

Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update – 21 July 2010

All farms have cows off the milking platform for winter.

Growth rates in Southland and Otago over the last 3 weeks were 1 kg DM/ha/day higher than the same period last season. All regions recorded growth in single figures for the 3 week period until the 30 June. Average soil temperature continues to be approximately 1 C lower than previous winters. The highest soil temperature of 6.5 °C as recorded in Eastern Southland. All other regions had soil temperatures below 5 °C.

Average pasture cover increased on all farmers except the Northern Southland farm where grass grub and frost damage was evident. Winter growth has continued to be similar to previous winters.

After a wetter start to the winter, rainfall in the last 3 weeks has been a third of that recorded in the same period in winter 2009. This has made for better conditions for those feeding crops.

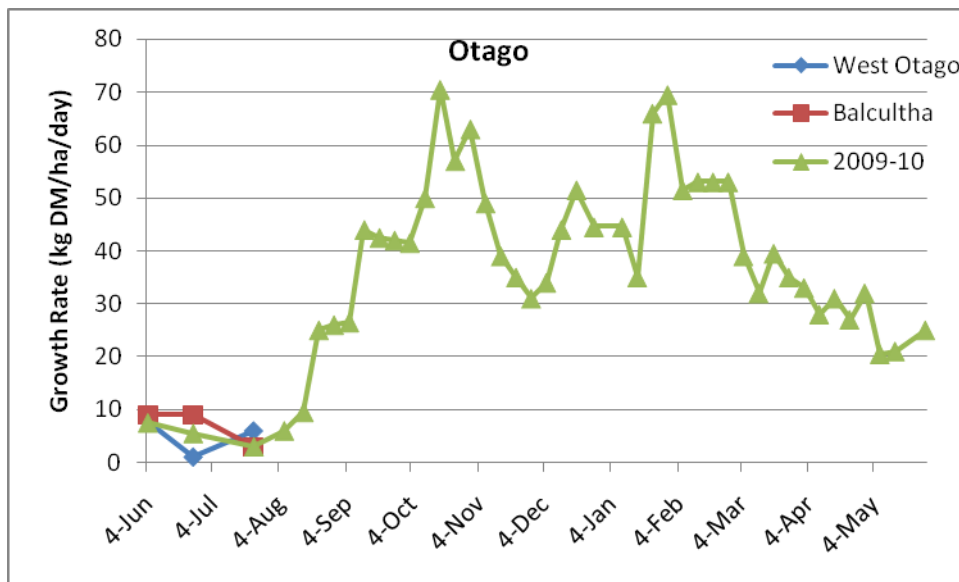
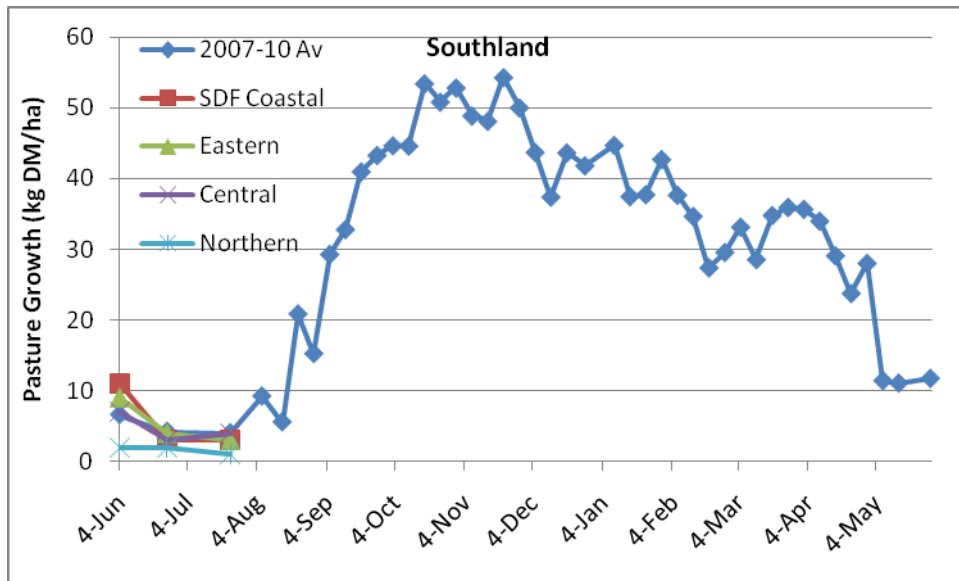
Weekly Tip

Discuss transport arrangements with graziers and ensure cows are stood off before being trucked or walked home. Face your feed situation – walk the farm, confirm the size of any deficit and develop a plan on how you will fill the deficit. Share your plan and seek advice. Monitor actual pasture cover weekly and adjust the plan if necessary. If feed (pasture or supplement) is short restrict cows at the start of calving to minimise the size of the deficit and impact on lactation performance.

Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago	Telford
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2082	1936	1852	1563	1984	1980
	1998	1889	1769	1594	1871	2067
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rotation length (days)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stocking rate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage in milk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milksolids kg/cow	-	-	-	-	-	-
Milksolids kg/ha	-	-	-	-	-	-
N (kg/ha)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soil temperature (°C)	4.8	6.5	-	3.4	3.6	2.6
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	3	3	4	1	6	3
Rainfall	23	12	8	5	8	13
Comments						

Pasture Growth Rates



Soil Temperature

