

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

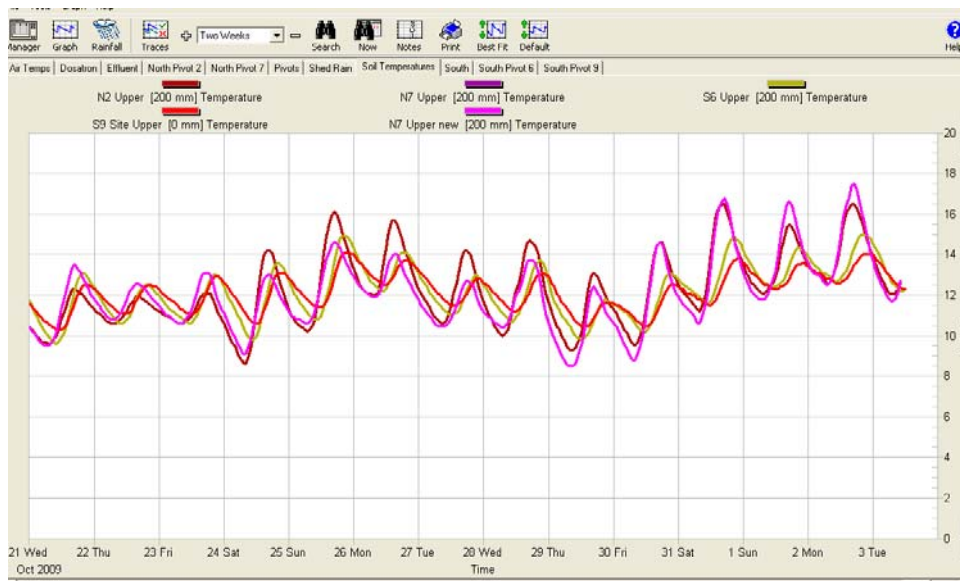
Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009

## 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 clicks
3. Continue Mg supplementation in the water
4. Closely observe milking cows for mastitis
5. Mate all cows in heat

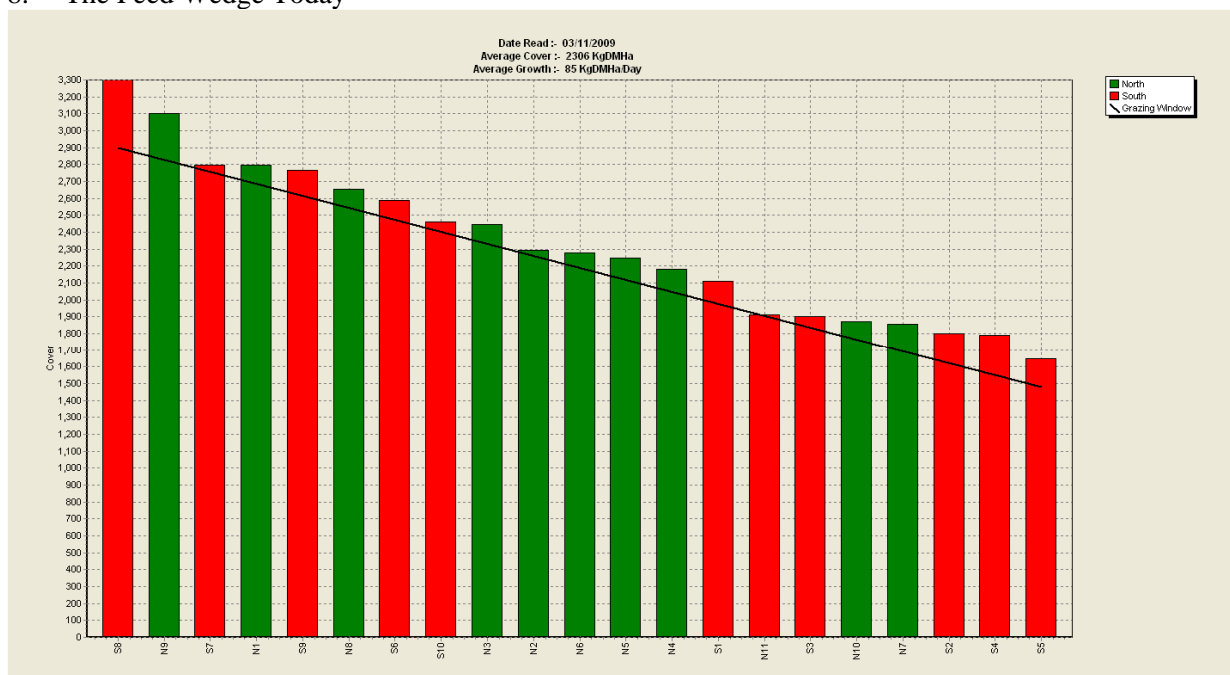
### Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

6. Soil Temperatures at 9.00 am averaged 11.2°C for the week, last week 10.7°C. There was 29 mm of rain during the week.



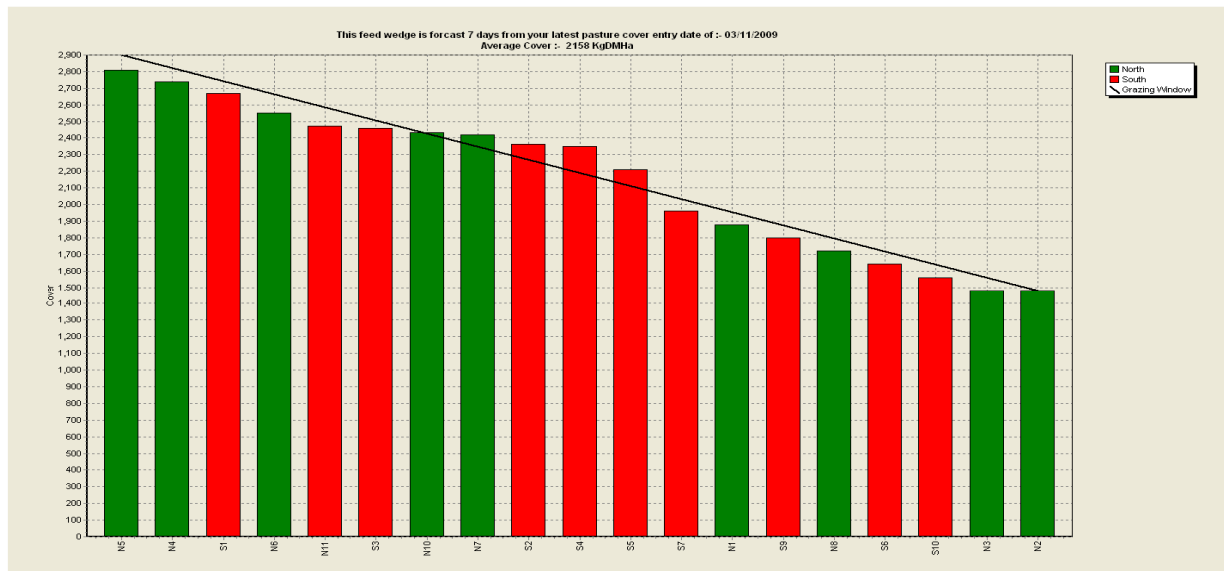
7. Last week the round was 19.6 days (8.1 ha per day). Silag was not fed this week, and there was no irrigating.

8. The Feed Wedge Today

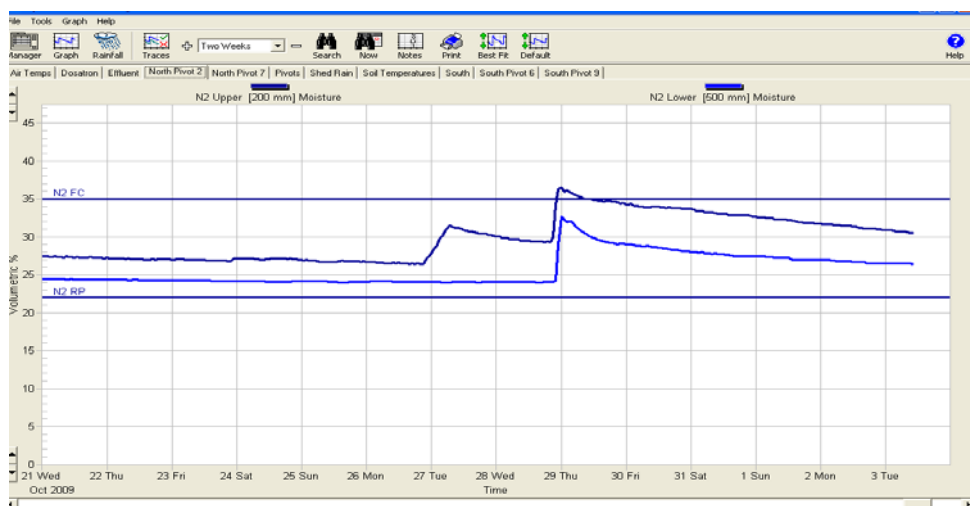


The target line in the wedge reflects the pre-grazing target of 2,900 kg DM/ha and a post grazing of 1480 kg DM/ha, which is the pre-grazing needed to feed the cows considering the stocking rate of 4.15 cows/ha (660 cows/159 ha), cows eating 18 kg DM/cow/day and a rotation length of 19 days. The demand from the herd is 70 kg DM/ha/day. This Feed wedge has a surplus of 21 t DM.

9. PASTURE GROWTH this week was 85 kg DM/ha, higher than the 68 kg DM/ha grown last week.
10. Average PASTURE COVER increased to 2,306 kg DM/ha from 2,255 kg DM/ha.
11. Predicted Feed Wedge



12. This week we will be cutting 2 paddocks of silage and the round length will be held at 19 days. The predicted wedge above has the herd eating 18kgDM/cow/day and a growth rate of 80kgDM/ha/day. This predicted wedge has a deficit of 4.7 t DM.
13. So far this season 4 paddocks (29.3 ha) have been cut, harvesting a total 41t DM.
14. The soil moisture deficit information from our 4 Aquaflex sites round the farm is used to schedule the irrigation. The aim in the late spring and summer is to keep soil moisture levels just far enough below Field Capacity to allow for almost all rain events without exceeding Field Capacity and thus prevent leaching. This allows the farm to survive extended periods of evapo-transpiration rates that are higher than can be replaced by irrigation on a daily basis, and also gives some scope if a breakdown occurs. Energy and water savings are made by stopping irrigation early in the autumn and allowing soil moisture deficits to approach Stress Point just before the autumn rains.
15. Soil Moisture readings in N2 this week.



16. As can be seen on the graph moisture deficit soil moisture has dropped this week despite the rain that happened on Wednesday. Considering the evapo-transpiration that is likely to occur this week, moisture deficit will be dropping even further so irrigation will be started this week.
17. Cows will continue to be offered enough grass to achieve their potential intake and will be moved on when grazing residual targets are achieved.
18. The last cow calved on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 660 cows in the herd.
19. No new case of mastitis this week. SCC has been between 141,000 - 168,000.
20. There were 5 new lame cows this week. These cows are being milked once per day while they recover from the injury.
21. 650 cows are milking into the silo. Cows are producing 2.01 kg MS/cow/day (last week 2.0) and 8.27kg MS/ha/day (8.3 last week).
22. Continuing with Magnesium supplementation. The milking herd receives 75g of Mag Chloride/cow through the dosatron.
23. There are 60 cows left to cycle. Of these 60 cows only 16 have been calved for more than 42 days. Mating started last Friday and 90% of the cows were cycling before the planned start of mating. The industry target is greater than 85%.
24. Mating is going well, mating 151 cows in 5 days giving an average of 30.2 cows per day.
25. Ten of the non cycling cows that the walk-over weighing recorded as losing weight have been put on once-a-day milking and run separately.
26. 16 bulls were put with the 160 heifers 17 days ago (2 weeks before the main herd).
27. Bulls and R2 heifers got their second BVD vaccination last week.
28. The bulk milk BVD result indicated infection in the herd so the decision was made to immediately vaccinate the herd as well, this was done 17 days ago.
29. The third round of Urea is being finished today, starting the fourth round of Urea with another 25 kg N/ha.
30. All heifers replacements have been weaned off milk and are eating grass and ad lib meal.

Next farm walk will be on **Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009, 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**

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