

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

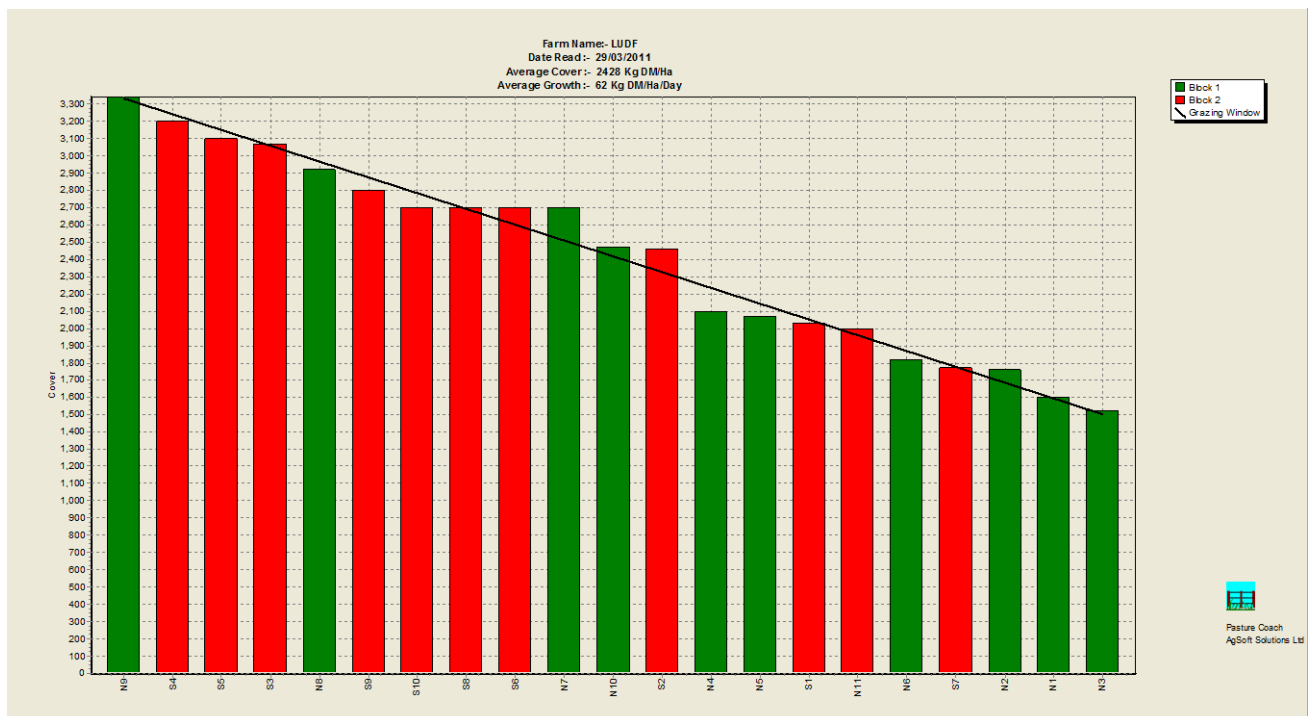
Tuesday, 29th March 2011

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Maintain pasture quality by regular monitoring and making necessary changes**
2. **Keep grazing residuals to the desired 7 - 8 clicks**
3. **Continue Mg supplementation**
4. **Closely observe milking cows for mastitis**
5. **Maintain round length above 30 days**
6. **Monitor BCS and act accordingly to achieve the targets**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

7. Soil temperature this week dropped to 14.3°C from 15.2°C last week
8. There has been 35mm of rain over the last week (23mm on Sunday night). No irrigation this week.
9. PASTURE GROWTH was 62 kg DM/ha/day, down from last week at 69 kg DM/ha/day.
10. Average PASTURE COVER was measured at 2,428kg DM/ha, a good rise from last week 2,352 kg DM/ha.
11. This morning 402 cows were milked into the vat (the twice-a-day herd). A further 256 cows are on Once-a-day milking (afternoons only).
12. Including all groups of cows, 38 ha was grazed for the week, an average of 5.4 ha/day or 29 day round.
13. This week 24.9t DM of silage (average of 5.4 kg DM of silage/cow/day) was fed out. Season to date 191t DM (285 kg DM/cow). This includes the silage cut on the milking platform as well.
14. Today's feed Wedge:



The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 3,331 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1,500 kg DM/ha, which is the pre-grazing needed to feed the cows considering

the stocking rate of 4.1 cows/ha (658 cows/160 ha)), cows eating 15 kg DM/cow/day and a rotation length of 30 days. This Feed Wedge has 429kg DM surplus.

15. It is likely less silage will be used this week. Round length and post – grazing residuals will determine the amount of grass silage required to maintain the round above 30 days.
16. The herd was assessed for condition on 17 March. The average BCS of the herd was 4.1 for the TAD herd and 4.0 for the OAD herd. Today 256 cows were milked OAD, they are the cows CS 4 or below that are young and early calvers. BCS will be assessed next week and decisions made accordingly, it is likely that more cows will be milked OAD and we may start drying off some of the lighter young cows.
17. Our Drying off Decision Rules are based on the following:

Cows (4 years old and older)

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	100	20 April – 5 May	5-15 May
4	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
4.5	60	NA	NA

Rising 3 year Old

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	120	1-15 April	15-30 April
4	100	20 April -5 May	5-15 May
4.5	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
5	60	NA	NA

This strategy requires feeding the cows that are being dried off above demand and good quality feed.

18. Now started the fifth round of Urea. No Nitrogen applied this week. Season to date 282 kg N per ha applied over the non effluent area (128 ha), equivalent to 226kg N/ha across the whole of the milking platform (160 ha).
19. Two new lame cows this week, 70 lame cows in total since calving started on 20 July.
20. Two new case of clinical Mastitis, season to date 71 cows treated for Mastitis.
21. SCC has been 217-269,000 this week. All cows are currently having one quarter stripped each morning milking to check for mastitis.
22. Production this week was 1.22kg MS/cow/day (1.27kg MS/cow last week) and 5.03kg MS/ha/day (5.25 kg MS/ha last week).

Next farm walk will be on **Tuesday, 5th April 2011, 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

Management Group

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), Virginia Serra (DairyNZ).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

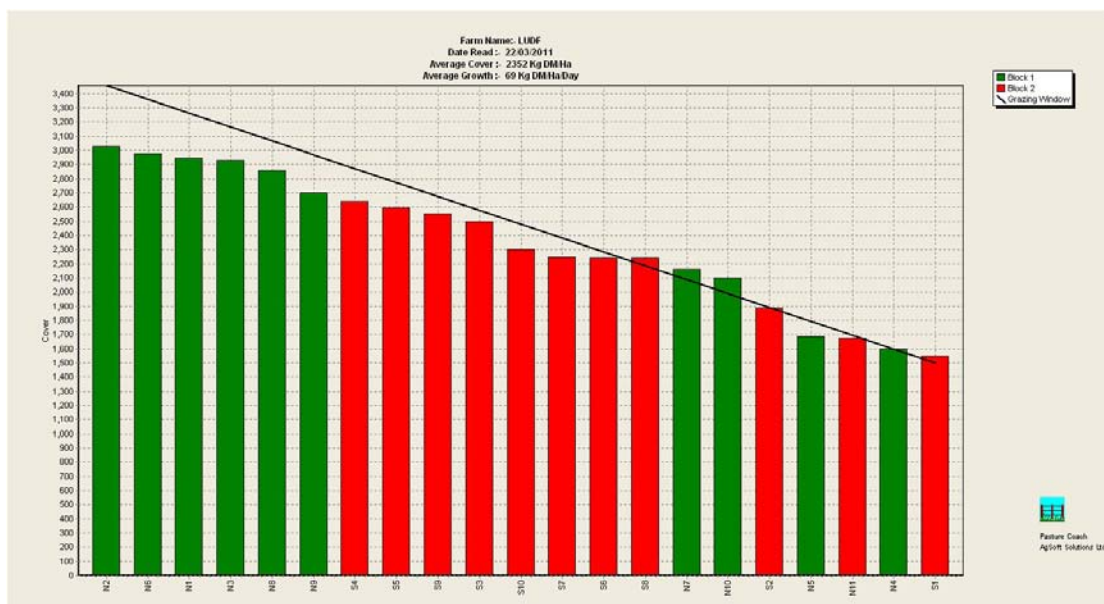
Tuesday, 22nd March 2011

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Maintain pasture quality by regular monitoring and making necessary changes**
2. **Keep grazing residuals to the desired 7 - 8 clicks**
3. **Continue Mg supplementation**
4. **Closely observe milking cows for mastitis**
5. **Maintain round length between 27 - 30 days**
6. **Monitor BCS and act accordingly to achieve the targets**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

7. Soil temperature this week was 15.2°C (last week 15.5°C).
8. We have had 7.6mm of rain over the last week. Two days of irrigation on the North Block and none for the South Block this week.
9. PASTURE GROWTH was 69 kg DM/ha/day, the same as last week.
10. Average PASTURE COVER was measured at 2,352kg DM/ha, a good rise from last week 2,294 kg DM/ha.
11. This morning 429 cows were milked into the vat (the twice-a-day herd). A further 229 cows are on Once-a-day milking (afternoons only).
12. Including all groups of cows, 40.78 ha was grazed for the week, an average of 5.8 ha/day or 27.5 day round.
13. This week we fed 19 t DM of silage (average of 4.1 kg DM of silage/cow/day). Season to date 166 t DM (248 kg DM/cow)
14. Paddock S2 was sprayed out for regrassing in November and sown with Bealey, a tetraploid perennial and Trojan a diploid perennial on 2nd December. It has been grazed three times now.
15. Paddock N2 was sprayed out on the 8th of January. It was cultivated and drilled with Trojan Ryegrass on the 20th January. It has had a small nip off with calves, has been sprayed with Preside herbicide and MCPB and was grazed by the herd on the 11th of March.
16. Today's feed Wedge:



The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 3,406 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1,500 kg DM/ha, which is the pre-grazing needed to feed the cows considering the stocking rate of 4.1 cows/ha (658 cows/160 ha), cows eating 15.5 kg DM/cow/day and a rotation length of 30 days. This Feed Wedge has a deficit of 20 t DM.

17. Use of silage will depend on the cover in the paddock the cows are going into. It is likely to be at a similar level to this week at 4 – 4.3kg silage DM/cow/day. Round length and post – grazing residuals will determine the amount of grass silage required to maintain the round above 27 days and, if possible, extend the round to 30 days.
18. The herd was assessed for condition 3 weeks ago with the average BCS of the herd at 4.0. It was then decided to milk 166 young and early calvers at or below CS 4 once a day. During this week a further 55 more cows with BCS below 4 with August calving dates were also added to the OAD herd. A further 30 or so cows with BCS below 4 and calving dates in September will be added to the OAD herd during next week.
19. Cow condition will be monitored every 3 weeks and decisions made accordingly. Our Drying off Decision Rules are based on the following:

Cows (4 years old and older)

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	100	20 April – 5 May	5-15 May
4	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
4.5	60	NA	NA

Rising 3 year Old

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dried off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	120	1-15 April	15-30 April
4	100	20 April -5 May	5-15 May
4.5	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
5	60	NA	NA

This strategy requires feeding the cows that are being dried off above demand and good quality feed.

20. The fifth round of Urea has started. This week 22 ha received 40 kg N. Season to date 282 kg N per ha has been applied over the non effluent area (128 ha), equivalent to 226kg N/ha across the whole of the milking platform (160 ha).
21. Three new lame cows this week. There have been 68 lame cows since start of calving on 20 July.
22. One new case of clinical Mastitis, season to date 69 cows treated for Mastitis.
23. SCC has been 236-284,000 this week. All cows are currently having one quarter stripped each morning milking to check for mastitis.
24. Production this week was 1.27 kg MS/cow/day (1.33kg MS/cow last week) and 5.25kg MS/ha/day (5.47 kg MS/ha last week).

Next farm walk will be on **Tuesday, 29th March 2011, 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

Management Group

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), Virginia Serra (DairyNZ).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

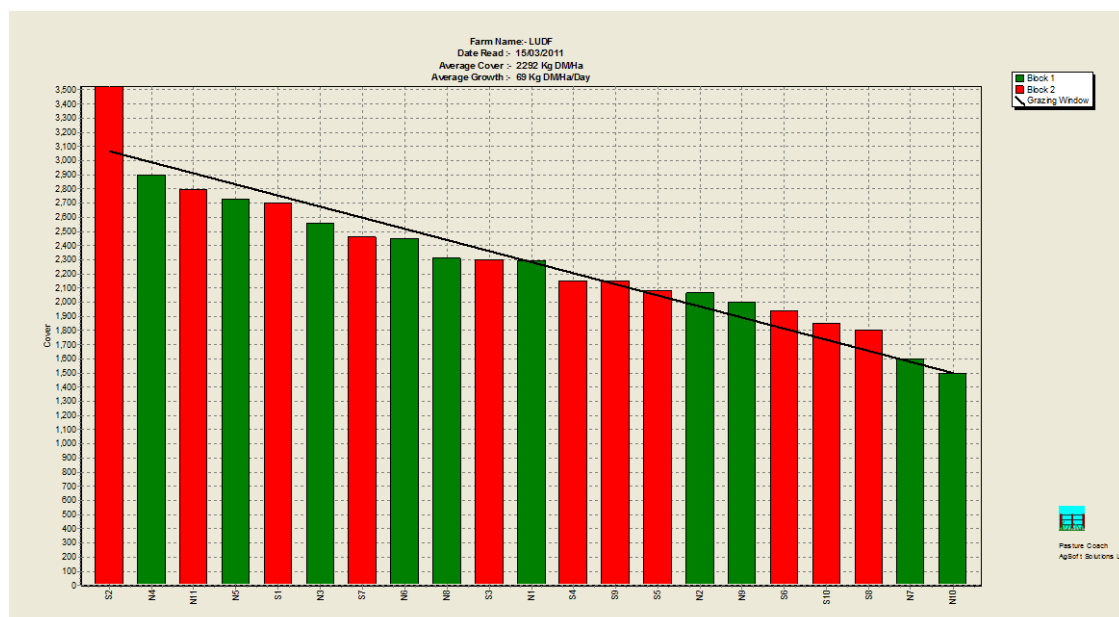
Tuesday, 15th March 2011

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Maintain pasture quality by regular monitoring and making necessary changes**
2. **Keep grazing residuals to the desired 7 - 8 clicks**
3. **Continue Mg supplementation**
4. **Closely observe milking cows for mastitis**
5. **Maintain round length between 24 - 26 days**
6. **Monitor BCS and act accordingly to achieve the targets**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

7. Soil temperature this week was 15.5°C (last week 15.4°C).
8. There has been no rain over the last week. Two days of irrigation on the North Block and one day for the South Block this week.
9. PASTURE GROWTH was 69 kg DM/ha/day, up from the 48 kg DM/ha/day last week.
10. Average PASTURE COVER was measured at 2,294kg DM/ha, similar to the 2,225 kg DM/ha last week.
11. This morning 492 cows were milked into the vat (the twice-a-day herd). A further 166 cows are on Once-a-day milking (afternoons only).
12. Including all groups of cows, 43.6 ha was grazed for the week, an average of 6.3 ha/day or 25 day round.
13. This week we fed 9.7t DM of silage (average of 2.1 kg DM of silage/cow/day). Season to date 147t DM (220 kg DM/cow)
14. Paddock S2 was sprayed out for regrassing in November and sown with Bealey, a tetraploid perennial and Trojan a diploid perennial on 2 December. It was grazed by the herd on 27 January, and will be grazed by the main herd again today. It has a cover of 3,500kgDM/ha.
15. Paddock N2 was sprayed out on 8 January. It was cultivated and drilled with Trojan Ryegrass on 20 January. It has had a small nip off with calves, has been sprayed with Preside herbicide and MCPB and was grazed by the herd last week.
16. Today's feed Wedge:



The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 3,069 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1,500 kg DM/ha, which is the pre-grazing needed to feed the cows considering the stocking rate of 4.1 cows/ha (659 cows/160 ha), cows eating 15.5 kg DM/cow/day and a rotation length of 25 days. This Feed Wedge has a surplus of 2t DM.

17. Some silage will be used this week depending on the cover of the paddock the cows are going into. Round length and post-grazing residuals will determine the amount of grass silage required to maintain the round above 25 days and, if possible, extend the round to 27 days.
18. The herd was assessed for condition 3 weeks ago and the average BCS of the herd was 4.0. It was then decided to milk 166 young and early calvers on or below CS 4 once a day.
19. Cow condition will be monitored every 3 weeks and decisions made accordingly. The Drying off Decision Rules are based on the following:

Cows (4 years old and older)

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	100	20 April – 5 May	5-15 May
4	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
4.5	60	NA	NA

Rising 3 year Old

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	120	1- 15 April	15 -30 April
4	100	20 April -5 May	5-15 May
4.5	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
5	60	NA	NA

This strategy requires feeding the cows that are being dried off above demand and good quality feed.

20. The fifth round of Urea is underway with 33 ha receiving 40kg N this week. Season to date 276 kg N per ha has been applied over the non effluent area (128 ha), equivalent to 221kg N/ha across the whole of the milking platform (160 ha).
21. Four new lame cows this week. There have been 65 lame cows since start of calving on 20 July.
22. One new case of clinical Mastitis, season to date 68 cows treated for Mastitis.
23. SCC has been 237-258,000 this week. All cows are currently having one quarter stripped each morning milking to check for mastitis.
24. Production this week was 1.33 kg MS/cow/day (1.27kg MS/cow last week) and 5.47kg MS/ha/day (5.22 kg MS/ha last week).

Next farm walk will be on **Tuesday, 22nd March 2011, 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

Management Group

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), Virginia Serra (DairyNZ).

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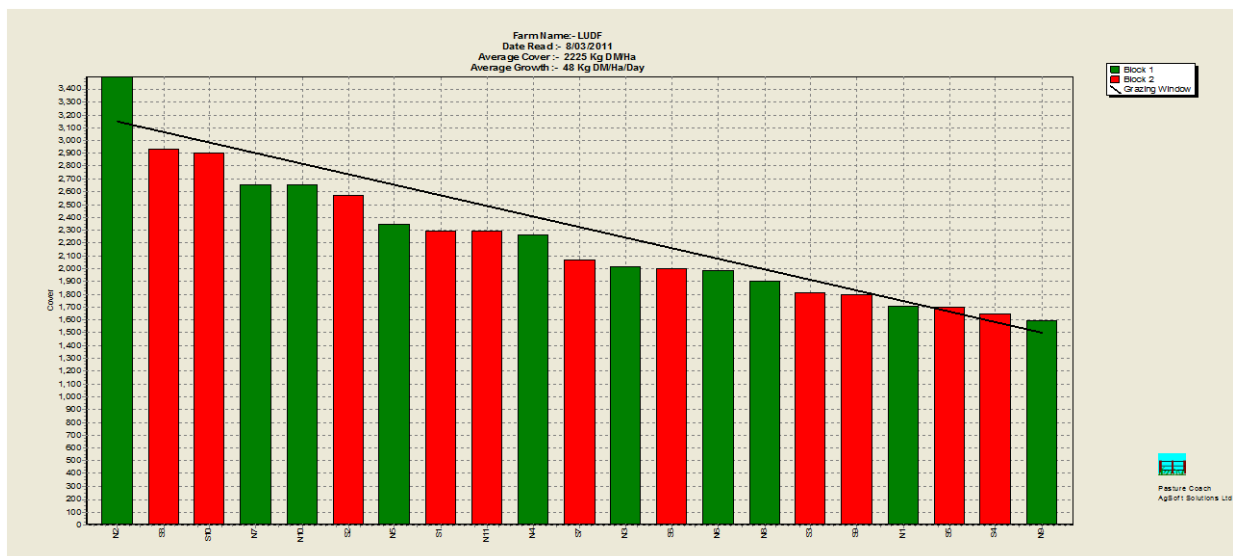
Tuesday, 8th March 2011

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. Maintain pasture quality by regular monitoring and making necessary changes
2. Keep grazing residuals to the desired 7 - 8 clicks
3. Continue Mg supplementation
4. Closely observe milking cows for mastitis
5. Maintain round length between 24 - 26 days
6. Monitor BCS and act accordingly to achieve the targets

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

7. Soil temperature this week was 15.4°C (last week 16.0°C).
8. There has been 18mm rain over the last week. Three days of irrigation on the North Block and 2 days on the South Block this week.
9. PASTURE GROWTH was 48 kg DM/ha/day, lower than the 91 kg DM/ha/day last week.
10. Average PASTURE COVER was measured at 2,225kg DM/ha, down from last week at 2,404 kg DM/ha.
11. This morning 658 cows were milked into the vat, 1 of these a lame cow, and 1 mastitis cow.
12. Including all groups of cows, 43.6 ha was grazed for the week, an average of 6.3 ha/day or 25 day round.
13. This week 5.3t DM of silage (average of 1.1 kg DM of silage/cow/day) was fed. Season to date 137t DM (205 kg DM/cow).
14. Paddock N2 was sprayed out on 8 January. It was cultivated and drilled with Trojan Ryegrass on 20 January. It had a small nip off with calves, after which it was weed sprayed with Preside herbicide and MCPB, and will be grazed by the main herd this week. It has 3300kgDM/ha.
15. Today's feed Wedge:



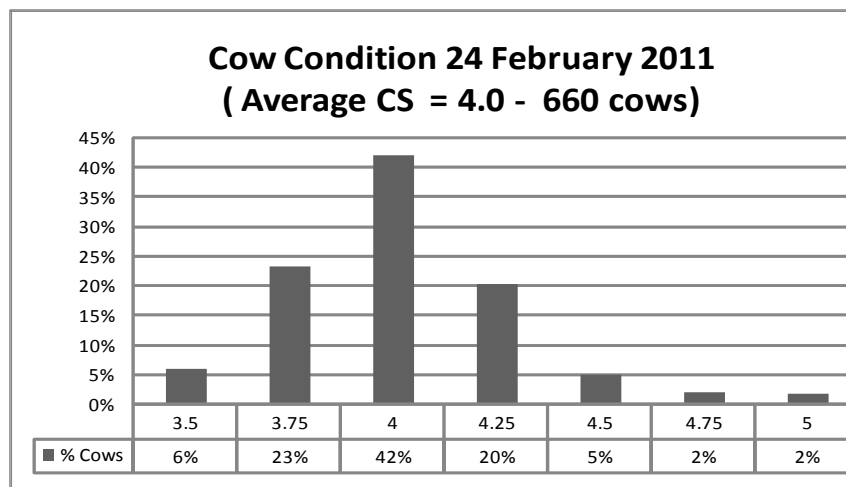
The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 3,140 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1,500 kg DM/ha, which is the pre-grazing needed to feed the cows considering the stocking rate of 4.1 cows/ha (656 cows/160 ha), cows eating 16 kg DM/cow/day and a rotation length of 25 days.

16. There is a deficit of 16t DM on this Feed Wedge. Silage feeding will be required to maintain the grazing rotation at or above 25 days this week.
17. The herd was assessed for condition 10 days ago with an average BCS of 4.0.

18. For LUDF the target BCS to achieve at calving is:

- Calve mixed age cows at a minimum Condition Score 5
- Calve Rising 3 year old at Condition Score 5.5

19. BCS of the herd on 24 February 2011



20. 166 cows with a CS 4 or below, including young and early calvers, have been put on once a day milking.

21. For once a day milking to make a difference to cow condition, time is required so the strategy needs to be introduced early.

22. Our Drying off Decision Rules are based on:

Cows (4 years old and older)

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	100	20 April – 5 May	5-15 May
4	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
4.5	60	NA	NA

Rising 3 year Old

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	120	1- 15 April	15 -30 April
4	100	20 April -5 May	5-15 May
4.5	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
5	60	NA	NA

This strategy requires feeding the cows above demand and good quality feed.

23. The fifth round of Urea is underway. This week 58 ha received 40 kg N. Season to date 213kg/N/ha has been applied across the whole of the milking platform (160 ha).

24. One new lame cow this week. There has been 61 lame cows since calving started on 20 July.

25. One new case of clinical Mastitis, season to date 67 cows treated for Mastitis.

26. SCC has been 218 - 298,000 this week. All cows are currently having one quarter stripped each morning milking to check for mastitis.

27. Production this week was 1.27 kg MS/cow/day (1.36kg MS/cow last week) and 5.22kg MS/ha/day (5.62 kg MS/ha last week).

Next farm walk will be on **Tuesday, 15th March 2011, 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

Management Group

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), Virginia Serra (DairyNZ).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

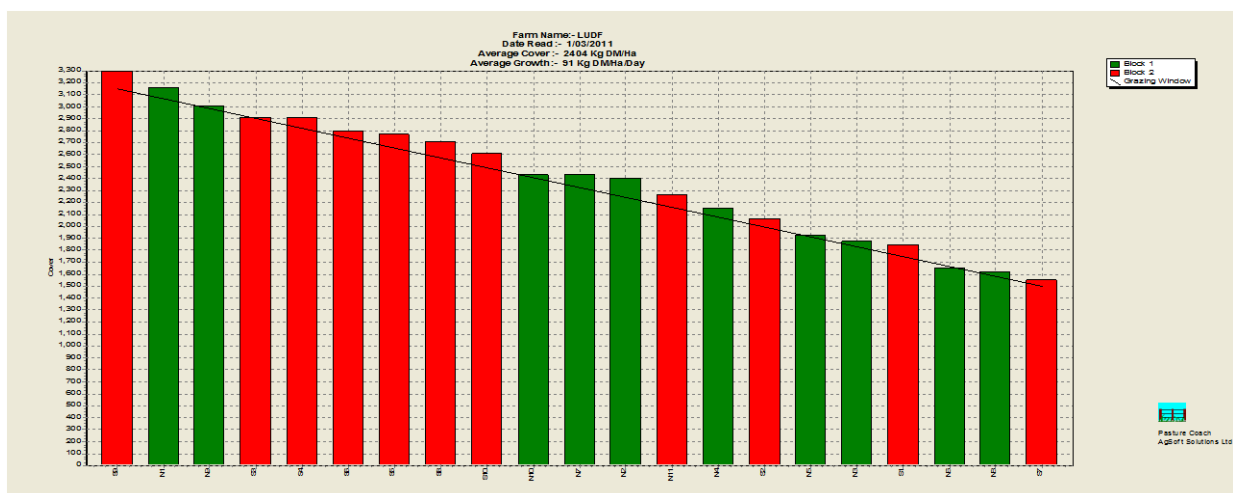
Tuesday, 1st March 2011

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Maintain pasture quality by regular monitoring and making necessary changes**
2. **Keep grazing residuals to the desired 7 - 8 clicks**
3. **Continue Mg supplementation**
4. **Closely observe milking cows for mastitis**
5. **Maintain round length between 24-26 days**
6. **Monitor BCS and act accordingly to achieve the targets**

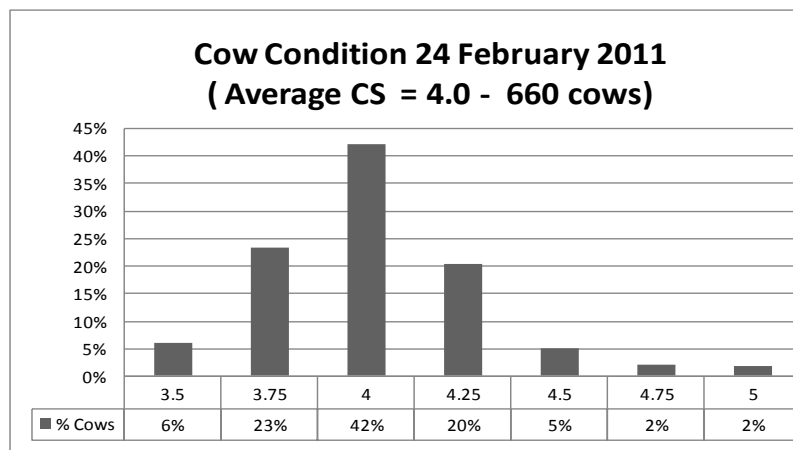
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

7. Soil temperature this week was 16°C (last week 17.3°C).
8. There has been no rain over the last week. 1 day of irrigation required in the North and South Blocks this week.
9. PASTURE GROWTH was 91 kg DM/ha/day, higher than the 68 kg DM/ha/day last week.
10. Average PASTURE COVER was measured at 2404kg DM/ha, up from last week at 2,192 kg DM/ha.
11. In the same week last year growth rate was 70kg DM/ha/day and average pasture cover was 2,279kg DM/ha with slightly lower soil temperature.
12. This morning 658 cows were milked into the vat, including 5 lame cows and one mastitis cow.
13. Including all groups of cows, 45.7 ha was grazed for the week, an average of 6.5 ha/day or 24.6 day round.
14. This week 24.9 t DM of silage (average of 5.4 kg DM of silage/cow/day) was fed out. Season to date 126.3 t DM (188 kg DM/cow).
15. Paddock N2 was sprayed out on the 8th of January. It was cultivated and drilled with Trojan Ryegrass on the 20th January. It has had a small nip off with calves. After this it was weed sprayed with Preside herbicide and MCPB and is about 10 days away from grazing by the herd.
16. Today's feed Wedge:



The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 3,140 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1,500 kg DM/ha, which is the pre-grazing needed to feed the cows considering the stocking rate of 4.1 cows/ha (656 cows/160 ha), cows eating 16 kg DM/cow/day and a rotation length of 25 days.

17. There is a surplus of 12t DM on this Feed Wedge so we should not have to feed silage this week. There is doubt there is as much pasture available for the herd as shown in the wedge so will keep feeding silage as required to ensure grazing no more than 1/25th of the farm per day (6.4ha/day) while maintaining post grazing residuals. This will continue to be assessed over the week.
18. The herd was assessed for condition last Thursday. The average BCS of the herd was 4.0, lower than we anticipated and now have a plan in place to achieve our targets. The key is regular monitoring and being proactive.
19. For LUDF the target BCS to achieve at calving is:
 - Calve mixed age cows at a minimum Condition Score 5
 - Calve Rising 3 year old at Condition Score 5.5
20. BCS of the herd on 24 February 2011



21. 166 cows of BCS 4 or below, including young cows and early calvers, will be put on once a day milking to ensure they can get to the desired BCS targets at calving. Putting these cows on OAD should give them enough time to get to target and should produce more milk with a longer OAD lactation than would happen if we dried them off early.
22. With Protrack we can bring both herds in together if required and re-separate them post milking rather than always bringing in two separate herds.
23. Our Drying off Decision Rules are based on:

Cows (4 years old and older)

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	100	20 April – 5 May	5-15 May
4	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
4.5	60	NA	NA

Rising 3 year Old

Cow Condition	Dry off time (days before Calving)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 1-15 August)	Date cow need to be dry off (calving date 15-30 August)
3.5	120	1- 15 April	15 -30 April
4	100	20 April -5 May	5-15 May
4.5	80	10-20 May	20 -30 May
5	60	NA	NA

This strategy requires feeding the cows above demand and good quality feed.

24. The fifth round of Urea is underway. This week 34 ha received 40 kg/N. Season to date 200kg N/ha has been applied across the whole of the milking platform (160 ha).
25. One new lame cow this week. There have been 60 lame cows since calving started on the 20 July.

26. One new case of clinical Mastitis, season to date 66 cows treated for Mastitis.
27. SCC has been 220,000 this week. All cows are currently having one quarter stripped each morning milking to check for mastitis.
28. Production this week was 1.36 kg MS/cow/day (1.38kg MS/cow last week) and 5.62kg MS/ha/day (5.71 kg MS/ha last week).

Next farm walk will be on **Tuesday, 8th March 2011, at 9.00 am.**

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Management Group

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