

Lincoln University Dairy Farm - Farm Walk notes

Tuesday, 17th January 2012

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Maintain the intake of the herds above 215MJME to maintain milk production and generate some gain in live weight and body condition score**
2. **Maintain consistent post grazing residuals to ensure pasture quality at the next grazing.**
3. **Monitor average pasture cover and respond to surplus or deficit.**
4. **Use back-fences on all herds whenever paddock grazing takes more than 36 hours.**
5. **Continue Mg supplementation via water system.**
6. **Administer bloat oil through dosatron**

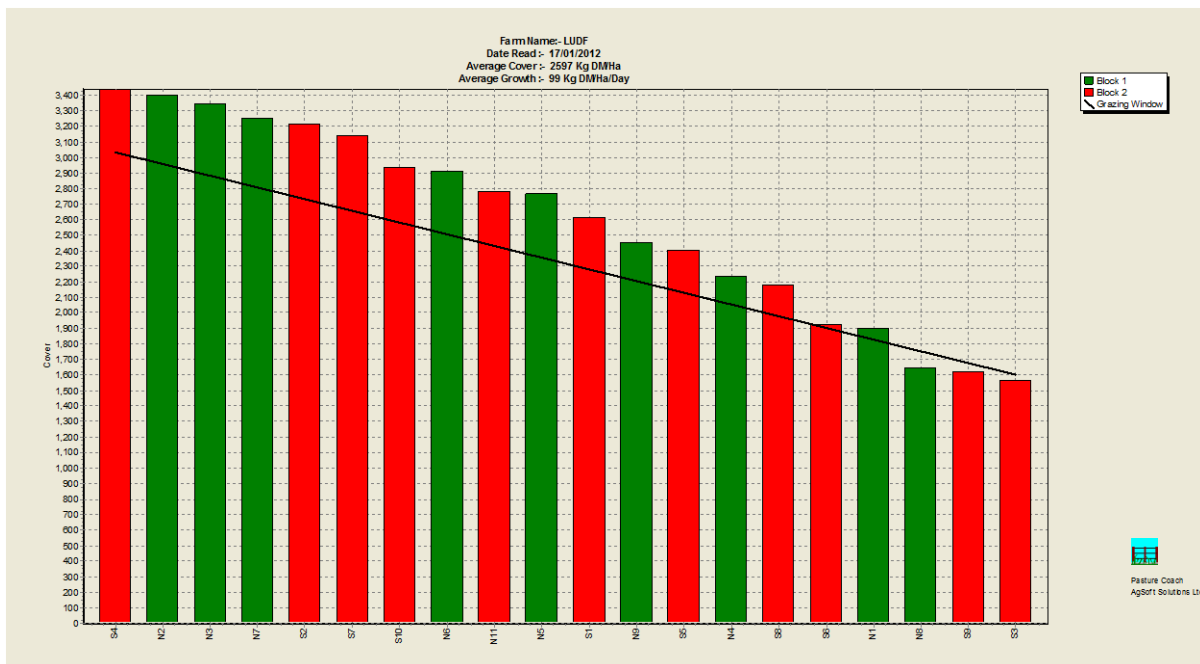
7. There are now 605 cows milking twice a day in the silo. There are 200 cows in the Small herd, now made up from lighter condition cows with expected early calving dates. First calvers have priority but will need to be lighter or early calving to remain in this herd. The two herds will continue to be managed separately for the remainder of the season.

Growing conditions

8. Pasture growth this last week has been 99kg DM/ha day – 5 kg DM/ha more than last week.
9. Soil temperatures at 9 am have been more variable but average 17.2°C.
10. There has been 4.6mm rain this week. Irrigation ran for 5 days on the North block and for 4 days on the South block. The Aquaflex soil moisture meters indicate that soil moisture levels are now at 60% - 80% of field capacity.

Feeding levels

11. The walk over weighing indicates that the herd made a weight gain this week of 1 – with the monitor group now close to the weight they recorded soon after calving. They should get above that weight as a number of these are young cows.
12. The milkers need about 215 MJME to produce 1.78 kg MS, maintain themselves, and allow for 1 - 2 kg weight gain per week.
13. Feed Wedge for this week shows the farm has 40t surplus.



14. Average cover of 2,597kgDM/ha, a significant lift. This farm grows well in North West conditions. A significant pasture surplus will be dealt with by taking two paddocks for silage this week. The third and final paddock for regrassing N10, [we are regrassing 15% of the platform this season], has been sprayed out and is cultivated and will be sown in the next couple of days.
15. Currently round length is 20 days, two days longer than last week. The surplus beginning to occur is forcing the round longer. 20 days is our current target.
16. We have mown 2.3 paddocks behind the herd this week. 142 ha has been mowed either in front [107ha] or behind [35ha] the herds so far this season.
17. No Nitrogen applied this week – it will be caught up in the next few days at 30kg N/ha.

Mating

18. Mating has now finished. The initial 6 week in-calf rate from scanning is 73%.
19. We had 10 weeks of mating - 6 weeks AI and 4 weeks natural mating. 622 cows were mated in 42 days [98.7%]. The herd at the beginning of mating was 635 cows. Submission rate of 88% for the first 3 weeks. No hormone intervention has been used.
20. Heifer AB mating finished after 21 days, 147 of the 152 top BW heifers were mated. Jersey bulls were removed from the R2s on 15th December.
21. The Heifers were pregnancy tested two weeks ago confirming pregnancies from the first 5 weeks of mating. 158 R2 heifers in calf from 184 currently owned 86%.
18. The herd was vaccinated for BVD on 3rd October. The herd has had 3 clear bulk milk tests for BVD which covered all the cows now in milk.

LUDF Weekly report	27-Dec-11	3-Jan-12	10-Jan-12	17-Jan-12
Farm grazing ha (available to milkers)	153	153	153	153
Dry Cows on farm / East blk / other	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0
Culls (Includes culls put down & empties)	0	0	0	0
Culls total to date	26	26	26	26
Deaths (Includes cows put down)	0	0	0	0
Deaths total to date	9	9	9	9
Calved Cows available (Peak Number 638...)	628	628	623	623
Treatment / Sick mob total	1	0	1	2
Mastitis clinical treatment	0	0	1	1
Mastitis clinical YTD (tgt below 64 yr end)	58	58	59	60
Bulk milk SCC (tgt Avg below 150)	134	135	NA	135
Lame new cases	7	6	4	12
Lame ytd	56	62	66	78
Lame days YTD (Tgt below 1000 yr end)	605	661	717	829
Other/Colostrum	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Milking twice a day into vat	621	620	614	605
Milking once a day into vat	6	8	8	16
Small herd	230	230	225	200
Main Herd	391	391	389	405
MS/cow/day (Actual kg / Cows into vat only)	1.84	1.80	1.83	1.74
MS/cow to date (total kgs / Peak Cows 640)	235	248	260	272
MS/ha/day (total kgs / ha used	7.20	7.07	7.13	6.75
Herd Average Cond'n Score	4.10	4.10	0.00	0.00

	27-Dec-11	3-Jan-12	10-Jan-12	17-Jan-12
Monitor group LW kg WOW 157 early MA calvers	472	469	473	474
Soil Temp Avg Aquaflex	16.8	17.0	16.8	17.2
Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	101	95	104	99
Plate meter height - ave half-cms	13.6	13.6	0.0	0.0
Ave Pasture Cover (x140 + 500)	2410	2405	2392	2597
Surplus/[deficit] on feed wedge- tonnes	9.5	11.4	8.2	40t
Pre Grazing cover (ave for week)	2989	3018	3112	3174
Post Grazing cover (ave for week)	1550	1550	1550	1550
highest pregrazing cover	3200	3230	3266	3400
Area grazed / day (ave for week)	9.70	9.20	8.68	7.65
Grazing Interval	16	17	18	20
Milkers Offered/grazed kg DM pasture	18.0	18.0	16.8	16.5
Estimated intake pasture MJME	218	215	0	205
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	215	215	205
Target total MJME Offered/eaten (incl. 6% waste)	218	215	215	215
Pasture ME (pre grazing sample)	12.7	0.0	12.6	13.2
Pasture % Protein	29.2	0.0	27.1	32.0
Pasture % DM - Concern below 16%	15.9	0.0	15.9	14.3
Pasture % NDF Concern < 33	36.8	0.0	40.6	45.5
Supplements fed to date kg per cow (640 peak)	72.3	72.3	72.3	72.3
Supplements Made Kg DM / ha cumulative	465	465	465	465
Units N applied/ha and % of farm	30units/41%	30units/33%	30units/67%	0
Kgs N to Date (whole farm)	0	0	0	0
Kgs/ha N to Date (on the NON-effluent area 128ha)	229	240	270	270
Rainfall (mm)	0	1.4	3	4.6
Aquaflex topsoil relative to fill point target 60 - 80%	25 - 60	40-90	30-80	60 - 80

The next weekly farm walk will be on 24th January, 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).