

Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update – 31 October 2007

General Comments

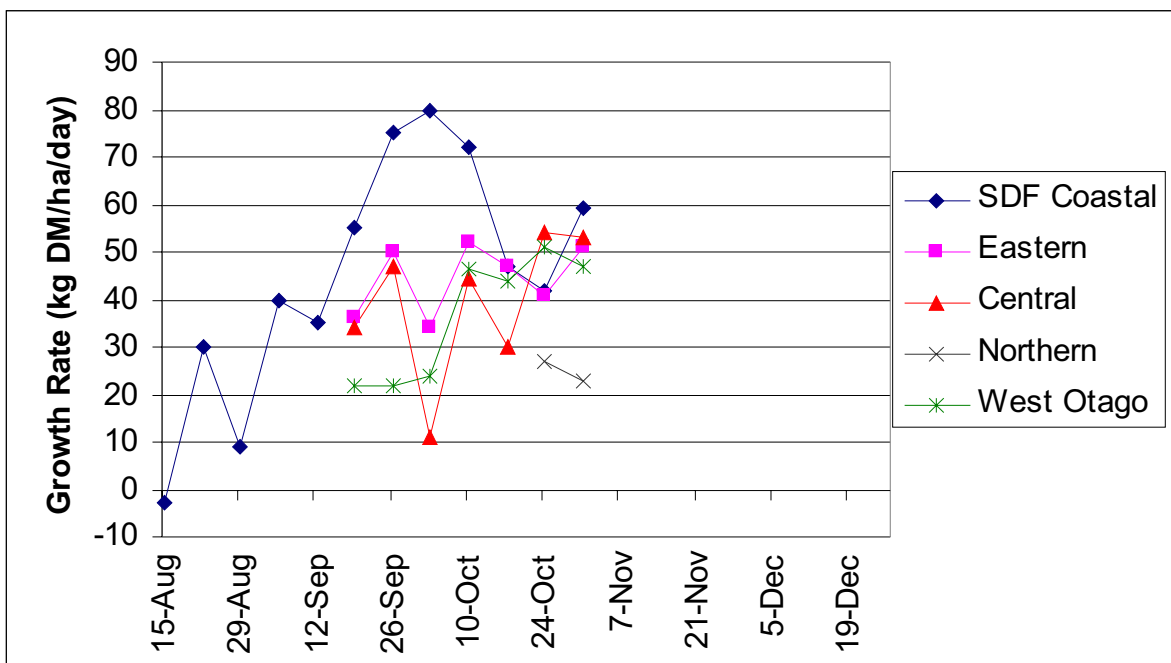
Soil temperatures have increased in all regions and are now above 10 °C. Growth rates were again similar across regions, except for Northern Southland where they were only 23 kg DM/ha. While we are unable to calculate average pasture cover on the Northern Southland farm until paddock areas have been determined, of all the farms being monitored this farm has the lowest range in pasture cover between pre and post grazing. The highest pre-graze paddock this week was only 2000 kg DM/ha (11 clicks on the rising plate meter) and post-grazing residuals were as low as 1330 kg DM/ha (5.9 clicks). As we saw earlier in the season, with the West Otago farm, when average pasture cover drops and a fast round is adopted it does slow pasture growth rates.

Production for all the monitor farms is holding above 2 kg MS/cow and the amount of supplement being offered has declined.

Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2198	1882	2024	-	2065
Rotation length (days)	20	24	24	-	20
Supplement (kg DM/cow)	0	3	1	0.5	0
Production (kg MS/cow)	1.9	2.10	2.39	2.13	2.25
Production (kg MS/ha)	5.3	6.85	7.17	4.48	6.25
Stocking rate (cows/ha)		3.26	3.0	2.1	2.8
Soil temperature (°C)	11.7	11.3	12.2	-	12.5
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	59	51	53	23	47
Comments				Pdk areas yet to be calculated	

Pasture Growth Rates



Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update - 25 October 2007

General Comments

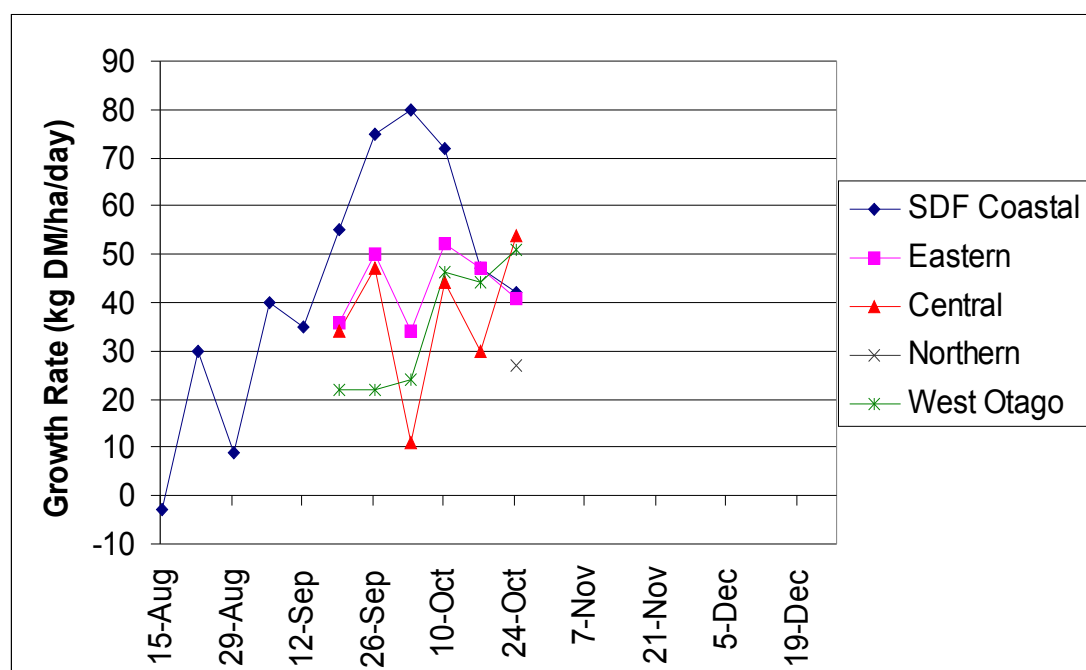
Soil temperatures have fluctuated during the week due to cold wet weather mixed with fine spells. The range between regions is 8.2 to 10.1 °C. Growth rates for three regions ranged between 40 and 54 kg DM/ha, while the new Northern Southland property only grew 28 kg DM/ha. Post grazing residuals are holding around 1450-1600 kg DM/ha range. Average pasture cover for all farms has lifted again this week.

Pasture quality results from the 17/18th October show that quality is still high in all regions with ME concentrations between 11.5 and 12.5 MJME/kg DM. The protein concentrations are more variable between farms ranging from 24% to 32%. NDF concentrations are in the 40-46% range.

Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2115	1873	2029	-	1993
Rotation length (days)	24	25	25	-	20
Production (kg MS/cow)	1.97	2.00	2.25	2.14	2.30
Production (kg MS/ha)	5.4	6.38	6.75	4.49	6.00
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.75	3.19	3.0	2.1	2.6
N use season to date (kg)					
Soil temperature (°C)	10.1	8.2	9.5	8.9	8.2
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	42	41	54	27	51
Comments		Extremely wet		Pdk areas yet to be calculated	

Pasture Growth Rates



Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update - 10 October 2007

General Comments

Soil temperatures have remained steady in all regions except West Otago where they have increased to 9.5 °C. Growth rates on the monitor farms were again lower than the demonstration farm this week, however the differences were much less than last week. Average pasture cover for all farms has lifted. The Eastern Southland farm has identified 6 ha for silage.

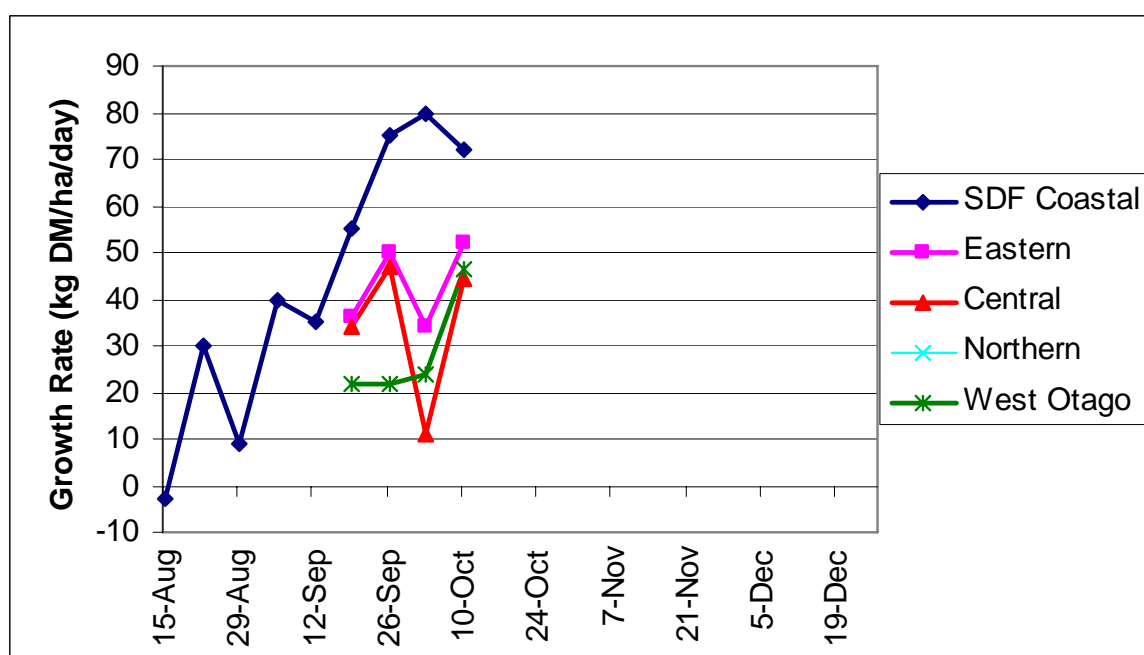
While soil temperature is a good indicator of potential pasture growth there are many management factors which will also impact on growth rates. Three key factors are rotation length, average farm cover and nitrogen use. While the data provide trends in growth from week to week for a given farm, management differences on the farms rule out the direct comparison of growth between regions.

Results of the pasture samples collected last week indicate that pasture quality on all the farms is high. The low DM% of the Central Southland sample will be partly due to surface water from the very wet conditions when the sample was collected.

Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2482	2076	1874		1873
Rotation length (days)	24	23	23		20
N use season to date (kg)					
Soil temperature (°C)	10.5	9.2	Missed		9.5
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	72	52.2	44.2		46.4
Comments					

Pasture Growth Rates



Southland Monitor Farm Project Weekly Update - 3 October 2007

General Comments

Soil temperatures in all regions have continued to rise but are lower than the demonstration farm. Growth rates are lower than the Southland Demonstration Farm. Growth rate results from Central Southland are likely to be an under estimate of actual growth as the farm was plated in very wet conditions which will have impacted on the pasture height recorded.

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Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2413	2057	1784	*	1765
Rotation length (days)	26	27	26	*	20
N use season to date (kg)					
Soil temperature (°C)	10.5	9	8.8	*	7.7
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	80	34	11	*	24
Comments			Very wet		

Pasture Growth Rates

