

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011

## CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Monitor average pasture cover and respond to surplus or deficit.**
2. **Maintain post grazing residuals of 7 - 8 clicks as ground conditions will allow.**
3. **Use back-fences on all herds whenever paddock grazing takes more than 36 hours.**
4. **Continue Mg supplementation via water system.**
5. **Mating of MA cows began this morning.**
6. **Mowing as needed pre-grazing to assist cows to maintain intake on low DM pasture.**

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7. There are now 615 cows milking twice a day in the silo. There are 204 cows in the Small herd, mainly first calvers and 4 – 4.5 condition score MA cows, and 411 in the main herd. The two herds will be managed separately for the remainder of the season. The composition of the first herd will change as MA light cows from the main herd become lower in condition than cows in the herd already. It is expected that the small herd will not get many more than 200 cows in it, so we are looking to transfer some comes out of this herd now.

## Growing conditions

8. Pasture growth this last week has been 80kg DM/ha day.
9. Soil temperatures at 9 am for the week have been much the same as last week averaging 11.4°C.
10. 67 mm rain estimated to have fallen this week (accurate data not avail) with heavy rain last Wednesday and into Thursday, which was very cold. No irrigation last week. The soils continue to dry slowly, but we expect that the rain forecast over the next few days will mean irrigation will not be required over the next week, however we will be monitoring the Aquaflex soil moisture meters regularly.
11. Growing conditions, cool and moist, have led to Dry Matter content dropping very rapidly leading to cows not being able to maintain energy intake.

## Feeding levels

12. No silage has been required during the week. Despite the large surplus of pasture measured last week, grazing interval has fallen to 23 days from 26 days, now at the high end of the range we would like to see. Pre grazing levels remain higher than we would like to see (now at about 3500 kgDM/ha)
13. The walk over weighing indicates that the cows have lost 6 kg liveweight this last week, we are not confident that this has actually occurred but will monitor cows carefully.
14. The milkers need about 192 MJME to produce 2.1 kg MS, maintain themselves, and allow for 6 kg weight loss. Our estimate is that the overall herd is eating about 16.2 kgDM of 12.0 MJME pasture per day. ( $16\text{kgDM} \times 12\text{MJME/kgDM} = 192\text{MJME}$ ) Without weight loss they would need 18kg DM and 224 MJME/cow /day. Mowing 12-24 hr pre-grazing will allow feed to dry out and cows regain daily energy intake.
15. The important thing to note here is that things are changing in terms of pasture quality, we are certainly observing stem elongation as grass is going into a reproductive mode.
16. Feed Wedge



17. Average cover of 2499 kgDM/ha is a big improvement from last weeks 3000 kg DM/ha situation. We have been able to mow [on Sunday] 3 paddocks, not yet baled. The feed wedge has a surplus of 21t, much closer to where we would like it to be. We will also mow S6 as soon as the weather forecast indicates it is safe to do so.
18. This week 12ha had 40kgN/ha applied nitrogen was applied this week. No gibberellic acid was applied. We expect to continue applying gibberellic acid and will use on half of the paddocks mown for silage to ensure adequate feed and wedge shape in the next round.

### Mating

19. Mating of MA cows started today, 43 cows were mated this morning. The daily target for 90% mated in three weeks is 27 per day.
20. Heifer mating started on 15 October, we are averaging 7 a day. Target 6.2 – 6.5 per day.
18. Jersey bulls have been purchased, tested and vaccinated for BVD. They were selected on scrotal circumference in addition to the usual mating suitability criteria and are currently being well fed at grazing.
19. The herd was vaccinated for BVD on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. So far there has been 2 clear bulk milk tests for BVD which covered the first 2/3 of the herd to calve.

LUDF Weekly report	4-Oct-11	11-Oct-11	18-Oct-11	25-Oct-11
Farm grazing ha (available to milkers)	160	160	160	160
	14/0/0	3/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0
Culls (Includes culls put down & empties)	0	5	0	0
Culls total to date	16	21	21	21
Deaths (Includes cows put down)	0	1	2	1
Deaths total to date	4	5	7	8
Calved Cows available (Peak Number 640... )	628	636	638	637
Treatment / Sick mob total	2	4	4	10
Mastitis clinical treatment	0	2	1	6
Mastitis clinical YTD (tgt below 64 yr end)	38	40	41	47
Bulk milk SCC (tgt Avg below 150)	116	129	148	150
Lame new cases	0	3	9	5
Lame ytd	10	13	22	27
Lame days YTD (Tgt below 1000 yr end)	91	133	196	280

	4-Oct-11	11-Oct-11	18-Oct-11	25-Oct-11
Other/Colostrum	0/19	0/16	0/2	0/3
Milking twice a day into vat	587	612	620	615
Milking once a day into vat	0	0	10	12
First herd	172	198	198	204
Main Herd	415	414	412	411
MS/cow/day (Actual kg / Cows into vat only)	2.14	2.16	2.07	2.09
MS/cow to date (total kgs / Peak Cows 640)	74	88	102	117
MS/ha/day (total kgs / ha used)	7.84	8.26	8.15	8.18
Herd Average Cond'n Score	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Monitor group LW kg WOW	456	456	458	452
Soil Temp Avg Aquaflex	10.1	10.1	11.3	11.4
Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	73	100	133	80
Plate meter height - ave half-cms	13.6	15.1	18.1	0.0
Ave Pasture Cover (x140 + 500)	2400	2616	3028	2499
Surplus/deficit on feed wedge- tonnes	30	50	104	21
Pre Grazing cover (ave for week)	3122	3218	3289	3500
Post Grazing cover (ave for week)	1480	1500	1500	1650
highest pregrazing cover	3400	3300	3400	3700
Area grazed / day (ave for week)	6.00	5.70	6.10	7.00
Grazing Interval	27	28	26	23
Milkers Offered/grazed kg DM pasture	17.4	18.1	0.0	18
Estimated intake pasture MJME	217	224	0	192
Milkers offered kg DM Grass silage	0	0	0	0
Silage MJME/cow offered	0	0	0	0
Estimated intake Silage MJME	0	0	0	0
Estimated total intake MJME	0	0	0	192
Target total MJME Offered/eaten (incl 6% waste)	218	224	0	224
Pasture ME (pre grazing sample)	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.1
Pasture % Protein	25.2	21.8	25.9	25.9
Pasture % DM - Concern below 16%	18.6	17.5	16.3	12.1
Pasture % NDF Concern < 33	34.4	38.0	33.4	38.2
Supplements fed to date kg per cow (640 peak)	27.4	27.4	0.0	0.0
Supplements Made Kg DM / ha cumulative	0	0	0	0
Units N applied/ha and % of farm	0	40units/45%	40units/16%	40units/7%
Kgs N to Date (whole farm)	0	0	0	0
Kgs/ha N to Date (on the NON-effluent area 128ha)	52	89	97	100
Rainfall (mm)	32	6.6	3.2	67.6
Aquaflex topsoil avg reading tgt 33 -38	39 - 35	0	38-35	33-38

The next weekly farm walk will be on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 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), Steve Lee (DairyNZ).

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011

## CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Monitor average pasture cover and respond to surplus or deficit.**
  2. **Maintain post grazing residuals of 7 - 8 clicks as ground conditions will allow.**
  3. **Use back-fences on all herds whenever paddock grazing takes more than 36 hours.**
  4. **Continue Mg supplementation via water system.**
  5. **Observe and record pre-mating heats**
  6. **Heifer mating has begun.**
  7. **Surplus pasture has not been harvested due to forecast wet weather**
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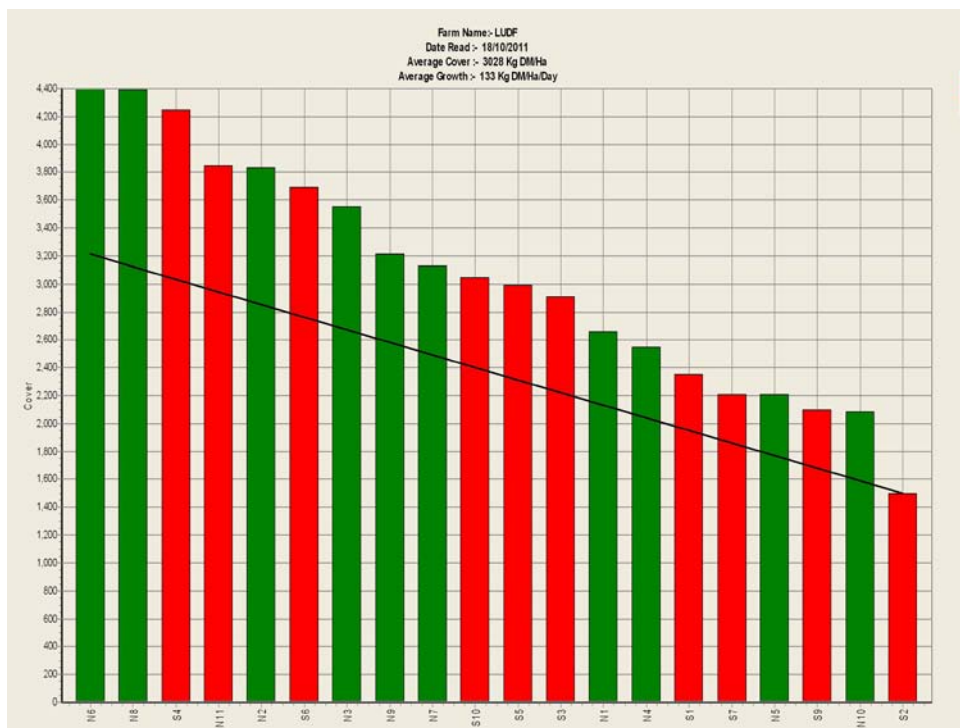
8. We have a very large DM surplus which we have not been able to make into silage because the weather has not given us a sufficient window to mow and make silage.
9. There are now 620 cows milking twice a day in the silo. There are 198 cows in the Small herd, mainly first calvers and 4 – 4.5 condition score MA cows, and 412 in the main herd. The two herds will be managed separately for the remainder of the season. The composition of the first herd will change as MA light cows from the main herd become lower in condition than cows in the herd already. It is expected that the first herd will not get many more than 200 cows in it.

## Growing conditions

10. Pasture growth this last week has been 133kg DM/ha day
11. Soil temperatures at 9 am for the week have been slightly warmer than last week averaging 11.3°C.
12. We estimate 3.2 mm rain has fallen this week (Accurate data not avail). No irrigation this last week. The soils continue to dry slowly, but we expect that the rain forecast over the next few days will mean no irrigation will be required over the next week, however we will be monitoring the Aquaflex soil moisture meters regularly.

## Feeding levels

13. No silage has been required during the week. Grazing interval which was expected to drop has fallen slightly to 26 days but pre grazing levels have risen (now at 3400 kgDM/ha)
14. The walk over weighing indicates that the cows have not lost liveweight this last week.
15. The milkers need about 224 MJME to produce 2.16 kg MS, maintain themselves, and allow for no weight loss. Our estimate is that the overall herd is eating about 18.1 kgDM of 12.4 MJME pasture per day. (18.1kgDM x 12.4MJME/kgDM = 224MJME)
16. Feed Wedge



17. Average cover of 3028 kgDM/ha is far above target. The feed wedge has a estimated surplus of 104t, not sure it is quite this big, nonetheless it is a big priority to get under control. The grazing interval of 26 days is down fractionally from 28 days last week but is still not close to the target of 20 – 23 days. The feed situation means that even with Paddock S8 out for regressing additional feed will need to be removed from the supply.

We were not able to make silage last week due to forecast rain giving insufficient windows for silage conservation. As soon as we are confident with the weather situation we will start mowing, in the next ten days we expect to mow up to 50 ha [30% of available area] for silage. We are not happy with this but we must put cows forward in the round onto lower covers (approx.3200 kg DM/ha) to ensure feed offered is of high quality and residuals can be achieved.

18. 26ha had 40kgN/ha applied this week. Gibberellic acid was applied to 33 ha. We expect to continue applying gibberellic acid on half of the paddocks mown for silage to ensure adequate feed and wedge shape in the next round.

#### Preparation for mating.

19. Heifer mating has started, 29 have been bred in the first 4 days.
20. By the end of 6 weeks calving 568 cows had calved which is 88% of the peak herd [640] against a target of 87%.
21. Cows were Metri-checked on 8 September and as a result 19 cows were treated. A recheck was done of the whole herd on 14 October and another 9 cows treated.
22. All cows have been tail painted to enable monitoring of pre mating heats. Jersey bulls have been purchased, tested and vaccinated for BVD. They were selected on scrotal circumference in addition to the usual mating suitability criteria. They are currently being well fed at grazing.
23. The herd was vaccinated for BVD on 3 October. So far we have had 2 clear bulk milk tests for BVD which covered the first 2/3 of the herd to calve.
24. Mating of the herd will begin on 25 October.
25. 130 pre-mating heats recorded this week over 6 days. This represents 21.6 cows a day. Of interest, almost all cows in the small herd have cycled, (cows in this herd are primarily heifers [early calved] and thin cows). At this rate we don't envisage any mating intervention.

LUDF Weekly report	27-Sep-11	4-Oct-11	11-Oct-11	18-Oct-11
Farm grazing ha (available to milkers)	160	160	160	160
	37/0/0	14/0/0	3/0/0	0/0/0
Culls (Includes culls put down & empties)	0	0	5	0
Culls total to date	16	16	21	21
Deaths (Includes cows put down)	0	0	1	2
Deaths total to date	4	4	5	7
Calved Cows available (Peak Number 640... )	605	628	636	638
Treatment / Sick mob total	6	2	4	4
Mastitis clinical treatment	4	0	2	1
Mastitis clinical YTD (tgt below 64 yr end)	38	38	40	41
Bulk milk SCC (tgt Avg below 150)	147	116	129	148
Lame new cases	4	0	3	9
Lame ytd	10	10	13	22
Lame days YTD (Tgt below 1000 yr end)	70	91	133	196
Other/Colostrum	0/19	0/19	0/16	0/2
Milking twice a day into vat	559	587	612	620
Milking once a day into vat	0	0	0	10
First herd	170	172	198	198
Main Herd	389	415	414	412
MS/cow/day (Actual kg / Cows into vat only)	2.12	2.14	2.16	2.07
MS/cow to date (total kgs / Peak Cows 640)	60	74	88	102
MS/ha/day (total kgs / ha used)	7.42	7.84	8.26	8.15
Herd Average Cond'n Score	4.55	0.00	0.00	0.00
Monitor group LW kg WOW	458	456	456	458
Soil Temp Avg Aquaflex	8.3	10.1	10.1	11.3
Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	65	73	100	133
Plate meter height - ave half-cms	13.2	13.6	15.1	18.1
Ave Pasture Cover (x140 + 500)	2354	2400	2616	3028
Surplus/deficit on feed wedge- tonnes	21	30	50	104
Pre Grazing cover (ave for week)	3042	3122	3218	3289
Post Grazing cover (ave for week)	1550	1480	1500	1500
highest pregrazing cover	3100	3400	3300	3400
Area grazed / day (ave for week)	5.90	6.00	5.70	6.10
Grazing Interval	27	27	28	26
Milkers Offered/grazed kg DM pasture	17.0	17.4	18.1	18.0
Estimated intake pasture MJME	211	217	224	224
Milkers offered kg DM Grass silage	0	0	0	0
Silage MJME/cow offered	0	0	0	0
Estimated intake Silage MJME	0	0	0	0
Estimated total intake MJME	211	0	0	0
Target total MJME Offered/eaten (incl 6% waste)	216	218	224	224
Pasture ME (pre grazing sample)	12.7	12.5	12.4	12.4
Pasture % Protein	24.2	25.2	21.8	25.9
Pasture % DM - Concern below 16%	18.5	18.6	17.5	16.3

	27-Sep-11	4-Oct-11	11-Oct-11	18-Oct-11
Pasture % NDF Concern < 33	31.3	34.4	38.0	33.4
Supplements fed to date kg per cow (640 peak)	27.4	27.4	27.4	27.4.0
Supplements Made Kg DM / ha cummulative	0	0	0	0
Units N applied/ha and % of farm	36units/20%	0	40units/45%	40units/16%
Kgs N to Date (whole farm)	0	0	0	0
Kgs/ha N to Date (on NON-eff area 128ha)	52	52	89	97
Rainfall (mm)	11.8	32	6.6	3.2
Aquaflex topsoil avg reading tgt 33 -38	39-33	39 - 35	0	38-35

The next weekly farm walk will be on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 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), Steve Lee (DairyNZ).

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011

## CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Monitor average pasture cover and respond to surplus or deficit.**
2. **Maintain post grazing residuals of 7 - 8 clicks as ground conditions will allow.**
3. **Use back-fences on all herds whenever paddock grazing takes more than 36 hours.**
4. **Continue Mg supplementation via water system.**
5. **Observe and record pre-mating heats**

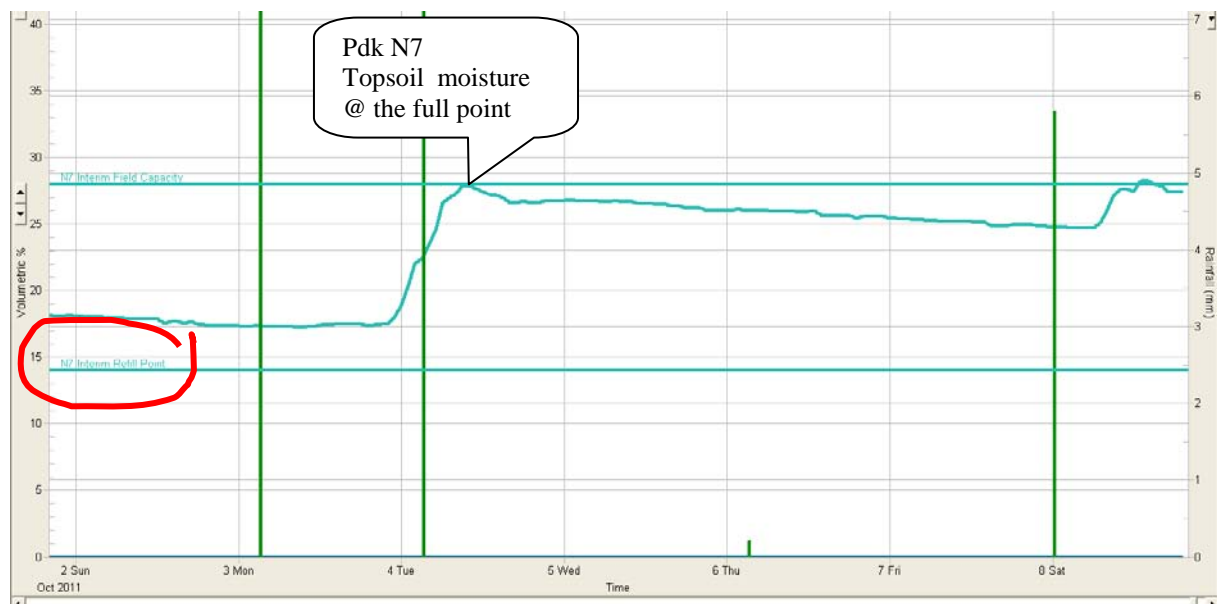
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## COMMENT

6. There are now 613 cows milking twice a day in the silo. There are 198 cows in the Small herd, mainly first calvers and 4 – 4.5 condition score MA cows, and 415 in the main herd. The two herds will be managed separately for the remainder of the season. The composition of the first herd will change as MA light cows from the main herd become lower in condition than cows in the herd already. It is expected that the first herd will not get many more than 200 cows in it.

### Growing conditions

7. Pasture growth this last week has been kg DM/ha day
8. Soil temperatures at 9 am for the week have been about the same as last week averaging 10.1°C.
9. 10 - 15 mm rain has been fallen this week (Accurate data not avail). The soils were drying slowly and irrigation equipment had been trialled, in readiness to start watering as soon as the Aquaflex readings drop close to refill points. The Aquaflex graphic below for the lightest soil on the farm showing that the moment to begin irrigation was very close until rain fell last week and again this week with the result that the irrigation can remain turned off.



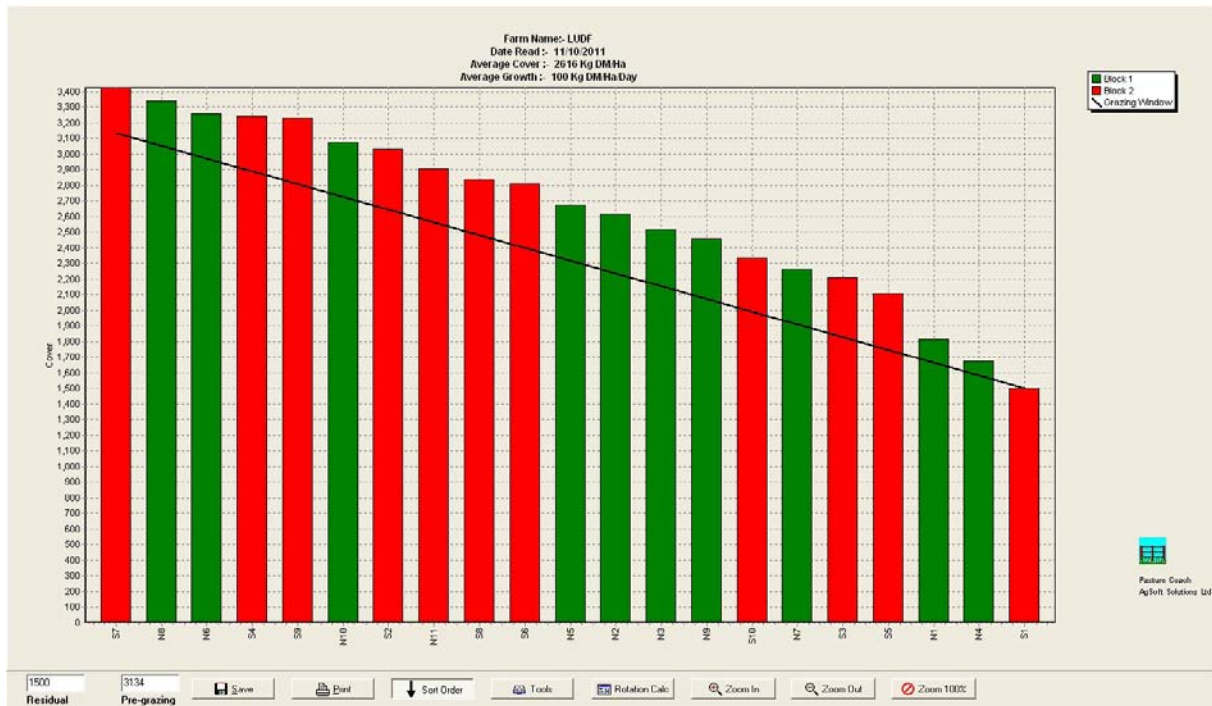
### Calving

10. There are 3 cows left to calve, these are grazing on the platform.

### Feeding levels

11. No silage has been required during the week. Grazing interval which was expected to drop has risen slightly to 28 days as have pre grazing levels (now at 3218 kgDM/ha) only very slightly from 27days to 26.6days and pre grazing levels at 3122kgDM/ha on average and average post grazing at 1500kgDM/ha

12. The walk over weighing indicates that the cows have not lost liveweight this last week.
13. The milkers need about 224 MJME to produce 2.16 kg MS, maintain themselves, and allow for no weight loss. Our estimate is that the overall herd is eating about 18.1 kgDM of 12.4 MJME pasture per day.
14. Feed Wedge



15. Average cover 2616kgDM/ha remains above target. The feed wedge has a surplus of 50t. Of note also is that the grazing interval has not come down closer to a targeted 20 – 23 days. The feed situation means that even with Paddock S8 out for regrassing additional feed will need to be removed from the supply. Two paddocks 16ha will be cut for silage this week.
16. This week 73ha had 40kgN/ha applied nitrogen was applied this week. Gibberellic acid was applied to 42.8 ha. We expect to continue applying gibberellic acid for the time being to generate competitively priced surplus, high quality feed.

#### Preparation for mating.

18. By the end of 6 weeks calving there were 568 cows calved which is 88% of the peak herd [640] against a target of 87%.
19. Cows have been Metri-checked on 8<sup>th</sup> September and as a result 19 cows were treated.
20. All cows have been tail painted to enable monitoring of pre mating heats.
21. Jersey bulls have been purchased [7 weeks ago] they have been tested and vaccinated for BVD. They were selected on scrotal circumference in addition to the usual mating suitability criteria. They are currently at grazing being well fed.
22. The herd was vaccinated for BVD on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. So far we have had 2 clear bulk milk tests for BVD which covered the first 2/3 of the herd to calve.
23. Pre mating heats recorded this week were 206. This represents a 3 week rate of 96%.
24. The rising 2 year heifers AB mating will begin 15<sup>th</sup> October.

<b>LUDF Weekly report</b>	<b>20-Sep-11</b>	<b>27-Sep-11</b>	<b>4-Oct-11</b>	<b>11-Oct-11</b>
Farm grazing ha (available to milkers)	160	160	160	160
Dry Cows on farm / East blk / other	0/61/0	37/0/0	14/0/0	3/0/0
Culls (Includes culls put down & empties)	0	0	0	5
Culls total to date	16	16	16	21
Deaths (Includes cows put down)	2	0	0	1
Deaths total to date	4	4	4	5
Calved Cows available (Peak Number 640... )	584	605	628	636
Treatment / Sick mob total	0	6	2	4
Mastitis clinical treatment	1	4	0	2
Mastitis clinical YTD (tgt below 64 yr end)	34	38	38	40
Bulk milk SCC (tgt Avg below 150)	146	147	116	129
Lame new cases	2	4	0	3
Lame ytd	6	10	10	13
Lame days YTD (Tgt below 1000 yr end)	42	70	91	133
Other/Colostrum	0/23	0/19	0/19	0/16
Milking twice a day into vat	530	559	587	612
Milking once a day into vat	0	0	0	0
Small herd	170	170	172	198
Main Herd	378	389	415	414
MS/cow/day (Actual kg / Cows into vat only)	2.05	2.12	2.14	2.16
MS/cow to date (total kgs / Peak Cows 640)	47	60	74	88
MS/ha/day (total kgs / ha used	6.80	7.42	7.84	8.26
Herd Average Cond'n Score	4.55	4.55	0.00	0.00
Monitor group LW kg WOW 157 early MA calvers	460	458	456	456
Soil Temp Avg Aquaflex	7.4	8.3	10.1	10.1
Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	52	65	73	100
Plate meter height - ave half-cms	13.4	13.2	13.6	15.1
Ave Pasture Cover (x140 + 500)	2370	2354	2400	2616

	20-Sep-11	27-Sep-11	4-Oct-11	11-Oct-11
Surplus/[deficit] on feed wedge- tonnes	17	21	30	50
Pre Grazing cover (ave for week)	3003	3042	3122	3218
Post Grazing cover (ave for week)	1480	1550	1480	1500
highest pregrazing cover	3200	3100	3400	3300
Area grazed / day (ave for week)	5.20	5.90	6.00	5.70
Grazing Interval	31	27	27	28
Milkers Offered/grazed kg DM pasture	16.8	17.0	17.4	18.1
Estimated intake pasture MJME	211	211	217	224
Milkers offered kg DM Grass silage	0	0	0	0
Silage MJME/cow offered	0	0	0	0
Estimated intake Silage MJME	0	0	0	0
Estimated total intake MJME	211	211	0	0
Target total MJME Offered/eaten (includes 6% waste)	215	216	218	224
Pasture ME (pre grazing sample)	12.7	12.7	12.5	12.4
Pasture % Protein	18.3	24.2	25.2	21.8
Pasture % DM - Concern below 16%	21.0	18.5	18.6	17.5
Pasture % NDF Concern < 33	37.1	31.3	34.4	38.0
Supplements fed to date kg per cow (640 peak)	27.4	27.4	27.4	27.4
Supplements Made Kg DM / ha cumulative	0	0	0	0
Units N applied/ha and % of farm	36units/32%	36units/20%	0	40units/45%
Kgs N to Date (whole farm)	0	0	0	0
Kgs/ha N to Date (on NON-effluent area 128ha)	39	52	52	89
Rainfall (mm)	10.2	11.8	32	6.6
Aquaflex topsoil ave reading tgt 33 -38	35-32	39-33	39 - 35	0

The next weekly farm walk will be on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 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.

### Next Focus Day Thursday October 13th

#### Management Group

Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), Steve Lee (DairyNZ).

# Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011

## CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Monitor average pasture cover and track against budget avoiding excess or inadequate cover.**
2. **Feed milkers, colostrums, and cows not yet calved as much as they will eat while maintaining post grazing residuals of 7 - 8 clicks as ground conditions will allow.**
3. **Avoid pasture damage by standing cows off if necessary.**
4. **Use back-fences on all herds whenever paddock grazing takes more than 36 hours.**
5. **Apply magnesium Oxide dust thoroughly to pasture being grazed by cows not yet calved and colostrum cows.**
6. **Closely observe cows for any signs of mastitis and metabolic conditions.**
7. **Tail paint all cows and observing and recording cows on heat.**

## COMMENT

8. There are now 604 cows milking twice a day in the silo. There are 170 cows in the small herd, mainly first calvers and 4 – 4.5 condition score MA cows, and 434 in the main herd. The two herds will be managed separately for the remainder of the season. The composition of the first herd will change as MA light cows from the main herd become lower in condition than cows already in the herd. It is expected that the small herd will not get many more than 200 cows in it.

## Growing conditions

9. Pasture growth this last week has been 73kg DM/ha day.
10. Soil temperatures at 9 am for the week were 1.8°C warmer than last week, averaging 10.1°C.
11. 32 mm rain has been recorded this week. The soils were drying slowly and irrigation equipment had been trialled in readiness to start watering as soon as the Aquaflex readings dropped close to refill points. The Aquaflex graphic below for the lightest soil on the farm is showing that the moment to begin irrigation was very close until rain fell yesterday and today.



## Calving

12. There are 14 cows left to calve, these are grazing on the platform.

Feeding levels

13. No silage has been required during the week. Grazing interval dropped only very slightly from 27days to 26.6days and pre grazing levels at 3122kgDM/ha on average and average post grazing at 1500kgDM/ha.
14. The walk over weighing indicates that the cows lost 1 - 2 kg liveweight this last week. The early calved cow monitor group (1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August) now 8 weeks calved also show a 2kg weight loss.
15. The milkers need about 212 MJME to produce 2.14 kg MS, maintain themselves, and allow for a weight loss of 300grams/day. Our estimate is that the overall herd is eating about 16.7 kgDM of 12.7 MJME pasture per day.

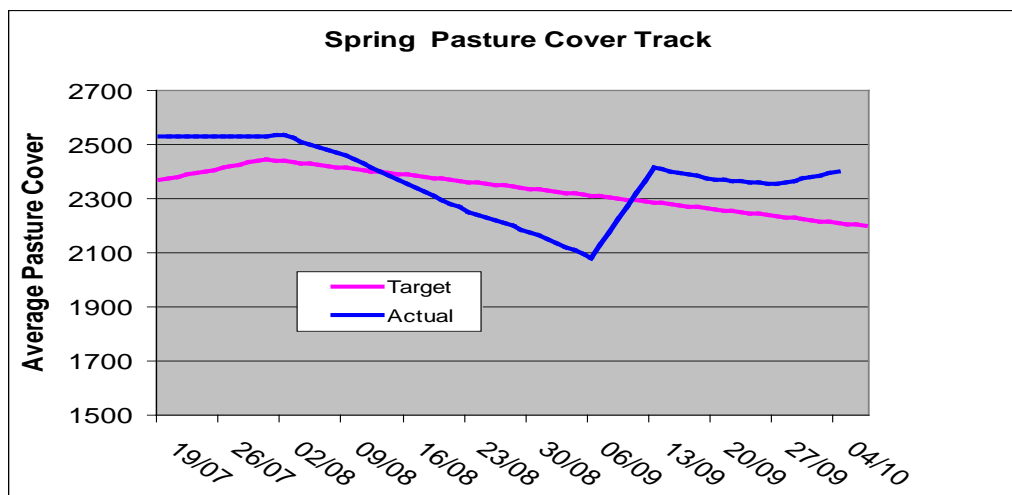
16. Feed Wedge



17. Average cover 2400kgDM/ha remains above target. The feed wedge has a surplus of 30t. Of note also is that the grazing interval has not come down closer to the targeted 20 – 23 days. The feed situation means that it is possible to spray out Paddock S8 for re-grassing this week. If the situation remains similar next week some silage will be made to get supply and demand to match more closely.

18. Cover track

This week's cover track



18. No nitrogen was applied this week but will be tomorrow. Gibberellic acid was applied to 14.5 ha. We expect to continue applying gibberellic acid for the time being to generate competitively priced surplus, high quality feed.

### Preparation for mating.

19. By the end of 6 weeks calving there were 568 cows calved which is 88% of the peak herd [640] against a target of 87%.

Cows were Metri-checked on 8<sup>th</sup> September and as a result 19 cows were treated.

All cows have been tail painted to enable monitoring of pre-mating heats.

20. Jersey bulls have been purchased [7 weeks ago] they have been tested and vaccinated for BVD. They were selected on scrotal circumference in addition to the usual mating suitability criteria. They are currently at grazing being well fed.

21. The herd was vaccinated for BVD on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. So far we have had 2 clear bulk milk tests for BVD which covered the first 2/3 of the herd to calve.

22. Mating of the herd will begin on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

23. Pre mating heats recorded this week were 132. This represents a 3 week rate of 62%.

24. The rising 2 year heifers AB mating will begin 15<sup>th</sup> October.

LUDF Weekly report	13-Sep-11	20-Sep-11	27-Sep-11	4-Oct-11
Farm grazing ha (available to milkers)	160	160	160	160
Dry Cows on farm / East blk / other	0/113/0	0/61/0	37/0/0	14/0/0
Culls (Includes culls put down & empties)	8	0	0	0
Culls total to date	16	16	16	16
Deaths (Includes cows put down)	0	2	0	0
Deaths total to date	2	4	4	4
Calved Cows available (Peak Number 640... )	539	584	605	628
Treatment / Sick mob total	7	0	6	2
Mastitis clinical treatment	7	1	4	0
Mastitis clinical YTD (target below 64 yr end)	33	34	38	38
Bulk milk SCC (target Ave below 150)	137	146	147	116
Lame new cases	1	2	4	0
Lame ytd	4	6	10	10
Lame days YTD (Target below 1000 yr end)	21	42	70	91
Other/Colostrum	0/31	0/23	0/19	0/19
Milking twice a day into vat	501	530	559	587
Milking once a day into vat	0	0	0	0

	13-Sep-11	20-Sep-11	27-Sep-11	4-Oct-11
Small herd	168	170	170	172
Main Herd	333	378	389	415
MS/cow/day (Actual kg / Cows into vat only)	1.92	2.05	2.12	2.14
MS/cow to date (total kgs / Peak Cows 640)	35	47	60	74
MS/ha/day (total kgs / ha used	6.00	6.80	7.42	7.84
Herd Average Cond'n Score	4.60	4.55	4.55	
Monitor group LW kg WOW 157 early MA calvers	467	460	458	456
Soil Temp Ave Aquaflex	8.0	7.4	8.3	10.1
Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	74	52	65	73
Plate meter height - ave half-cms	13.7	13.4	13.2	13.6
Ave Pasture Cover (x140 + 500)	2414	2370	2354	2400
Surplus/[deficit] on feed wedge- tonnes	32	17	21	30
Pre Grazing cover (ave for week)	2863	3003	3042	3122
Post Grazing cover (ave for week)	1480	1480	1550	1480
highest pre-grazing cover	2900	3200	3100	3400
Area grazed / day (ave for week)	4.40	5.20	5.90	6.00
Grazing Interval	36	31	27	27
Milkers Offered/grazed kg DM pasture	0.0	16.8	17.0	0.0
Estimated intake pasture MJME	0	211	211	212
Milkers offered kg DM Grass silage	4	0	0	0
Silage MJME/cow offered	50	0	0	0
Estimated intake Silage MJME	43	0	0	0
Estimated total intake MJME	0	211	211	212
Target total MJME Offered/eaten (includes 6% waste)	0	215	216	216
Pasture ME (pre grazing sample)	12.6	12.7	12.7	12.5
Pasture % Protein	19.8	18.3	24.2	25.2
Pasture % DM - Concern below 16%	20.7	21.0	18.5	18.6
Pasture % NDF Concern < 33	33.8	37.1	31.3	34.4

	<b>13-Sep-11</b>	<b>20-Sep-11</b>	<b>27-Sep-11</b>	<b>4-Oct-11</b>
Supplements fed to date kg per cow (640 peak)	25.1	27.4	27.4	27.4
Supplements Made Kg DM / ha cumulative	0	0	0	0
Units N applied/ha and % of farm	0	36units/32%	36units/20%	0
Kgs N to Date (whole farm)	0	0	0	0
Kgs/ha N to Date (on the NON-effluent area 128ha)	25	39	52	52
Rainfall (mm)	2	6.6	7.2	32
<i>Aquaflex topsoil avg reading tgt 33 -38</i>	<i>35-31</i>	<i>35-32</i>	<i>39-33</i>	<i>39 - 35</i>

The next weekly farm walk will be on 11<sup>th</sup> October, **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.

### **Next Focus Day Thursday October 13th**

#### **Management Group**

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Peter Hancox (Farm Manager), George Reveley (for SIDDC), Steve Lee (DairyNZ).