

Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update – 19 August 2009

General Comments

Average pasture covers are significantly below this time last year on many of the monitor farms. Only the Northern Southland farm has an APC higher than August 2008. While soil temperatures are now significantly higher than the same time last year growth rates are similar to Spring 2008.

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago
Average cover 2008-09	2303	1981	2024	1608	1900
Average cover 2009-10	1734	1973	1705	1692	1790

Calving is going well on all the farms. 44% of the cows on the Northern Southland farm have calved. A range of supplements are being offered to the milkers on most of the monitor farms. Nitrogen has been applied on the Demonstration farm, Central, Eastern and East Otago farms

Weekly Tips

With calving underway it is important to continue with regular farm walks to assess APC. Scheduling this activity is essential to monitor your feed situation relative to feed budget / Spring rotation planner. In tight financial times, knowing your current feed situation will ensure that supplements are feed only as required and not wasted. Ensure that all staff members are eating well and are getting enough sleep. Mistakes due to fatigue can be costly and fatal. Try to keep stress levels low and moral high, to ensure everyone gets through smiling and ready for the season ahead.

Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago	Telford
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	1734	1973	1705	1692	1790	1977
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	2	-	6	0.5	4	
Rotation length (days)	126	-	117	110	88	-
Stocking rate						
% calved	19	-	23	44	37	24
Milksolids kg/cow	1.2	-	-	-	-	1.3
Milksolids kg/ha	0.65	-	-	-	-	0.96
N (kg/ha)	28					
Soil temperature (°C)	7.8	9.0	8.2	7.5	7.2	7.3
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	16	15	10	10	11	8
Rainfall	10	7	5	1	4	2
Comments						



