

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

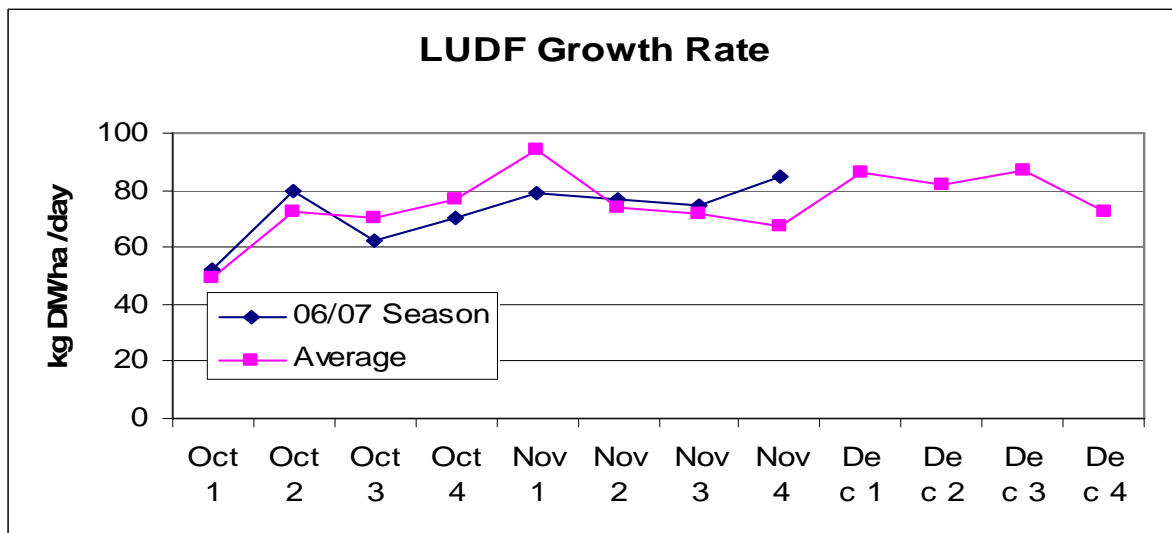
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2006

## Critical issues for the short term

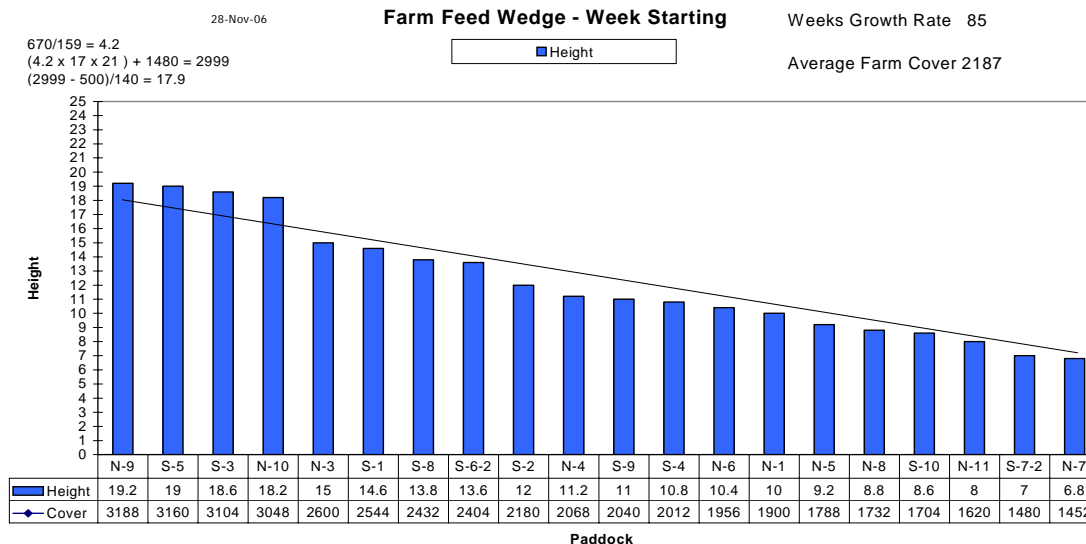
1. Maintaining pasture quality.
2. Identifying surpluses.

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

3. SOIL TEMPS have risen and are fluctuating between 13.5 and 15.5 degrees.



4. PASTURE GROWTH over the last week has averaged 85 kg DM/ha (last week 75) and was above average for November.
5. Over the last week we grazed an average of 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the farm a day on the milking platform with no supplements.
6. Milk production has dropped to 1.77 kgs MS/cow/day (last week 1.82 kg MS/cow), and 7.3 kgs MS/ha/day (last week 7.5).



7. The calculations above the top left of the wedge are to calculate the pre-grazing cover. The first line calculates the actual stocking rate on the milking area. The second line (Stocking Rate x intake x rotation length) + target residual = pre – grazing target. The third line converts this to height (in compressed half centimetres).
8. The stocking rate has decreased to 4.2 cows /ha because S7 (the re-grassed paddock) is now back into the grazing round.
9. The average cover has risen by 100 kgs DM/ha this week.
10. We will begin the week by allocating about 1/22<sup>nd</sup> of the farm a day and then after about 4 days we will increase this to 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the farm for a couple of days if required to get through the short minor deficit. The average rotation length for the week will be about 21 days. We are slowly able to lengthen out the rotation length. Once we get to 23 days we will remove S6 from the grazing rotation and spray it out for cultivation and re-grassing.
11. The FEED ALLOCATION to the milking herd will continue to be at 17 kgs DM/cow/day and if possible we lift this if the cows are eager to eat more.
12. We will continue to follow the cows with 15 kgs N/ha until soil temperatures are consistently above 16 degrees. We will apply this N fertiliser (Urea) up to 4 days ahead of the grazing cows. This provides more response time for the N before the next grazing.
13. The strong hot NW winds are resulting in high Evapo-transpiration rates and so we are now irrigating our lightest soil every day except after heavy rain. We monitor soil moisture levels weekly using neutron probes and schedule irrigation according to this information. The heavy soils on the south block still only need occasional irrigation.
14. The first crop of silage has been made on the East Block Runoff this week. This area then received 40 kgs N/ha.
15. The lab analysis of the first two lines of purchased silage has come back with ME's of 11.5 and 12.5. This will be excellent for extending lactation in the autumn.
16. Faecal samples were collected from the weaned calves and will be analysed for egg counts. Sampling will occur every two weeks until egg levels indicate a need to drench.
17. The weaned are going to be vaccinated with 5 in 1 and given a copper bullet. They will also be drafted and those over 100 kgs will no longer get meal/pellets.
18. We currently have no mastitis cows and only 5 lame cows which are resting and on OAD milking.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am.**

### **Management Group**

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Peter Hancox (Farm Manager) Peter Gaul (for SIDDC) and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel)

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

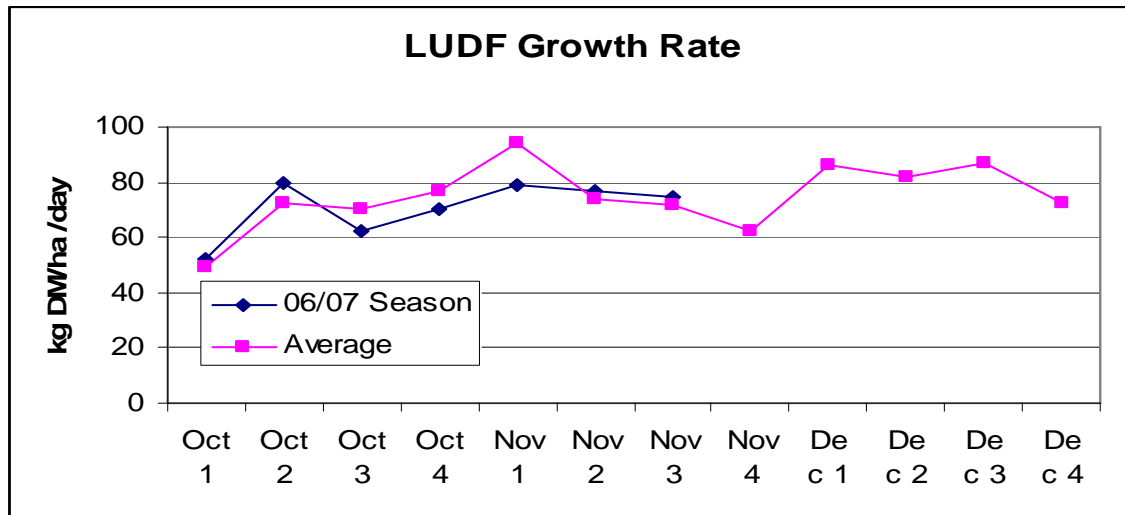
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006

## Critical issues for the short term

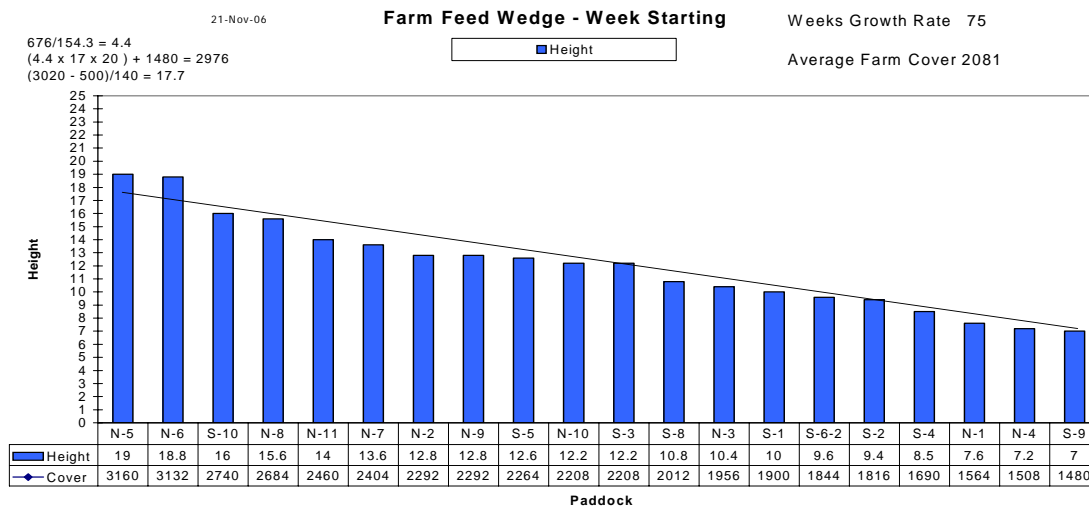
1. Maintaining cow energy intake through mating.
2. Getting every cow mated as early as possible.

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

3. SOIL TEMPS are fluctuating between 12.5 and 15.5 degrees.



4. PASTURE GROWTH over the last week has averaged 75 kg DM/ha (last week 77) and is still only average for November. Over the last 4 years November has been notable for a series of southerly blasts, which have dramatically reduced growth rates.
5. Over the last week we averaged 1/22<sup>nd</sup> of the farm a day on the milking platform with no supplements.
6. Milk production is holding at 1.82 kgs MS/cow/day (last week 1.8 kg MS/cow), and 7.5 kgs MS/ha/day (same as last week).
7. The calculations above the top left of the wedge are to calculate the pre-grazing cover. The first line calculates the actual stocking rate on the milking area. The second line (Stocking Rate x intake x rotation length) + target residual = pre – grazing target. The third line converts this to height (in compressed half centimetres).



8. The average cover has held this week as cow intakes have appeared to have dropped slightly.
9. A small deficit is expected in about 4 days time but the rest of the wedge is on target. We will begin the week by allocating about 1/22<sup>nd</sup> of the farm a day and then after about 4 days we will increase this to 1/18<sup>th</sup> of the farm for a couple of days to get through this small deficit.
10. The FEED ALLOCATION to the milking herd will initially be at 17 kgs DM/cow/day and we will lift this if the cows are eager to eat more.
11. We are continuing to follow the cows with 20 kgs N/ha. ie 6 - 7 paddocks each week. We will apply this N fertiliser (Urea) up to 4 days ahead of the grazing cows. This provides more response time for the N before the next grazing.
12. After 21 days of mating we have had an 89% submission rate and after 28 days the submission rate has lifted to 95%.
13. The new grass in paddock S7 is now growing steadily and will get its first nip off this week. Soil conditions are also dry enough for the cows to graze this paddock.
14. The first crop of silage will be made on the East Block runoff this week. The lab analysis of the first two lines of purchased silage has come back with ME's of 11.5 and 12.5. This will be excellent for extending lactation in the autumn.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am.**

### **Management Group**

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Peter Hancox (Farm Manager) Peter Gaul (for SIDDC) and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel).

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

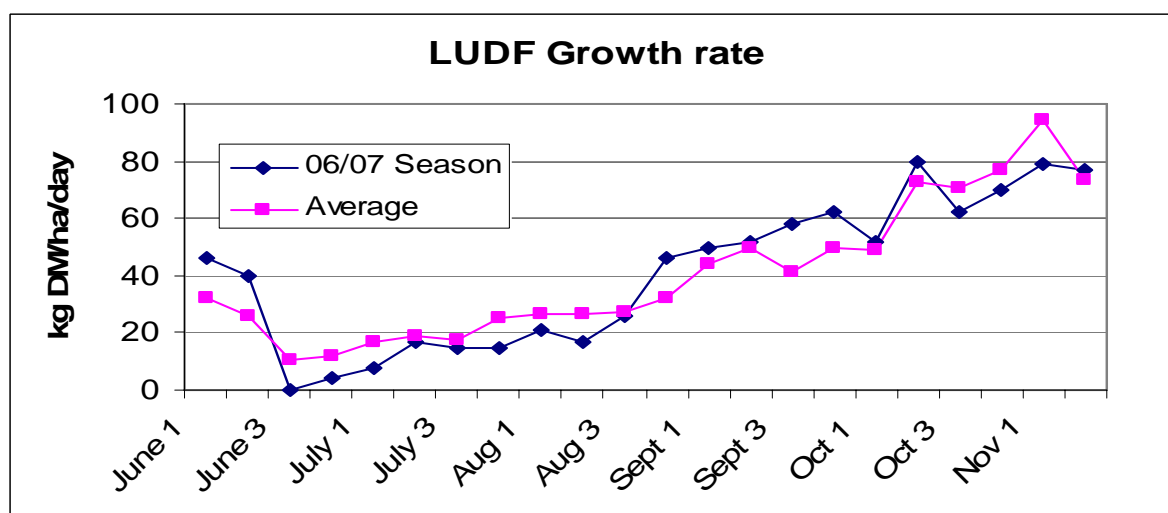
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006

## Critical issues for the short term

1. Maintaining cow energy intake through mating.
2. Getting every cow mated as early as possible.
3. Lengthening the rotation from the current 20 days to 22 days.

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

4. SOIL TEMPS were fluctuating at about to 12.5 until the end of the week when they have risen to 15.5 degrees.



5. PASTURE GROWTH over the last week has averaged 77 kg DM/ha (last week 80) and is still only average for November. Over the last 4 years November has been notable for a series of southerly blasts, which have dramatically reduced growth rates.
6. Weather forecast for the next 12 days is for average to mild, which leads us to expect that our growth rate will be similar or better than last week.
7. Over the last week we averaged 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the farm a day on the milking platform with no supplements. This is still faster than comfortable.
8. Milk production has dropped slightly and the last 5 days average was 1.8 kgs MS/cow/day (down from 1.82 kg MS/cow), and 7.5 kgs MS/ha/day (same as last week). Milk production is still being restrained by a lack of pasture cover.
9. The calculations above the top left of the wedge are to calculate the pre-grazing cover. The first line calculates the actual stocking rate on the milking area. The second line (Stocking Rate x intake x rotation length) + target residual = pre – grazing target. The third line converts this to height (in compressed half centimetres).

14-Nov-06

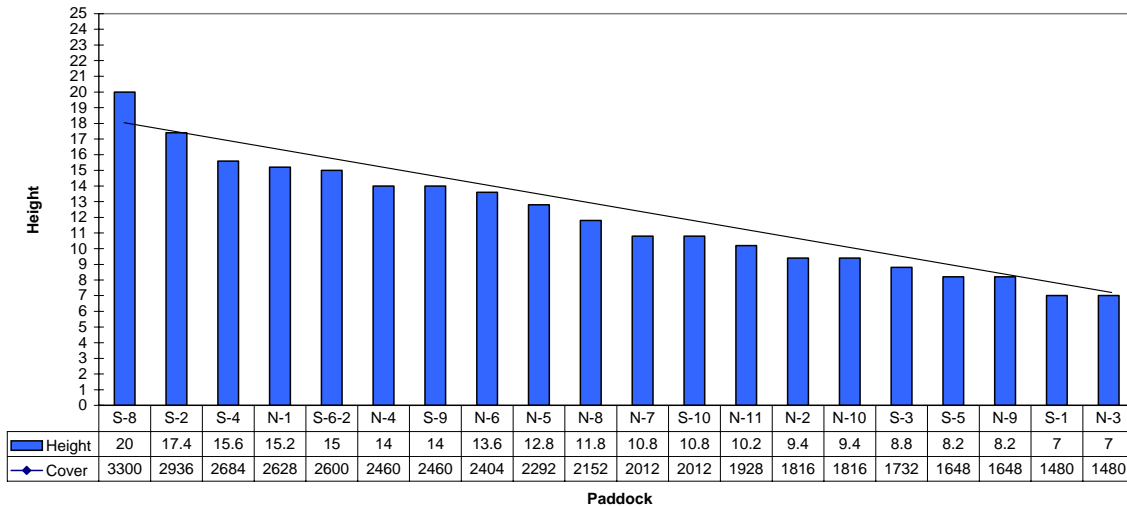
**Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting**

Weeks Growth Rate 77

$676/154.3 = 4.4$   
 $(4.4 \times 17.5 \times 20) + 1480 = 3020$   
 $(3020 - 500)/140 = 18$

■ Height

Average Farm Cover 2074



10. The average cover has dropped slightly. We will be holding the current rotation length of 20days.

11. The FEED ALLOCATION to the milking herd will be held at 17.5 kgs DM/cow/day. This will again comprise all grass. This level of allocation above residual is about 3.6% of average cow live-weight but as yet we are still not able to allocate sufficient to allow for some cover loss that does not end up as cow intake.

12. We are continuing to follow the cows with 20 kgs N/ha. ie 6 - 7 paddocks each week. We will apply this N fertiliser (Urea) up to 4 days ahead of the grazing cows. This provides more response time for the N before the next grazing.

13. After 21 days of mating we have had an 89% submission rate.

14. The new grass in paddock S7 is now growing steadily and is almost high enough to measure with a platometer. The recent rain had again resulted in soil conditions that are very soft and this will have to dry out before we can graze this with stock.

15. The weaned calves are growing at between 700 and 800 gm /day. The oldest weaned calves have had two worm drenches and we are doing regular faecal egg counts.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> November 10.00am.**

**Management Group**

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager) Peter Gaul (for SIDDC) and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel)

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

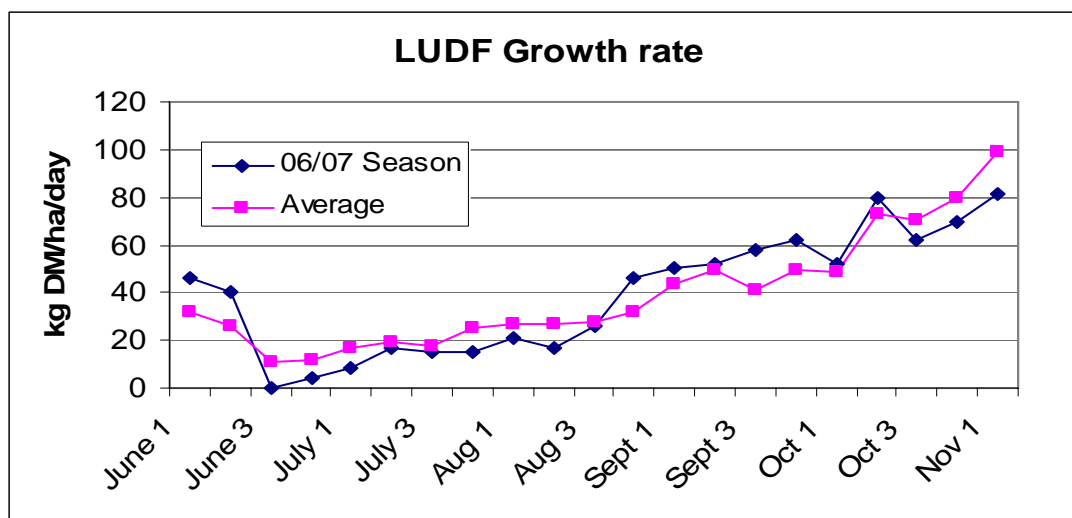
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006

## Critical issues for the short term

16. Maintaining cow energy intake through mating.
17. Lengthening the rotation from the current 19 days to 22 days.

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

18. SOIL TEMPS are holding at about to 12.5. This is over 2 degrees below last year.



19. PASTURE GROWTH over the last week has averaged 81 kg DM/ha (last week 70) and below the average growth for this time of the year.
20. Over the last week we averaged 1/22<sup>nd</sup> of the farm a day on the milking platform. We also have had 2 day-time grazings on the support block. As a result our average cover has risen slightly again to 2144 kgs DM/ha, which is slightly up on last weeks 2112. We account for the grazings from the runoff as “supplement” in our system.
21. Weather forecast for the next 12 days is for colder than average, which leads us to expect that our growth rate will not be as good as last week.
22. The two day-time grazings on the support block amounted to an additional 8.8t of feed into the system. The re-growth on these paddocks will be ideal for the weaned calves.
23. Milk PRODUCTION has dropped slightly and the last 5 days average was 1.82 kgs MS/cow/day (down from 1.89 kg MS/cow), and 7.5 kgs MS/ha/day (down from 7.7 kg MS/ha/day). Milk production is still being restrained by a lack of pasture cover.
24. The calculations above the top left of the wedge are to calculate the pre-grazing cover. The first line calculates the actual stocking rate on the milking area. The second line (Stocking Rate x intake x rotation length) + target residual = pre – grazing target. The third line converts this to height (in compressed half centimetres).

7-Nov-06

**Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting**

Weeks Growth Rate 81

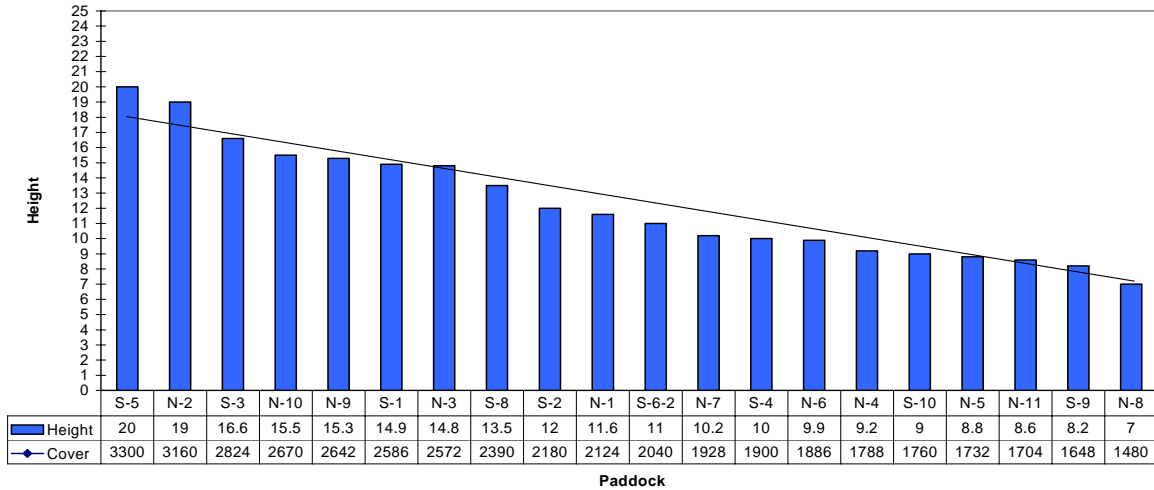
$676/154.3 = 4.4$

$(4.4 \times 17.5 \times 20) + 1480 = 3020$

$(3020 - 500)/140 = 18$



Average Farm Cover 2144



25. The slight increase in average cover and the current shape of the wedge have allowed us to increase the allocation by 0.5kgs DM/cow/day and increase the round length by one day to a 20 day round. We are slowly getting the farm out to a more suitable rotation length for our stocking rate. The 18 day round was a short term necessity that is proving to be very high risk and very difficult to get off.
26. The FEED ALLOCATION to the milking herd will be increased to 17.5 kgs DM/cow/day. This will again comprise all grass. This level of allocation above residual is about 3.6% of average cow live-weight but as yet we are still not able to allocate sufficient to allow for some cover loss that does not end up as cow intake.
27. We are continuing to follow the cows with 20 kgs N/ha. ie 6 - 7 paddocks each week. We will apply this N fertiliser (Urea) up to 4 days ahead of the grazing cows. This provides more response time for the N before the next grazing.
28. After 19 days of mating we have mated 555 out of the remaining 676 cows i.e. an 82% submission rate.
29. The new grass in paddock S7 is now growing steadily and is almost high enough to measure with a platometer. The recent rain had again resulted in soil conditions that are very soft and this will have to dry out before we can graze this with stock.
30. S5 (Tabu) was under sown 5 weeks ago with additional Tabu. This paddock will be grazed this week, its second grazing since the under sowing. The new seedlings are now in the grazing range and we will be able to see how well the under sowing has taken.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am.**

**Management Group**

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager) Peter Gaul (for SIDDC) and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel)