellent results from the nitrogen applications (40 units N) over the last two weeks and we will follow the cows for the rest of this round of the farm.

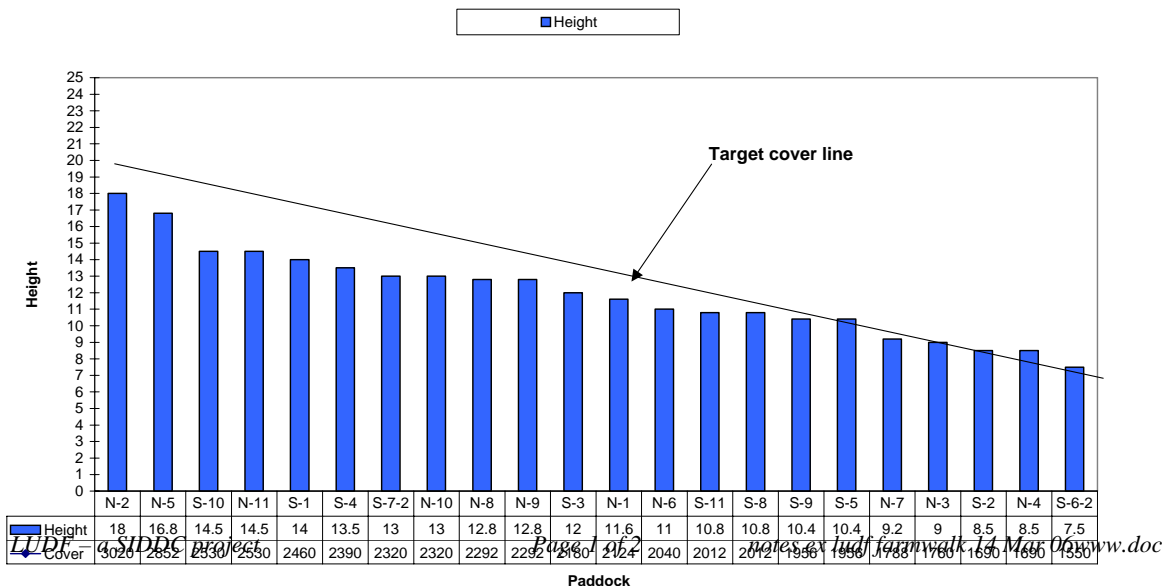
Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

7-Mar-06



Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

14-Mar-06



7. Despite slowing the round to 28.3 days by allocating only 5.6ha we still have a deficit. Supplement inputs have averaged 4.5kg DM /cow/day but the colder temperatures have resulted in a week of below average growth for March and so the deficit is still with us. Our objective is to hold the pasture allocation at 5.6ha/day (28.3 day round) by increasing the amount to supplement to 6 kgs/cow/day when required.
8. The current objective is to supply our cows with 200 ME. This is sufficient for maintenance plus 1.6 kgs MS/cow/day plus another 30ME for weight gain. We currently have 12.2 ME pasture (ME is increasing) so this means that we still have to provide our cows with 16.5 kgs DM/day because of the increasing proportion of silage.
9. Next herd monitor group weighing and condition score is on Thursday, results next week.
10. Our next whole herd PD will be occurring this Thursday to confirm the % of cows currently in-calf after 15 weeks of mating.
11. A decision about which 10 cows to cull cows will be made on Friday. We will be partly addressing the current feed deficit by sending away any obvious culls.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 21th March 10.00am.**

Management Group

Shaun Back, Farm Manager, Peter Gaul (SIDDC) and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel) with support from Corrigan Sowman, Canterbury Consulting Officer (Dexcel).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm – Farm Walk notes

Tuesday 7th March 2006

Critical issues for the short term

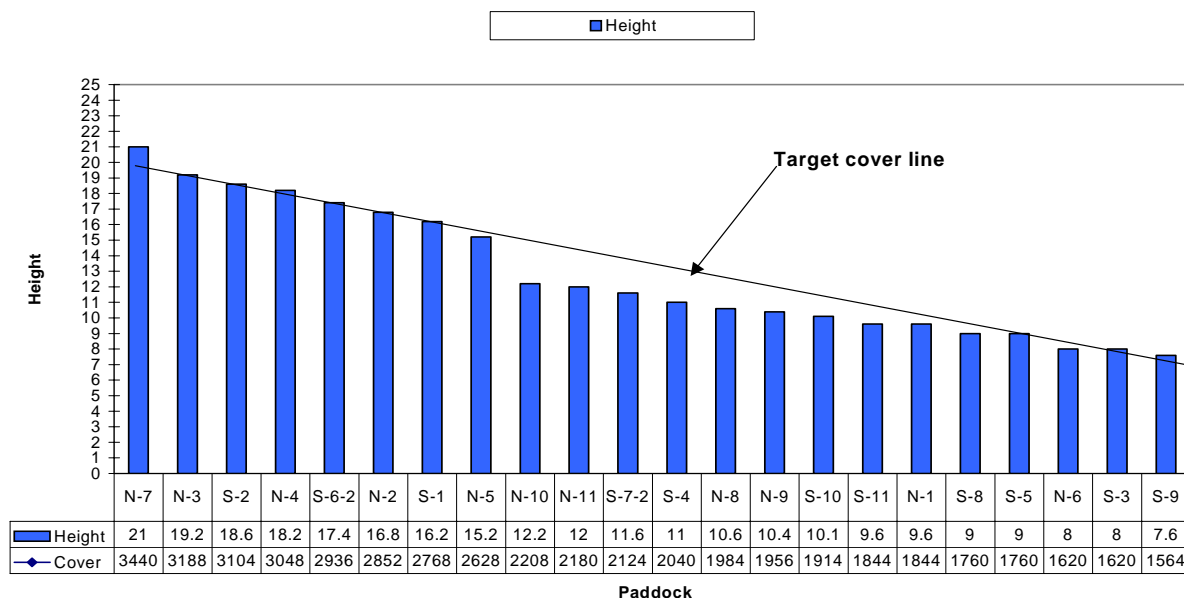
1. Careful daily allocation of pasture as we slowly lengthen the round.

Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

2. Ave PASTURE COVER has dropped to 2290 kg DM/ha, from last weeks 2340/ha with PASTURE GROWTH estimated at 59 kg DM/ha for last week (62 last week)
3. Soil Temperature has continued to drop and is now 14.6 °C at Tuesday mornings reading.
4. Grazing RESIDUALS target remains 7 clicks or 1480 kg DM/ha and must be closely monitored as we go into higher covers and feed out some supplement to lengthen the round with the aim of reducing the coming pasture deficit shown on the wedge.
5. PRODUCTION is holding well at 1.5kgs MS/cow/day and 6.0 kg MS/ha/day.
6. We have had excellent results from the nitrogen applications (40 units N) over the last two weeks and we will follow the cows with another 40 kgs N/ha for the next round of the farm.

Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

7-Mar-06



7. The FEED WEDGE looks good for the next 8 paddocks and then it appears that we have a deficit. We are going to use these 8 paddocks to slow the round further so that we get an extra days grazing from these paddocks. We will be putting in supplements at 4kg DM /cow to achieve this and allocating between 5.6 ha/day. The current objective is to supply our cows with 200 ME. This is sufficient for maintenance plus 1.6 kgs MS/cow/day plus another 30ME for weight gain. We currently have 12 ME pasture so this means we have to provide our cows 16.5 kgs DM/day.
8. We will also be making a short list of about 20 cull cows so that if by next week, the size of the feed deficit has not improved enough, we will also reduce demand by culling some or all of these cows.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 14th March 10.00am.**

Management Group

Shaun Back, Farm Manager, Peter Gaul (SIDDC) and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel) with support from Corrigan Sowman, Canterbury Consulting Officer (Dexcel).