

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm – Farm Walk notes

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006

## Critical issues for the short term

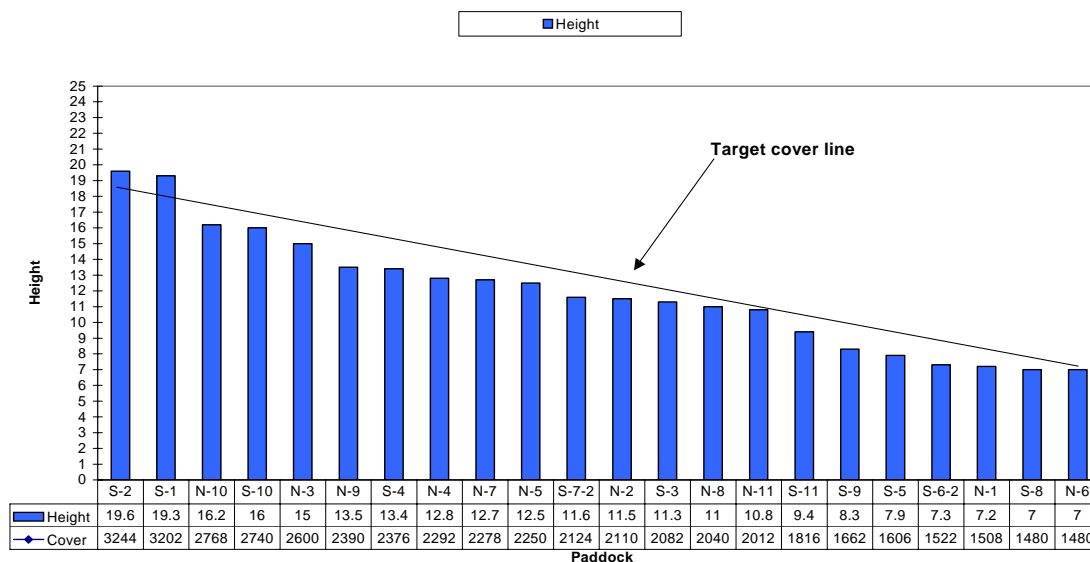
1. Reducing cow numbers to 250 milkers to bring demand closer to growth.
2. Avoid pugging.

### Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

3. Ave PASTURE COVER was measured at 2038 kg DM/ha, down 160 kgDM/ha from last week.
4. PASTURE GROWTH estimated at 27 kg DM/ha for last week, (47 last week)
5. Soil Temperature has dropped to 6.8°C from 10.9°C.
6. Grazing RESIDUALS remain on target at 7 clicks or 1480 kg DM/ha. Note this is despite heavy rain and feeding about 4 kg DM silage per day.
7. Per cow PRODUCTION is dropping slowly and is now 1.2 kgs MS/cow/day and 3.95 kg MS/ha/day.
8. ROTATION length has dropped to last week at 27 days as result of allocating increased area to cope with heavy rain (about 80 mm).

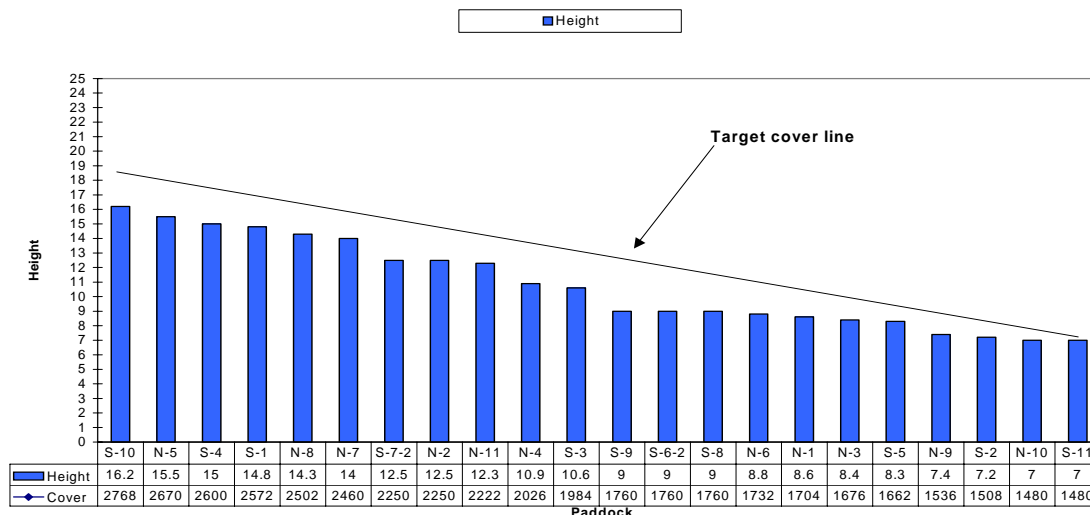
Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

9-May-06



Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

16-May-06



9. The feed wedges show that this weeks cold weather has changed the feed situation dramatically and our response is to reduce cow numbers to 250 milkers assuming the 280 dry cows will remain on the farm for a further week during their dry off period. Once we have dried off the 280 cows we will alter the target cover line.
10. Our target cover for the 1<sup>st</sup> of June is 2100 kg DM/ha, thus we will look to continue to dry off cows to match growth.
11. The dramatic change in farm covers and our response to dry off more cows that originally planned has also resulted in our winter feed budget being revised.
12. Our winter job list is now being finalised.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> May 10.00am.**

**NEXT LUDF FOCUS DAY  
THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**Management Group**

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

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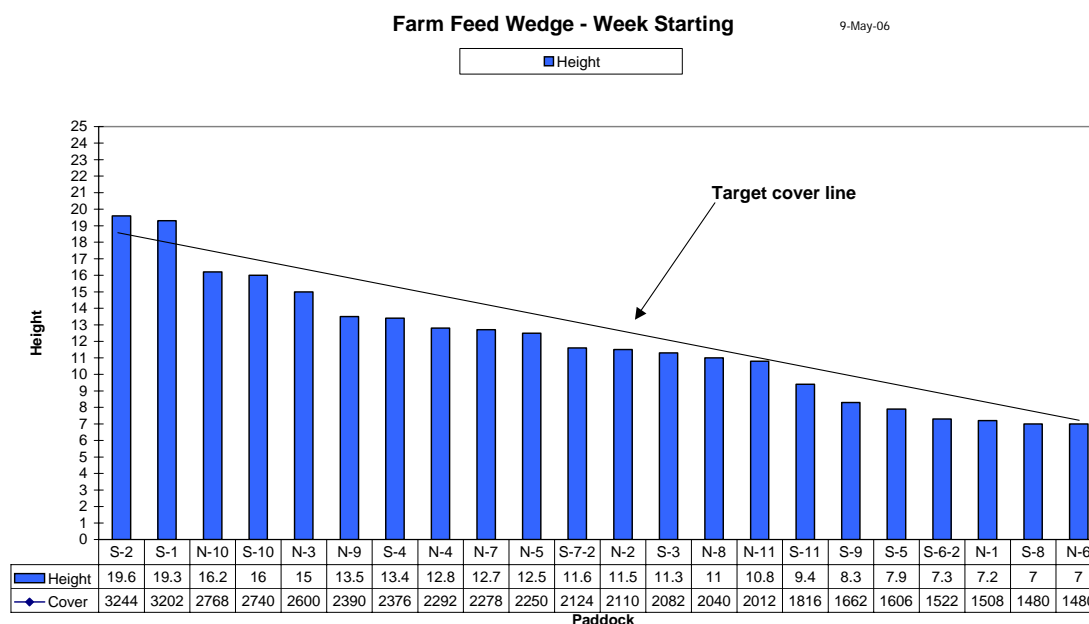
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006

## Critical issues for the short term

1. Manage soil damage by grazing high cover paddocks with heavy soil before forecast rain arrives and driest longest cover paddocks during rain.

### Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

2. Ave PASTURE COVER was measured at 2200 kg DM/ha, up 40 kgDM/ha from last week.
3. PASTURE GROWTH estimated at 47 kg DM/ha for last week, (39 last week)
4. Soil Temperature has dropped to 10.9°C from 11.9°C.
5. Grazing RESIDUALS remain on target at 7 clicks or 1480 kg DM/ha. Note this is despite feeding about 4.6 kg DM silage per day.
6. Per cow PRODUCTION is dropping slowly and is now 1.32 kgs MS/cow/day and 4.5 kg MS/ha/day.
7. ROTATION length similar to last week at 38 days, with silage at 4.6 kgDM/cow/day.



8. Cow numbers have been reduced to 531 after the early calving light cows were dried off and have been moved off farm to begin winter grazing. These dry cows will be leaving milking cow residuals and will be Condition Scored on a fortnightly basis to monitor progress.
9. If we continue to feed silage at 4kgDM/cow/day, then by the 31 May we will have fed out 310 kgs of purchased in silage /cow this season.
10. Our target cover for the 1<sup>st</sup> of June is 2100 kg DM/ha, thus we will look to continue to dry off cows to match growth.
11. 192 R2 Heifers returned to farm on 3<sup>rd</sup> of May and average weight was 411 kgs. This is lower than previous years and reflects the much higher percentage of crossbreed in the line

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> May 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).

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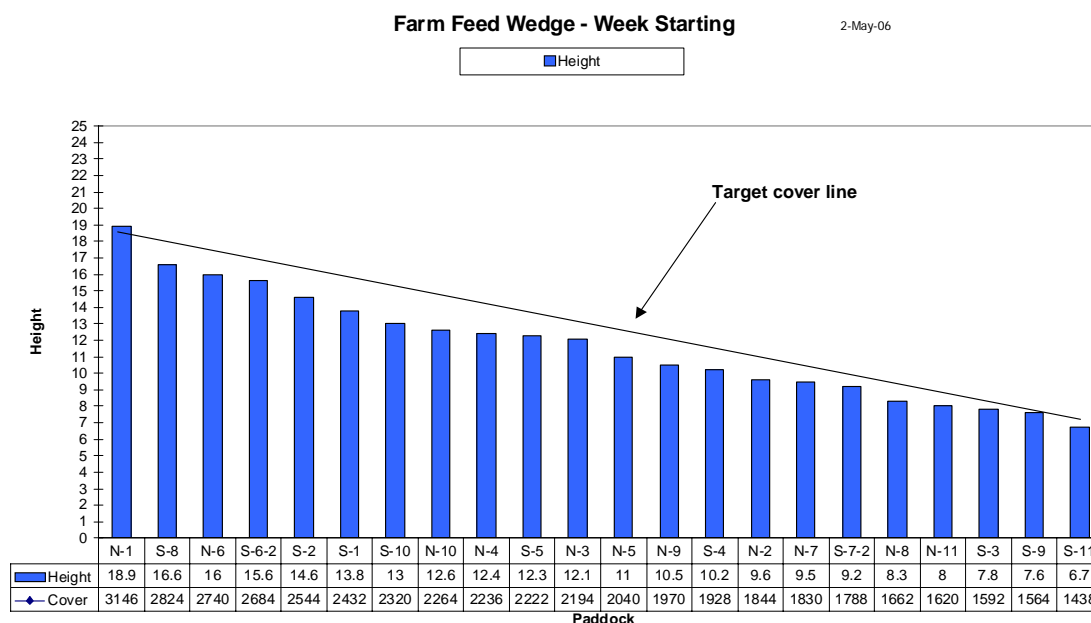
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006

## Critical issues for the short term

1. Reduce cow numbers to better match decreasing pasture growth rates as per budgets
2. Pasture growth slowing due to reduction of soil temperature.

### Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

3. Ave PASTURE COVER was measured at 2158 kg DM/ha, down 50 kgDM/ha from last week.
4. PASTURE GROWTH estimated at 39 kg DM/ha for last week, (45 last week). This growth rate does not match feed demand of 55 i.e. 563 cows at 16 to 16.5 kg DM /cow so cow numbers are to be reduced. 33 lighter cows to be dried this week reducing numbers to budgeted 530 cows.
5. Soil Temperature has dropped to 11.9°C from 13°C. This is due to 52 mm of rainfall over the last week.
6. Grazing RESIDUALS remain on target at 7 clicks or 1480 kg DM/ha. Note this is despite feeding about 4 kg DM silage per day.
7. Pasture QUALITY is as good as ever, ME of 12.8 and 12.9.
8. Per cow PRODUCTION is dropping slowly – now 1.4 kgs MS/cow/day and 5.2 kg MS/ha/day.
9. ROTATION length similar to last week at 36 days, with silage been reduced to 4kgDM/cow/day.



10. 46 cows were culled on 1<sup>st</sup> of May this was slightly later than expected, thus have not increased round and have lost some cover. A further 33 cows will be dried off by the end of this week which will mean our demand will more closely align with growth. Continue to feed silage at 4kgDM/cow/day.
11. We are conscience that we can only reduce cover down to 2100 kg DM/ha, which is our target cover for the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, thus we will look to continue to dry off cows to match growth. We expect to reduce 50 cows next week.

12. 192 R2 Heifers return to farm on 3<sup>rd</sup> of May and will be weighed and placed on winter grazing off farm. R1 heifers will be placed on May to May grazing contract on the same day. Average heifer weight was 411 kgs. This is lower than previous years and reflects the much higher percentage of crossbreed in the line.
13. We have also completed another whole herd PD and there have been no further pregnancy losses in the last three weeks since the previous PD. We have one further whole herd PD scheduled for late May.

**Please note**

## **Changed Date for May LUDF Focus Day Now on Thursday 11 May at LUDF.**

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> May 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).