

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 27th November 2007

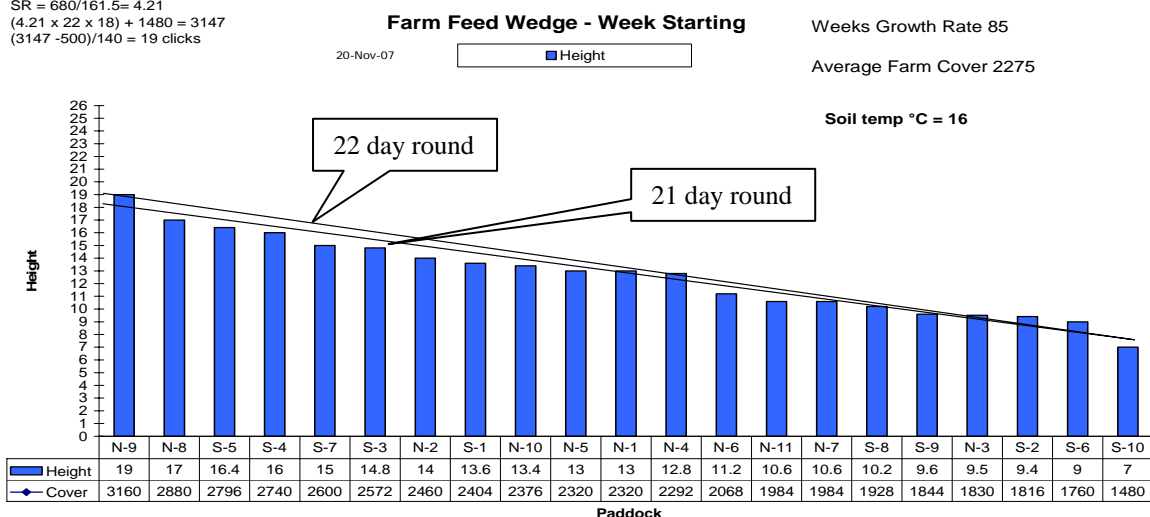
Critical issues for the short term

1. Re-grass N11.
2. Maintain a rotation of 22 days and the grazing residual at 7 “clicks”.

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. SOIL TEMP at 10am has averaged 17⁰C.
4. PASTURE GROWTH was 105 kg DM/ha (last week 87) on the milking platform.
5. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has risen from 2275 kg DM/ha to 2481 kg DM/ha. We have been holding to an average of 7.3 ha grazed per day or 1/22th of the farm a day.
6. Last weeks wedge

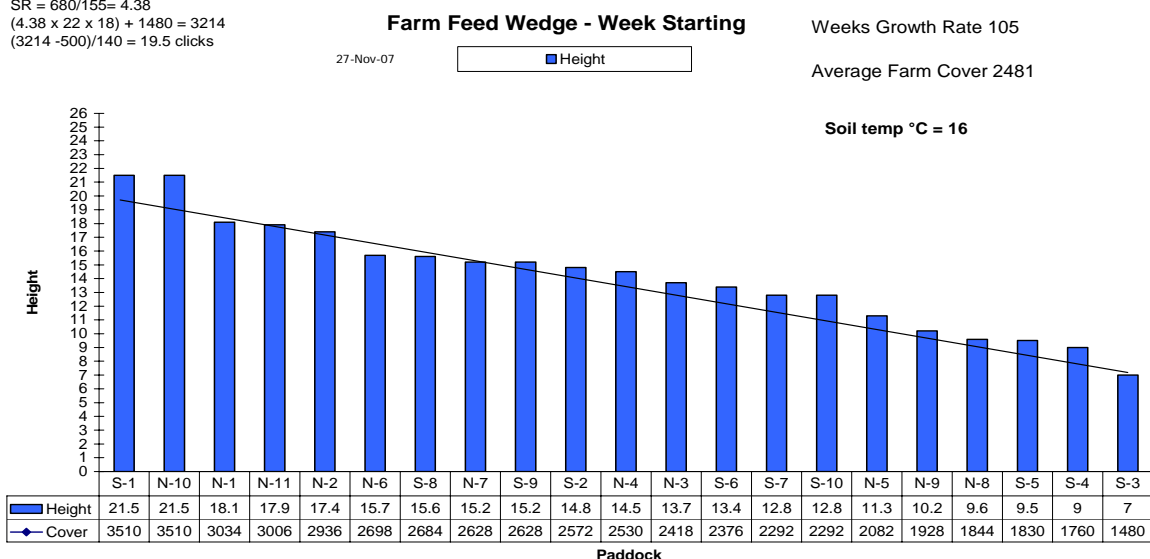
SR = 680/161.5= 4.21
 (4.21 x 22 x 18) + 1480 = 3147
 (3147 - 500)/140 = 19 clicks



We anticipated pasture growth above demand (weather forecast) to fill the gap.

This weeks wedge

SR = 680/155= 4.38
 (4.38 x 22 x 18) + 1480 = 3214
 (3214 - 500)/140 = 19.5 clicks



7. The target line on the Pasture wedge is based on a 22 day round on a reduced area of 155ha. Paddock S1 is always grazed out by the cows. This may be either because there is consistently less in this paddock than we measure or the cows lift their intakes in this paddock of Bealey. N10 is possibly a surplus and is still excellent quality. There appears to be a period of surplus developing in the middle of the wedge.
8. N11 will be grazed in two days time and then a few days later will be sprayed out for re-grassing. This farm is usually in a reliable surplus for the next 2 months which is why we have left re-grassing until now.
9. Current pasture ME is holding at 12.5 and there are few seed heads visible in our pastures.
10. No supplements have been fed during the week
11. Milk production has dropped to 1.85 from 1.98 kg MS /cow/day and 7.77 /ha /day from 8.32 kg MS /ha /day. There have been some very hot days this week which have been difficult for stock
12. Somatic cell counts keep on fluctuating with a peak of 275,000 dropping back to 173,000. Two new cases of mastitis found this week.
13. We mated 93% of the herd in the first 21 days of mating and have mated 95% by week 4. The last unmated cows will all have been submitted by the end of this week.
14. The cows have had a steady trend of weight gain, almost 1kg a day over the last two weeks
15. The cows are only getting Mg Cl through the water supply at 100 gm/cow/day.
16. Bloat oil is being added to the water supply at the maximum recommended rate.
17. Occasional irrigation is holding soil moisture levels within the target range which is a third of the way between field capacity and stress level. This leaves enough room for rain events to still not reach field capacity but also means that if the pivot breaks down we are not immediately in crisis.
18. We have reared 253 cross bred calves. One hundred and thirty nine have reached 100kgs and are solely on grass. Eighty eight are still on ad lib meal but no milk as they weigh more than 85 kgs, and 26 are still on milk and ad lib meal. This later group will continue to have milk (mastitis milk) if available until they reach 100 kgs.
19. We have small surpluses now appearing on the runoffs. This is being made into baleage.
20. After our farm walk and management meeting each Tuesday morning we then hold a full staff meeting after lunch to plan the work for the week. Last weeks work plan is reviewed and this week's non-routine jobs are prioritised (urgent / important) and assigned to specific staff. The weeks feed wedge and farm walk notes are made available to everyone for discussion.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY 4th December 2007 at 9.00am.**

Management Group

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday 20th November 2007

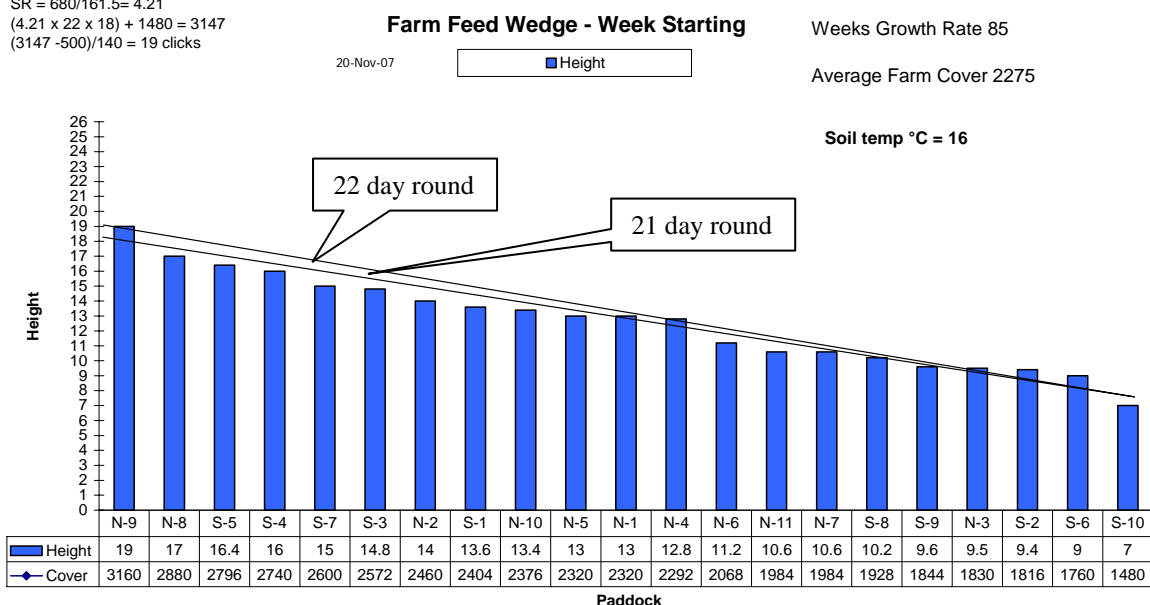
Critical issues for the short term

1. Lengthen the rotation to 21 plus days and the grazing residual at 7 “clicks”.

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

2. SOIL TEMP at 10am has dropped during the week to 12⁰C but has risen quickly to about 16.0⁰C today.
3. PASTURE GROWTH was 85 kg DM/ha (last week 93) on the milking platform.
4. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has dropped slightly from 2304 kg DM/ha to 2275 kg DM/ha. We have been holding to an average of 8.3 ha grazed per day or 1/19. 5th of the farm a day. This is more land used than targeted. No supplements have been fed during the week
5. This weeks wedge

SR = 680/161.5= 4.21
 (4.21 x 22 x 18) + 1480 = 3147
 (3147 -500)/140 = 19 clicks



6. The gap below the target line from last week has arrived as an apparent deficit for the next few days. The two target lines shown on the wedge show that the current ideal rotation (for us) of 22 days (allowing regrassing of N11) is not quite attainable at present. With pasture growth ahead of demand we are very hopeful that this week will see no silage being fed and the rotation being able to stay close to 21 days.

Last weeks wedge

7. The target line on last weeks pasture wedge was lifted to reflect an increase in rotation length from 20 days to 22 days that we are aiming to achieve before we remove N11 for re-grassing. We have also lifted the allocation by 0.5 kg DM /cow/day to reflect that the cows have been cleaning up the paddocks earlier in the day. The possible deficit in about 10 days time was expected to be less than it appeared it would be as growth rates are higher than demand. This dip occurred because these paddocks were grazed down to 6 “clicks” rather than 7 “clicks”.

SR = 680/161.5= 4.21
 (4.21 x 22 x 18) + 1480 = 3147
 (3147 -500)/140 = 19 clicks

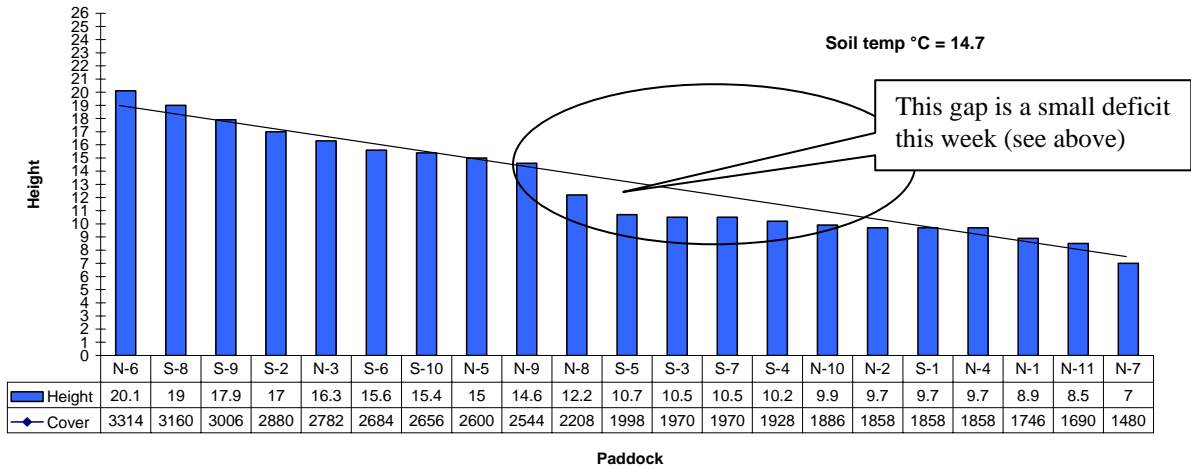
Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

Weeks Growth Rate 93

13-Nov-07

■ Height

Average Farm Cover 2304



8. Current pasture ME is holding at 12.5 Dry Matter levels have dropped but milk production has not been negatively affected. This is enough ME for maintenance and to do about 2 kgs MS /cow/day. There are no seed heads visible in our pastures.
9. Milk production has risen again to 1.98 kg MS /cow/day and 8.32 kg MS /ha /day.
10. Somatic cell counts keep on fluctuating between 208,000 and 230,000 with 3 new mastitis case found this week.
11. We mated 93% of the herd in the first 21 days of mating (target 90%). Currently we have mated 644 cows out of 680. Of the cows not yet mated 26 of the 36 cows will finish a hormone programme tomorrow. The remaining 10 were late calvers and it is too soon to expect or assist them to cycle.
12. The cows were only getting Mg Cl through the water supply at 60 gm/cow/day but we have had to treat two cows for grass staggers (lack of Magnesium) and so we are increasing this to 100 gm/cow/day.
13. Bloat oil is being added to the water supply at the maximum recommended rate.
14. Occasional irrigation is holding soil moisture levels within the target range which is a third of the way between field capacity and stress level.
15. After our farm walk and management meeting each Tuesday morning we then hold a full staff meeting after lunch to plan the work for the week. Last weeks work plan is reviewed and this week's non-routine jobs are prioritised (urgent / important) and assigned to specific staff. The weeks feed wedge and farm walk notes are made available to everyone for discussion.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY, 27th November 2007 at 9.00am.**

Management Group

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Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday 13th Nov 2007

Critical issues for the short term

1. Lengthen the rotation to 21 plus days and the grazing residual at 7 “clicks”.

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance
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2. SOIL TEMP at 10am has held at about 14.7 °C.
3. PASTURE GROWTH was 93 kg DM/ha (last week 79) on the milking platform.
4. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has risen again from 2196 kg DM/ha to 2304 kg DM/ha. We have been holding to an average of 7.5 ha grazed per day or 1/21.5st of the farm a day. We have done this by getting two 8 hour grazings off the East Block which has been recorded as supplements fed.

5. This weeks wedge

SR = 680/161.5 = 4.21
 (4.21 x 22 x 18) + 1480 = 3147
 (3147 - 500)/140 = 19 clicks

Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

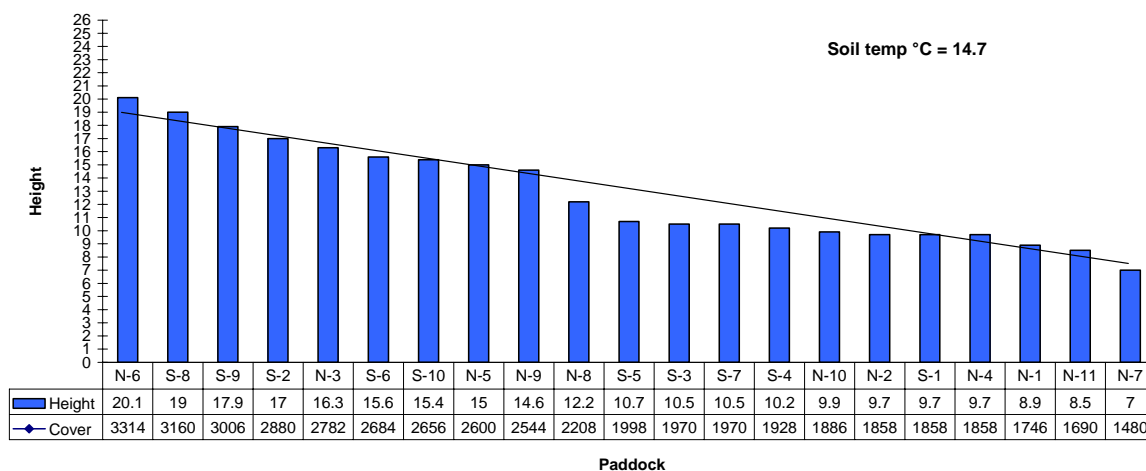
Weeks Growth Rate 93

Average Farm Cover 2304

13-Nov-07

■ Height

Soil temp °C = 14.7



6. The target line on this weeks pasture wedge has been lifted to reflect an increase in rotation length from 20 days to 22 days that we are aiming to achieve before we remove N11 for re-grassing. We have also lifted the allocation by 0.5 kg DM /cow/day to reflect that the cows have been cleaning up the paddocks earlier in the day. The possible deficit in about 10 days time is expected to be less than it currently looks as growth rates are still higher than demand. This dip occurred because there paddocks were grazed down to 6 “clicks” rather than 7 “clicks”.
7. We have been feeding an average of 3.1 kg DM /cow/day grass silage. This was mostly two grazings of pasture on the East Block.
8. Current pasture ME is holding at over 12.5 and even with the silage we are offering an intake of over 200 ME. This is enough ME for maintenance and to do about 2 kgs MS /cow/day. There are no seed heads visible in our pastures.

9. Milk production has risen again to 1.96 kg MS /cow/day and 8.3 kg MS /ha /day.
10. Somatic cell counts keep on fluctuating between 170,000 and 230,000 with only 1 new mastitis case found this week.
11. We have two days of mating to go before we have reached the 3 week mark. Currently have mated 577 cows out of 680 so we only need to average 25 a day to get to the target 90%. (We have been averaging over 30 new cows a day).
12. The cows were only getting Mg Cl through the water supply at 60 gm/cow/day but we have had to treat two cows for grass staggers (lack of Magnesium) and so we are increasing this to 100 gm/cow/day.
13. Bloat oil is being added to the water supply at the maximum recommended rate.
14. Occasional irrigation is holding soil moisture levels within the target range which is a third of the way between field capacity and stress level.
15. After our farm walk and management meeting each Tuesday morning we then hold a full staff meeting after lunch to plan the work for the week. Last weeks work plan is reviewed and this week's non-routine jobs are prioritised (urgent / important) and assigned to specific staff. The weeks feed wedge and farm walk notes are made available to everyone for discussion.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **TUESDAY, 20th November 2007 at 9.00am.**

Management Group

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel).

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 6th Nov 2007

Critical issues for the short term

1. Hold the rotation length at 20 plus days and the grazing residual at 7 “clicks”.

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

2. SOIL TEMP at 10am has risen from 14.1 °C. to 14.7 °C. The weather forecast is for mild temperatures which we expect will leave soil temperatures near to the current level.
3. PASTURE GROWTH was 79 kg DM/ha (last week 71) on the milking platform reflecting the warmer temperatures during the week.
4. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER has risen again from 2040 kg DM/ha to 2196 kg DM/ha. We have been holding to an average of 7.8 ha grazed per day or 1/21st of the farm a day.
5. Last weeks wedge

SR = 680/161.5= 4.21
(4.21 x 20 x 17.5) + 1480 = 2953
(2935 -500)/140 = 17.4 clicks

Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

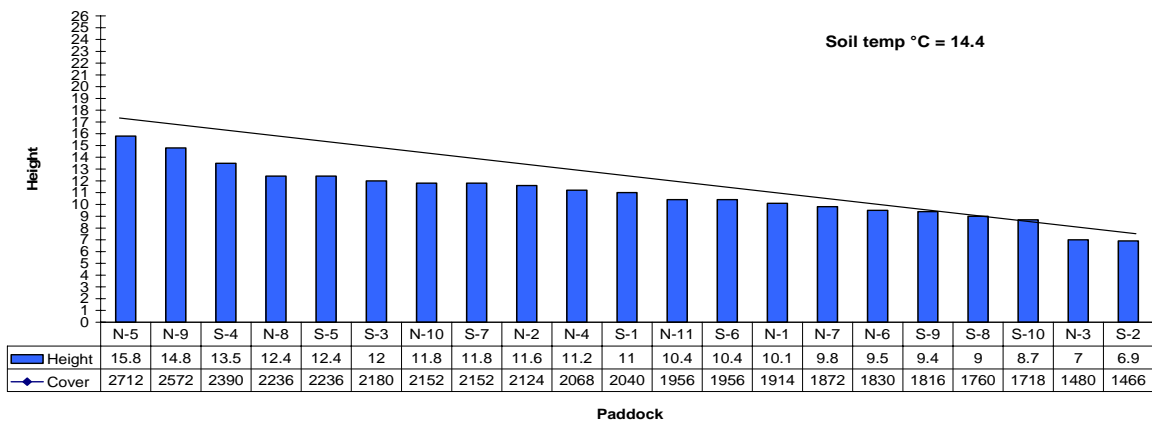
30-Oct-07



Weeks Growth Rate 70

Average Farm Cover 2040

Soil temp °C = 14.4



6. This weeks wedge

SR = 680/161.5= 4.21
(4.21 x 20 x 17.5) + 1480 = 2953
(2935 -500)/140 = 17.4 clicks

Farm Feed Wedge - Week Starting

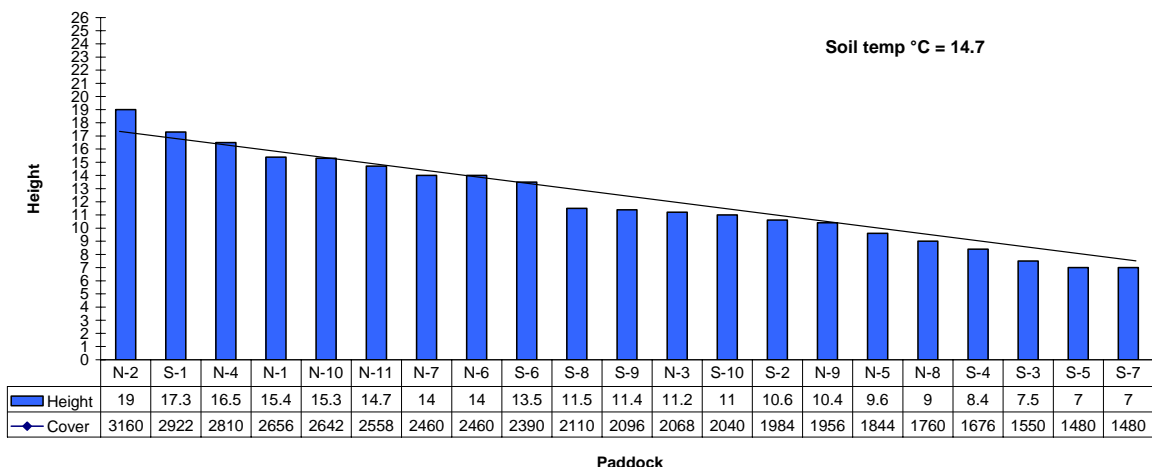
6-Nov-07



Weeks Growth Rate 79

Average Farm Cover 2196

Soil temp °C = 14.7



7. This week's pasture wedge shows the silage feeding to fill the deficits from the recent weeks has come to an end with a near perfect wedge. The target line on the wedge assumes that we stick to a 20 day round and a residual of 1480 or "7 clicks" and holding the allocation of pasture to 17.5 kgs DM.
8. Our management policy at this time of the year is to be farming right on the knife edge of supply. We do this because there are much bigger dollars to be lost from a lack of quality than from having a short term deficit. We do not choose to speed up the rotation because at a stocking rate of 4.2 cows /ha doing this means that we are betting on the growth rate for the next two to three weeks to increase to well above what we will require to fill the deficit at the current rotation length. At our 4.2 stocking rate on a 20 day round we require a 73 growth rate to match demand. Going to a 16 day round would mean that the growth rate would need to be 88 just to hold our cover and above this to allow us to again lengthen the round back to 20 days.
9. We have been feeding an average of 5.3 kg DM /cow/day grass silage (including one grazing of pasture on the East Block.) this week to keep residuals between "6 and 7 clicks" (1340 kg DM/ha to 1480 kg DM/ha).
10. We will be re-grassing N11 on the milking platform when we have a surplus
11. Current pasture ME is holding at over 12.5 and even with the silage we are offering an intake of over 200 ME. This is enough ME for maintenance and to do about 2 kgs MS /cow/day. There are no seed heads visible in our pastures.
12. Milk production has held at 1.93 kg MS /cow/day and 8.1 kg MS /ha /day.
13. Somatic cell counts keep on fluctuating between 190,000 and 240,000 with only 1 new mastitis case found this week.
14. The light cows which were below C.S. 4.0 have been mated and have gone back into the TAD milking herd.
15. We are averaging 27.7 cows per day for the first 13 days for the cows that have not been assisted with a hormone programme. Including the 55 cows treated with a CIDR and mated so far the rate is running at 95% for the first 3 weeks (target 90%). During the week a further 25 cows that had not cycled and have been calved more than 35days were treated with an Ovsynch programme. It is very likely that the 90% target will be achieved.
16. While the weather is warm the cows are only getting Mg Cl through the water supply at 60 gm/cow/day.
17. Bloat oil is being added to the water supply at the maximum recommended rate.
18. We are monitoring cow live weight with the walk over weighing. The herd average has gained another 2 kgs which is consistent with the just adequate feed supply during the week. We hope that the reliance on pasture alone will see a continuance of live weight gain next week.
19. Another 48 calves were weaned during the week. 66 calves remain being fed milk.

20. Irrigation began during the week on all areas of the farm. Soil moisture levels are now dropping faster than they have done previously this season.
21. After our farm walk and management meeting each Tuesday morning we then hold a full staff meeting after lunch to plan the work for the week. Last weeks work plan is reviewed and this week's non-routine jobs are prioritised (urgent / important) and assigned to specific staff. The weeks feed wedge and farm walk notes are made available to everyone for discussion.

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