

Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update – 28 November 2007

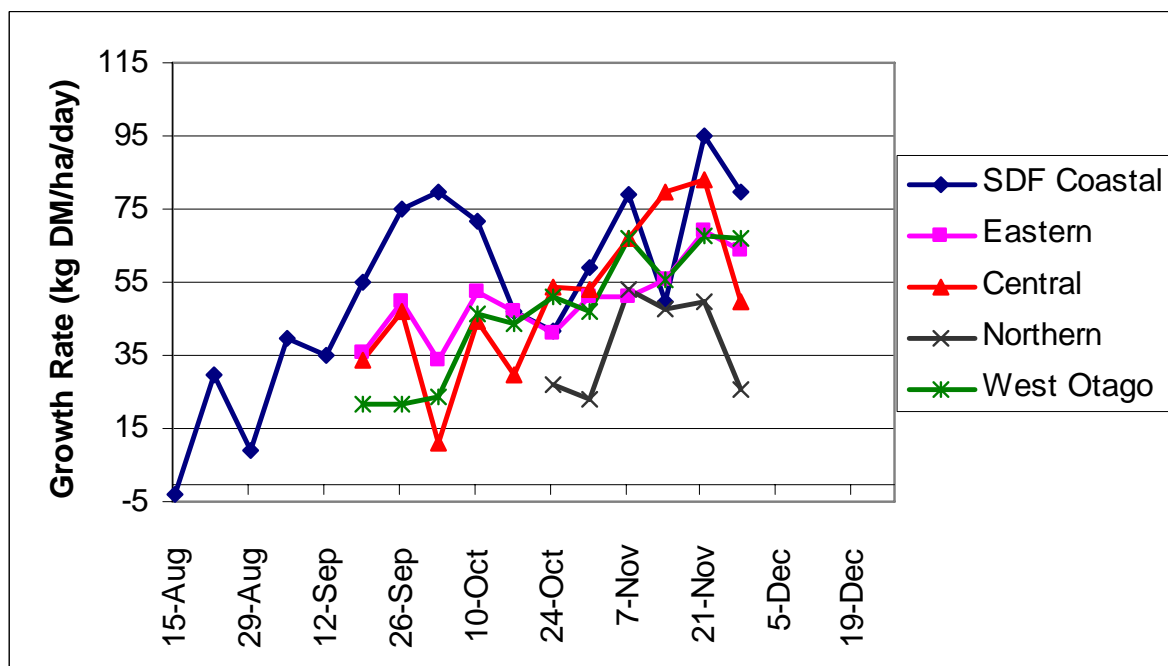
General Comments

There is a wide range in soil temperatures between regions this week ie 11.3 to 15.6 °C and it has been variable during the week within the regions. This may have contributed to the variation in growth rates between regions. Growth rates range from 26 to 80 kg DM/ha/day. Nitrogen fertiliser use and average pasture cover are other likely contributors to the differences between regions. The lowest growth was observed in Northern Southland, the farm with the lowest average pasture cover and with no nitrogen fertiliser applications this season. Growth on the Demo farm and in central and northern Southland fell, while it stays steady in the other two regions. All farms except West Otago have paddocks shut for conservation.

Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2546	2252	2372	1869	2373
Rotation length (days)	24	25	23	27	20
Supplement (kg DM/cow)	0	0	1	0	0
Production (kg MS/cow)	1.78	1.90	2.14	1.93	2.15
Production (kg MS/ha)	5.20	6.12	6.14	4.31	6.37
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.93	3.37	2.93	2.24	2.96
Soil temperature (°C)	15.6	11.3	14.2	15.5	12.0
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	80	64	50	26	67
Comments	18% of farm shut for silage	4.2% of farm shut for silage	3.3% of farm shut for silage	15% of farm shut for silage	

Pasture Growth Rates



Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update – 21 November 2007

General Comments

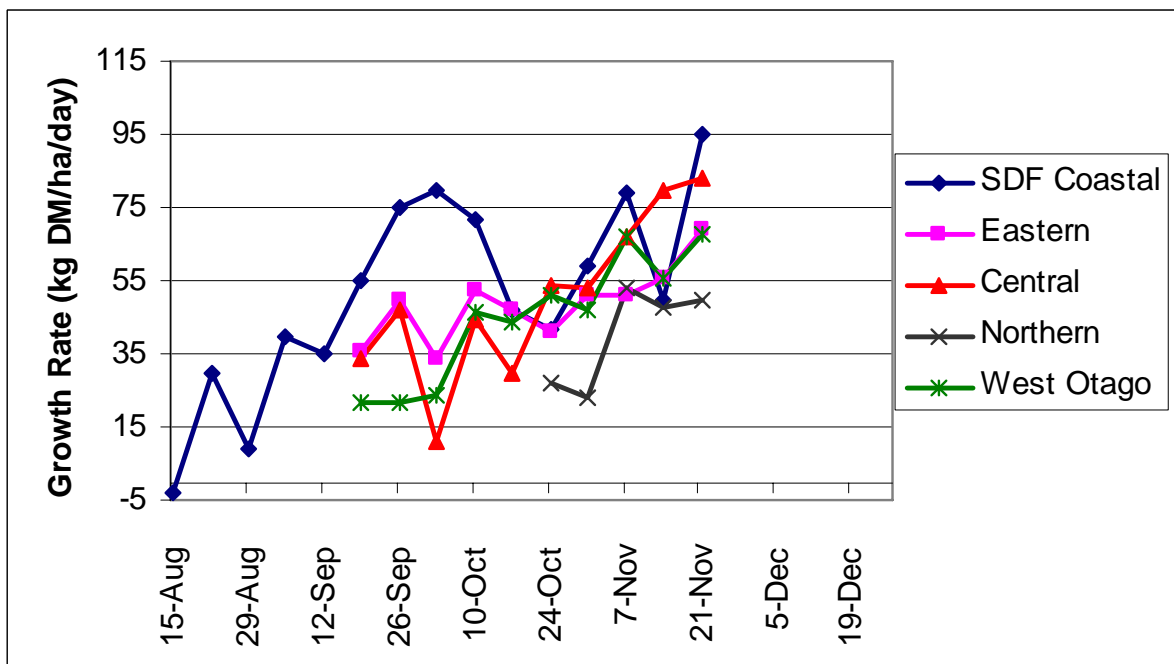
Soil temperatures have jumped this week to 15-17°C. Growth rates ranged between 50 and 95 kg DM/ha/day. Nitrogen fertiliser use and average pasture cover are the likely contributors to the differences between regions. The lowest growth was observed in Northern Southland, the farm with the lowest average pasture cover. Conservation has either occurred or paddocks are closed on 3 of the 4 farms. With continued high growth rates it is important to be proactive in identifying surplus feed and conserving.

Results from the pasture samples collected last week show that the ME concentrations are still high, however NDF levels are starting to rise on most farms. Lax grazing, as pastures enter the reproductive phase, will result in an increase in NDF and consequently declining ME concentration. Soluble sugar concentrations were high for all samples, reflecting the increase in sunshine hours.

Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2563	2159	2591	1977	2306
Rotation length (days)	29	24	25	23	19
Supplement (kg DM/cow)	0	1.2	1	0	0
Production (kg MS/cow)	1.75	1.85	2.24	2.03	2.2
Production (kg MS/ha)	5.2	5.97	6.46	4.46	6.26
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.96	3.26	2.94	2.24	2.95
Soil temperature (°C)	14.4	14.6	17.6	16.1	15.9
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	95	69	83	50	68
Comments			8.8% of farm shut for silage	2.6% farm conserved	4.5% farm conserved

Pasture Growth Rates



Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update – 14 November 2007

General Comments

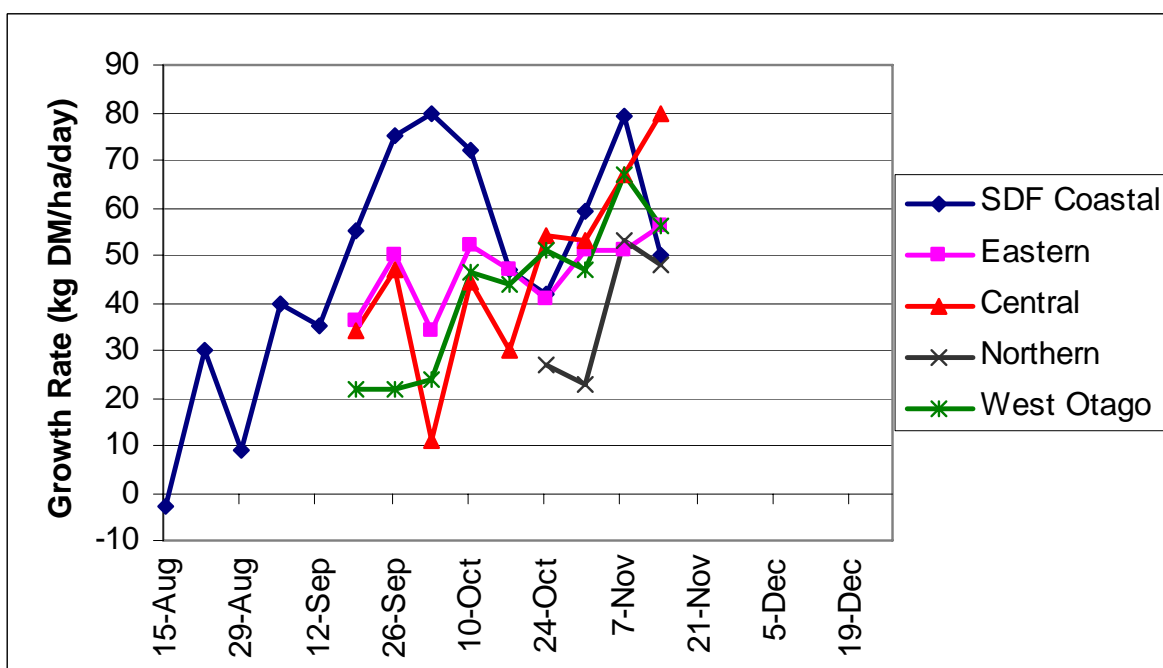
Soil temperatures this week have increased with all sites being above 10°C . Growth rates were more variable between regions this week with the range being 48 and 80 kg DM/ha/day. Nitrogen fertiliser use and average pasture cover are the likely contributors to the differences between regions. Post grazing residuals are again an area that need to be focused on. The Eastern and Northern farms are managing to keep residuals between 7 and 8 clicks (1500-1600 kg DM/ha) while Central and West Otago properties are struggling to achieve these residuals. Both these farms are achieving high per cow production now but this may be at the expense of production in early December if pasture quality declines as a result of more lax grazing now.

As farms start removing areas for planting crop it is important to recognise the impact this has on the area available for milkers and the feed supply. If you are calculating a target line for your feed wedge you need to adjust the stocking rate to reflect the change in grazing area. Conversely if winter cropped paddocks are coming back into the rotation as new grass these areas need to be accounted for.

Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2313	2065	2359	-	2236
Rotation length (days)	26	25	23	21	20
Supplement (kg DM/cow)	0	2	1	0	0
Production (kg MS/cow)	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.05	2.27
Production (kg MS/ha)	5.06	6.06	7.08	4.24	6.42
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.8	3.26	2.96	2.07	2.96
Soil temperature (°C)	11.6	10.7	10.3	11.7	10.9
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	50	56	80	48	56
Comments					

Pasture Growth Rates



Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update – 7 November 2007

General Comments

Soil temperatures this week have dropped back to between 9 and 11 °C and have been variable during the week. Growth rates have increased in all regions to between 50 and 70 kg DM/ha/day. The feed wedge information is showing a lift in post grazing residuals on all of the monitor farms. Keeping these residuals under control will be important for maintaining pasture quality going forward. Consideration will need to be given to removing paddocks for conservation if growth rates continue to increase. The higher stocked Eastern Southland farm is still feeding 3 kg supplement DM/cow.

Results from the pasture samples collected in the week commencing 29th October show that quality is still high. All farms recorded ME concentrations above 12 MJ/kgDM. There was more range in the protein concentrations from 21 to 28%. Soluble sugars and starch (SSS %) were high on all farms, probably reflecting the increase in sunshine hours during the week.

Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2363	1950	2239	-	2176
Rotation length (days)	21	24	23	21	20
Supplement (kg DM/cow)	0	3	1	0	0
Production (kg MS/cow)	1.82	1.89	2.34	2.11	2.29
Production (kg MS/ha)	5.20	6.03	7.06	4.43	6.27
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.9	3.26	3.0	2.06	2.74
Soil temperature (°C)	11.9	9.0	10.5	10.3	11.2
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	79	51	67	53	67
Comments					

Pasture Growth Rates

