

Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update – 21 October 2009

General Comments

Growth rates continue to be variable across the regions however this week all farms saw growth rates lift. The paddocks plated in the wet last week recording a more than doubling of growth rate. Some of this will be compensation for the lower covers recorded last week in the rain. Growth ranged from 52 to 77 kg DM/ha/day. Growth on average across the region was 8 kg DM/ha/day, higher than the same period last year.

There was no consistent trend in soil temperature across the region this week. All farms except the Central Southland farm recorded temperatures above 10 C. Average soil temperature was the same as that recorded in the same period last season.

Production has plateaued on most farms. Per cow production across all herds is greater than 1.9 kg MS/cow/day.

Pasture samples collected in mid October have returned high quality analysis. All samples were greater than 12 MJME/kg DM. Crude protein concentrations ranged from 24 to 28%, one of the smallest ranges in crude protein between samples that has been observed in the last 2 seasons. Six of the eight samples returned DM% of only 13-14%. Dry matter percentages less than 14% may impact on cow DM intake and may explain some of the small drop in production observed on several farms.

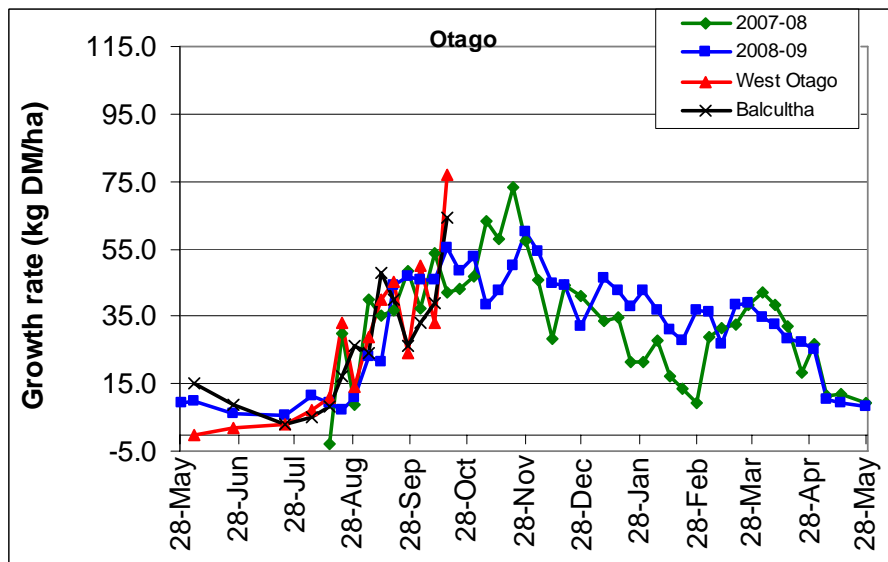
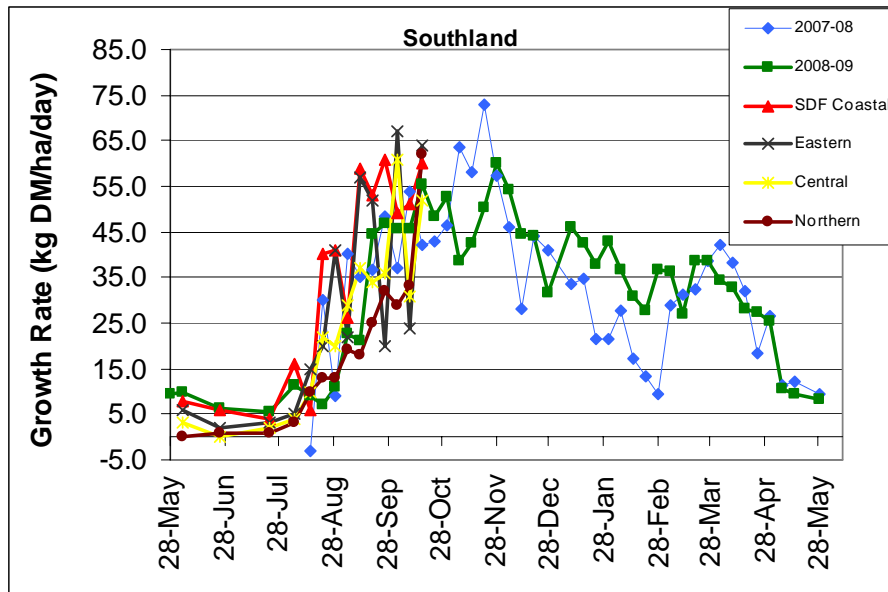
Weekly Tips

Vaccinate calves and check they have achieved target weight before leaving the farm to runoffs or graziers. Discuss your expectations with the grazer and agree on responsibilities. If necessary involve an independent person to facilitate this process. If grazing your own calves discuss staff responsibilities with the team to ensure the calves are not neglected. Check your bull power for mating yearlings and if using synchronised mating don't over estimate conception to AB as bull performance reduces as their work load increases.

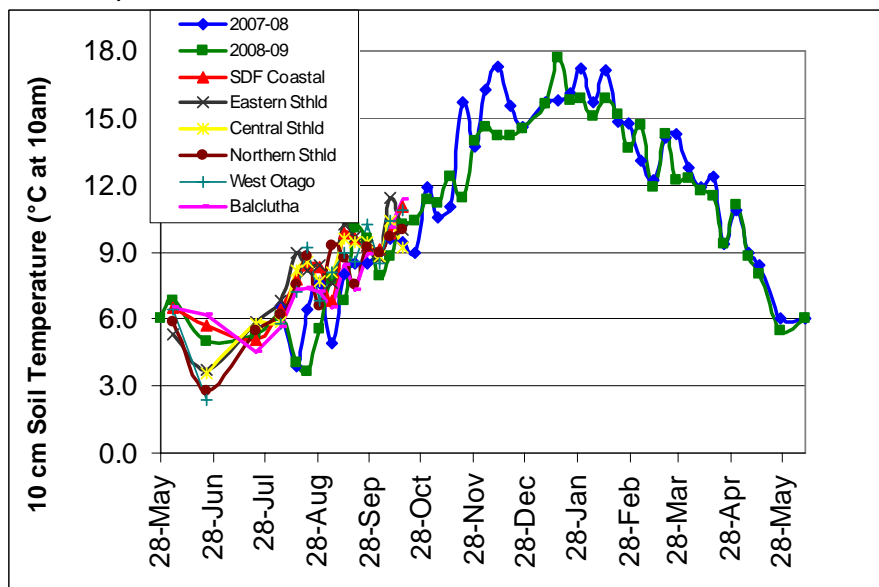
Farm Summary

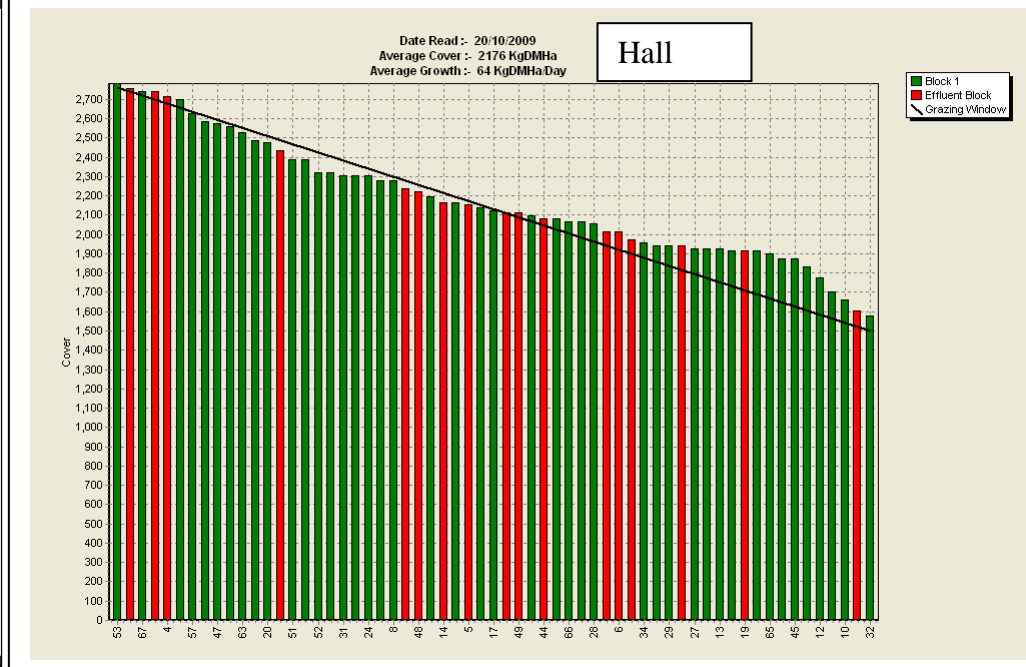
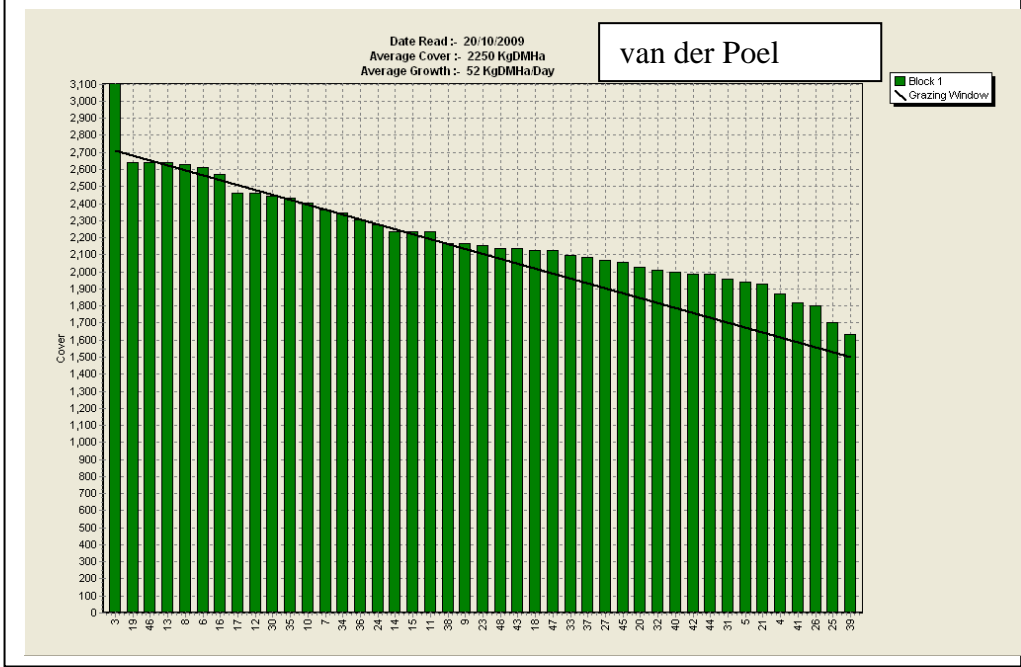
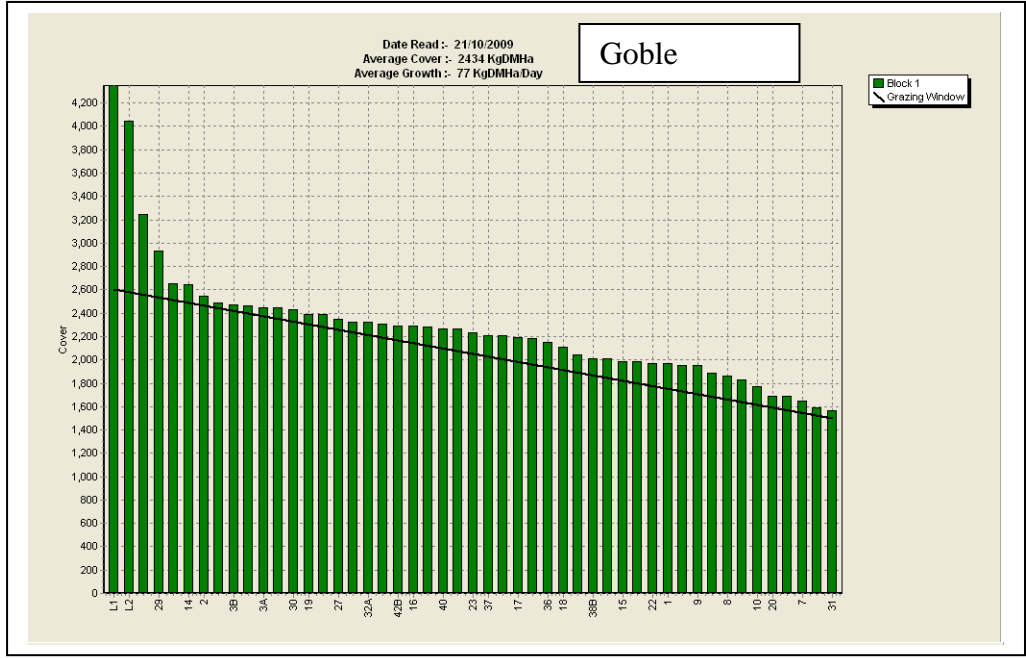
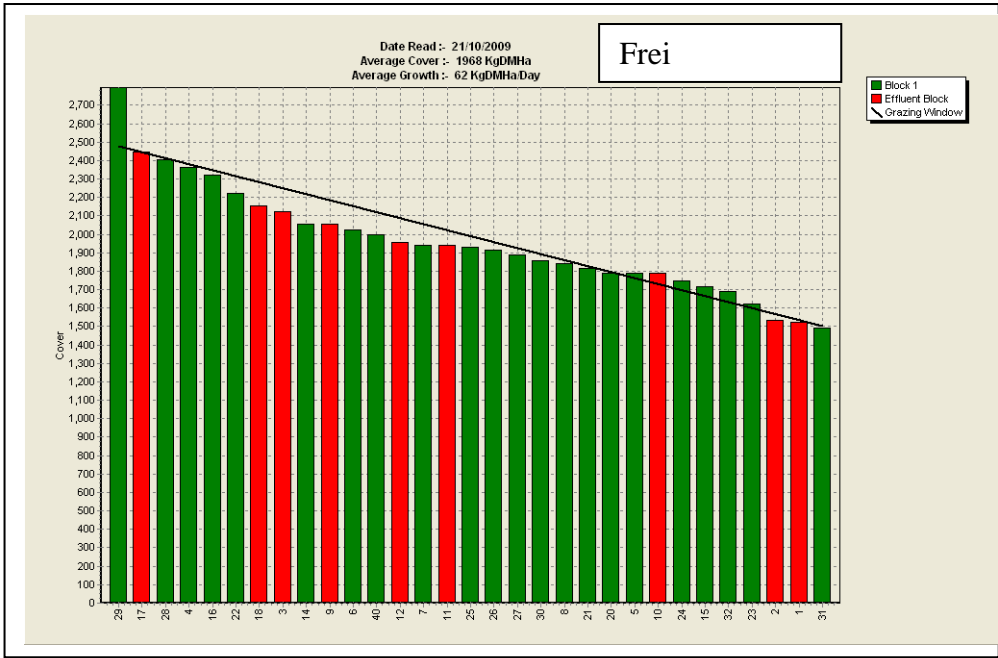
	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago	Telford
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2218	2176	2250	1968	2434	2208
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	0	0	2	0	1	0
Rotation length (days)	23	23	25	20	22	30
Stocking rate	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.0
% calved	91	97	97	100	97	98
Milksolids kg/cow	1.86	1.98	2.36	2.08	2.26	1.97
Milksolids kg/ha	4.8	5.9	5.6	5.2	6.3	5.9
N (kg/ha)	60	-	40	-	-	50
Soil temperature (°C)	11.0	10.0	9.2	10.0	10.9	11.3
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	60	64	52	62	77	64
Rainfall	17	18	16	20	10	9
Comments						

Pasture Growth Rates



Soil Temperature





Pasture Quality

NOTE: We sample the paddocks immediately in front of the milkers, to height of 3.5cm (7 clicks on the rising plate meter). The RPM data in the table is the pre-grazing clicks recorded on the day of sampling.

Eastern Southland

Description	Date	RPM	% prot	% Lipid	% SSS	% NDF	% ADF	OMD	MJME/kg DM	%DM
Pdk 66	10 Jun	11.5	22.1	4.3	14.4	45.7	23.7	79.9	11.9	21.7
Pdk 23	10 Jun	10.5	26.8	4.7	13.2	43.9	21.5	84.6	12.5	18.7
Pdk 23	30 Jun	12.2	25.9	4.4	12.3	41.8	24.2	82.4	12.0	19.6
Pdk 66	30 Jun	11.2	21.6	4.0	15.0	42.2	24.9	80.9	11.8	20.4
Pdk 66	4 Aug	12.5	22.6	4.2	11.5	47.0	25.0	79.1	11.6	16.3
Pdk 23	4 Aug	13.3	25.5	5.1	14.6	39.6	21.9	81.1	12.0	15.5
Pdk 66	18 Aug	13.3	22.3	3.9	11.4	49.2	26.5	78.4	11.5	15.9
Pdk 23	18 Aug	15.9	23.1	4.5	13.0	42.5	24.4	79.9	11.7	17.7
Halls 30	2 Sep	14.7	29.4	5.5	9.3	46.2	23.5	81.6	12.0	15.2
Halls 66	2 Sep	15.7	26.8	5.1	10.0	49.2	24.1	80.4	11.8	15.5
Hall 20	16 Sep	16.9	25.8	5.3	13.8	48.4	23.8	82.1	12.0	17.6
Hall 1	16 Sep	16.1	21.5	4.9	15.5	52.3	25.1	80.9	12.1	17.9
Hall 56	29 Sep	20.4	25.6	5.3	12.3	48.0	24.1	80.2	11.7	15.1
Hall 6	29 Sep	13.9	19.4	5.0	20.7	41.1	23.9	83.9	12.5	15.9

Central Southland

Description	Date	RPM	% prot	% Lipid	% SSS	% NDF	% ADF	OMD	MJME/kg DM	%DM
Pdk 2	10 Jun	7.3	24.1	4.5	12.5	49.1	24.2	77.9	11.8	25.3
Pdk 30	10 Jun	8.8	23.4	4.4	15.8	42.1	24.3	77.4	11.6	23.1
Pdk 2	30 Jun	7.5	25.2	4.8	13.0	44.5	24.6	79.4	11.8	20.8
Pdk 30	30 Jun	9.1	22.3	4.2	16.6	40.8	23.9	79.5	12.0	20.8
Pdk 30	4 Aug	9.9	22.1	4.4	13.8	44.5	23.3	80.9	12.1	21.7
Pdk 2	4 Aug	7.2	26.9	5.0	11.3	43.7	22.5	78.9	11.8	21.3
Pdk 3	18 Aug	11.9	24.7	5.4	13.5	41.1	23.0	83.1	12.2	19.9
Pdk 30	18 Aug	11.4	22.4	4.7	14.6	41.7	23.9	80.9	11.8	22.1
Pdk 3	2 Sep	11.7	18.3	4.5	16.5	45.7	24.1	80.4	12.2	17.0
Pdk 42	2 Sep	11.9	23.3	5.0	16.1	42.8	23.0	81.6	12.3	17.9
Pdk 14	16 Sep	11.5	26.3	5.8	15.9	43.2	23.0	85.5	12.4	19.3
Pdk 45	16 Sep	10.1	23.4	5.3	17.6	49.1	23.5	81.4	12.1	20.5
Pdk 30	29 Sep	12.5	27.1	5.7	17.7	38.4	23.5	84.5	12.1	14.3
Pdk 9	29 Sep	11.2	28.1	6.0	16.8	39.3	22.5	84.5	12.3	14.5

Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update – 14 October 2009

General Comments

Growth rates continue to be variable across the regions. The demonstration farm, Northern Southland and Balfour farms recorded similar growth to last week while Eastern and Central Southland recorded growth rates half the previous week. The Eastern farm was plated in wet conditions and while it was not raining for the Central farm it was still wet underfoot. Growth was also down on the West Otago farm. Average growth across the region this week was 11 kg DM/ha/day less than the same period last year, in contrast to last week when average growth was 5 kg/day higher.

Soil temperature increased on all farms this week with 4 regions recording temperatures above 10°C. On average soil temperature across the region was 1.5 °C higher than the same period last year.

The East Otago farm now has 5% of the farm closed for conservation. The Central Southland farm has all paddocks above the target line, however the Eastern farm, with its lower growth rate this week is showing a small deficit in the middle of the wedge. This may just be an anomaly from the wet conditions during plating. The Northern Southland farm is still showing a deficit.

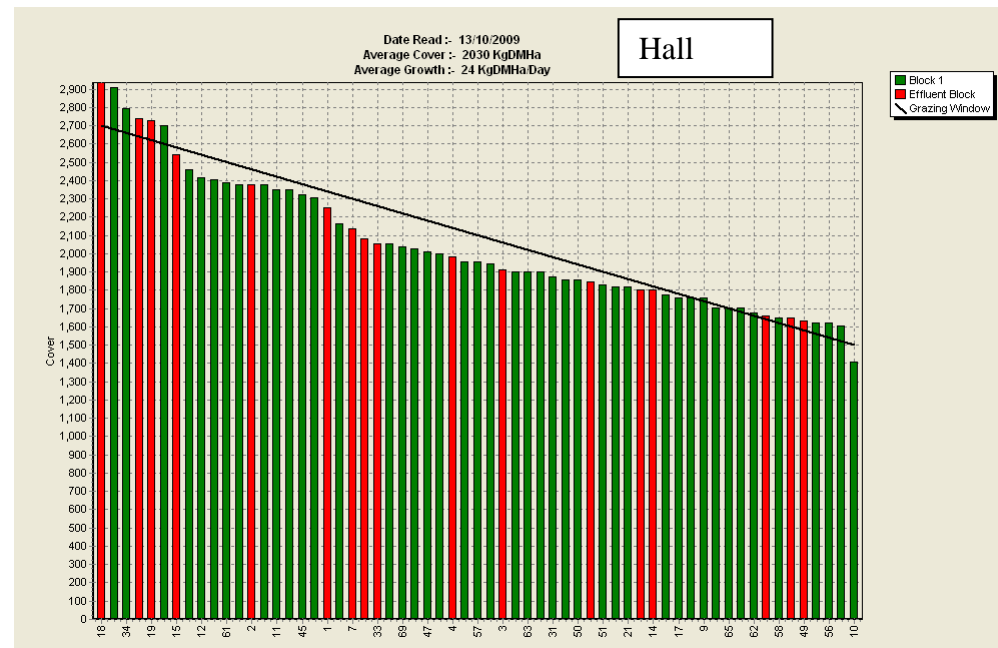
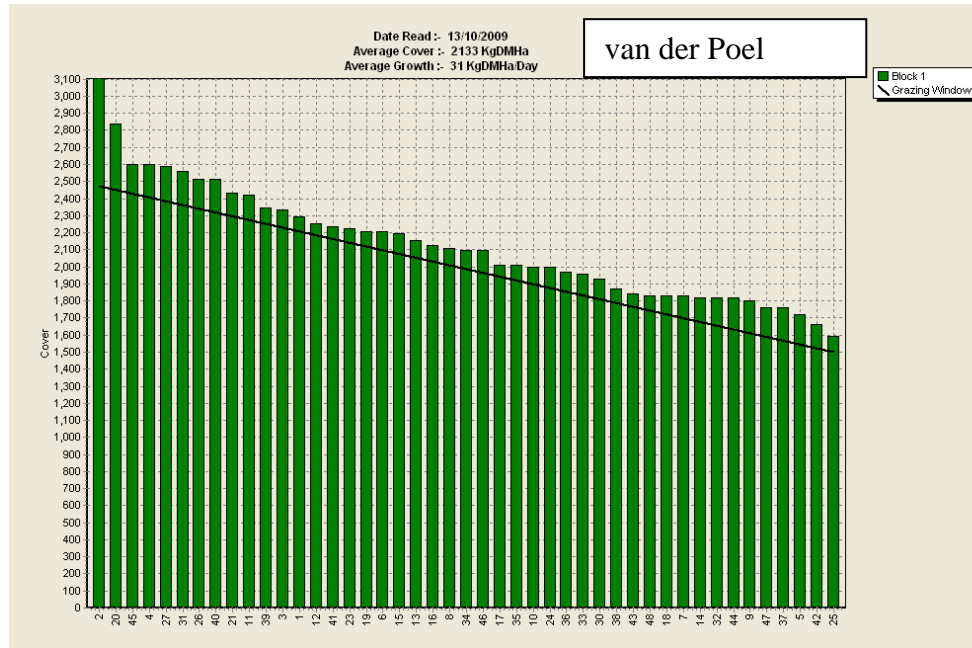
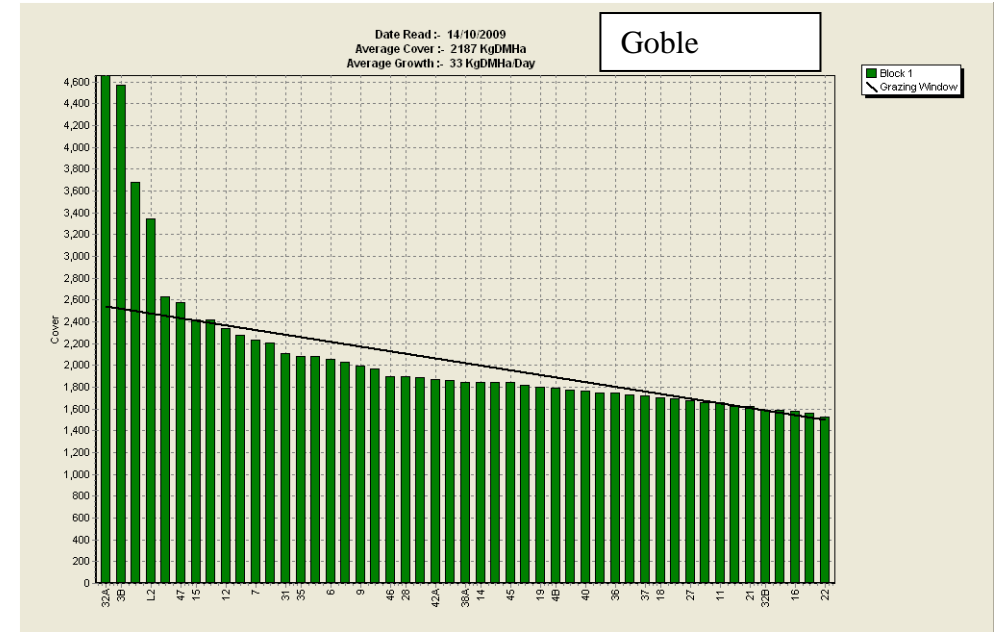
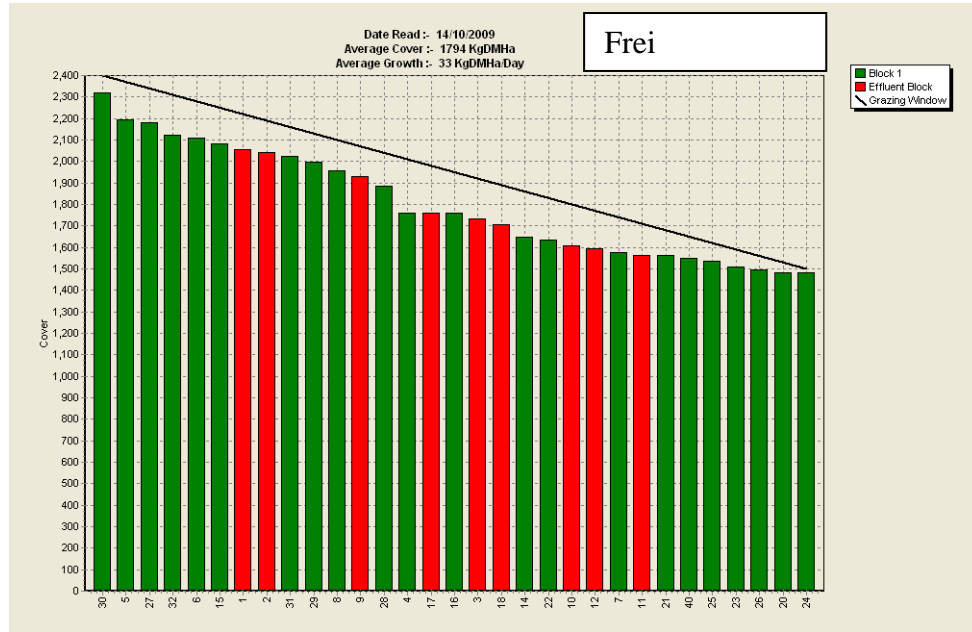
Production has plateaued on most farms. Per cow production across all herds is greater than 1.9 kg MS/cow/day.

Weekly Tips

Volatile growth rates in recent weeks have seen farms going from deficit to surplus quickly. With pre-mating well underway, maintaining quality pasture is essential to ensure good conception rates. Seed head emergence appears to be 7-10 days earlier this season. If planting winter crops, invest in the right areas to maximise yield potential. Crop failures are costly both in brought in feed and wasted funds. Revisit your budget and if you have overspent, look for areas to transfer this overspend. Don't use the increase in payout to fix it.

Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago	Telford
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2143	2030	2133	1794	2187	1939
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	0	0.8	3	0.5	1	2
Rotation length (days)	23	23	25	19	22	30
Stocking rate	3.2	3.1	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.0
% calved	89	95	96	100	95	98
Milksolids kg/cow	1.97	1.97	2.33	2.12	2.33	2.01
Milksolids kg/ha	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.6	6.0
N (kg/ha)	59	-	40	-	-	45
Soil temperature (°C)	9.8	11.4	10.4	9.7	10.4	10.1
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	51	24	31	33	33	39
Rainfall	14	10	12	7	13	10
Comments		Wet during walk				



Pasture Quality

NOTE: We sample the paddocks immediately in front of the milkers, to height of 3.5cm (7 clicks on the rising plate meter). The RPM data in the table is the pre-grazing clicks recorded on the day of sampling.

Eastern Southland

Description	Date	RPM	% prot	% Lipid	% SSS	% NDF	% ADF	OMD	MJME/kg DM	%DM
Pdk 66	10 Jun	11.5	22.1	4.3	14.4	45.7	23.7	79.9	11.9	21.7
Pdk 23	10 Jun	10.5	26.8	4.7	13.2	43.9	21.5	84.6	12.5	18.7
Pdk 23	30 Jun	12.2	25.9	4.4	12.3	41.8	24.2	82.4	12.0	19.6
Pdk 66	30 Jun	11.2	21.6	4.0	15.0	42.2	24.9	80.9	11.8	20.4
Pdk 66	4 Aug	12.5	22.6	4.2	11.5	47.0	25.0	79.1	11.6	16.3
Pdk 23	4 Aug	13.3	25.5	5.1	14.6	39.6	21.9	81.1	12.0	15.5
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Hall 1	16 Sep	16.1	21.5	4.9	15.5	52.3	25.1	80.9	12.1	17.9
Hall 56	29 Sep	20.4	25.6	5.3	12.3	48.0	24.1	80.2	11.7	15.1
Hall 6	29 Sep	13.9	19.4	5.0	20.7	41.1	23.9	83.9	12.5	15.9

Central Southland

Description	Date	RPM	% prot	% Lipid	% SSS	% NDF	% ADF	OMD	MJME/kg DM	%DM
Pdk 2	10 Jun	7.3	24.1	4.5	12.5	49.1	24.2	77.9	11.8	25.3
Pdk 30	10 Jun	8.8	23.4	4.4	15.8	42.1	24.3	77.4	11.6	23.1
Pdk 2	30 Jun	7.5	25.2	4.8	13.0	44.5	24.6	79.4	11.8	20.8
Pdk 30	30 Jun	9.1	22.3	4.2	16.6	40.8	23.9	79.5	12.0	20.8
Pdk 30	4 Aug	9.9	22.1	4.4	13.8	44.5	23.3	80.9	12.1	21.7
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Pdk 3	2 Sep	11.7	18.3	4.5	16.5	45.7	24.1	80.4	12.2	17.0
Pdk 42	2 Sep	11.9	23.3	5.0	16.1	42.8	23.0	81.6	12.3	17.9
Pdk 14	16 Sep	11.5	26.3	5.8	15.9	43.2	23.0	85.5	12.4	19.3
Pdk 45	16 Sep	10.1	23.4	5.3	17.6	49.1	23.5	81.4	12.1	20.5
Pdk 30	29 Sep	12.5	27.1	5.7	17.7	38.4	23.5	84.5	12.1	14.3
Pdk 9	29 Sep	11.2	28.1	6.0	16.8	39.3	22.5	84.5	12.3	14.5

Southland Monitor Farm Project

Weekly Update – 7 October 2009

General Comments

Growth rates continue to be variable across the regions. With the exception of the Demonstration farm all other farms recorded similar or higher growth rates relative to last week. The high growth rates recorded in Eastern and Central Southland possibly reflect an underestimation of pasture quality last week when the farms were plated in very wet conditions. The average growth recorded across the region this week was higher than that recorded in the previous 2 seasons.

The East Otago farm now has 5% of the farm closed for conservation. Both the Eastern and Central farms now have a significant proportion of the paddocks above the target line indicating that we are passed balance date for these farms this season. The Northern Southland farm is still showing a deficit.

Production is continuing to increase as more of the herd calves and the earlier calving cows approach peak lactation. Per cow production across all herds is greater than 1.9 kg MS/cow/day.

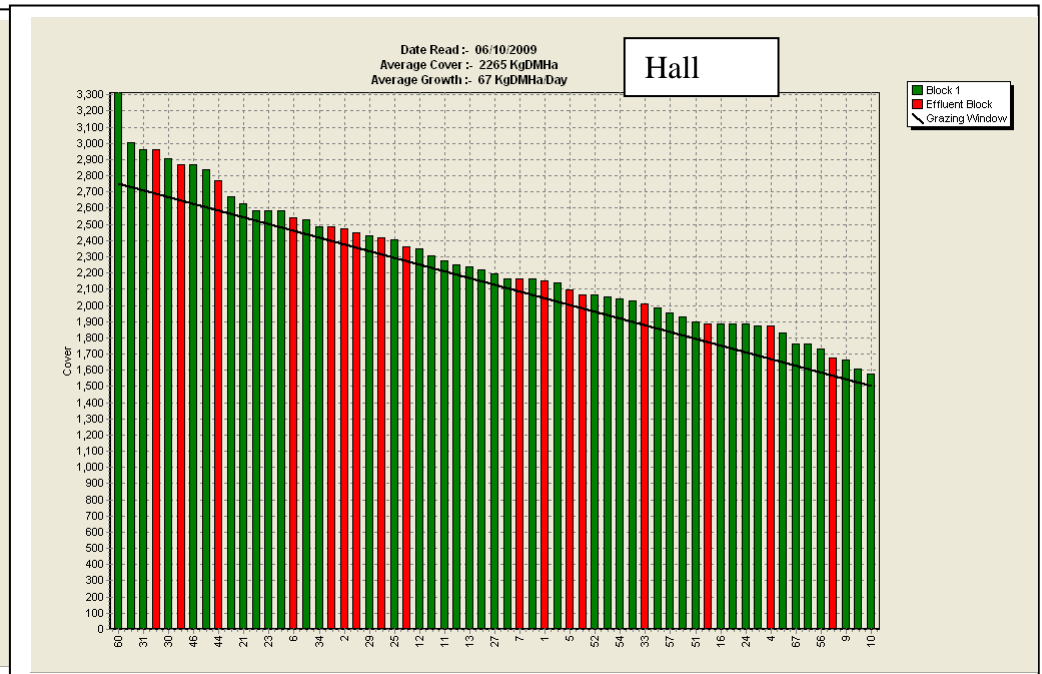
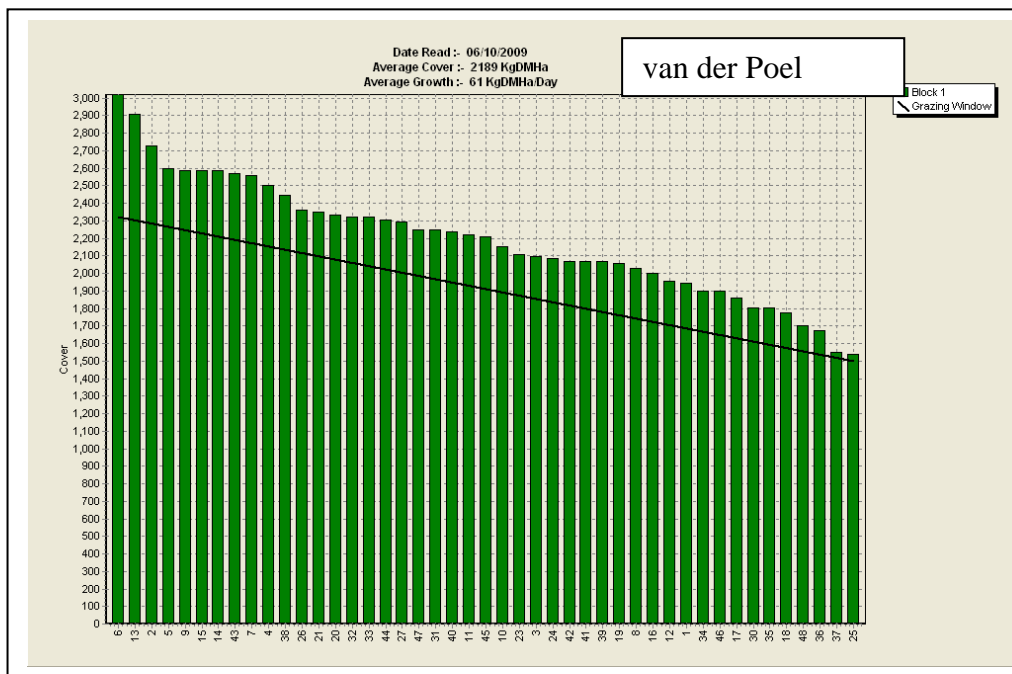
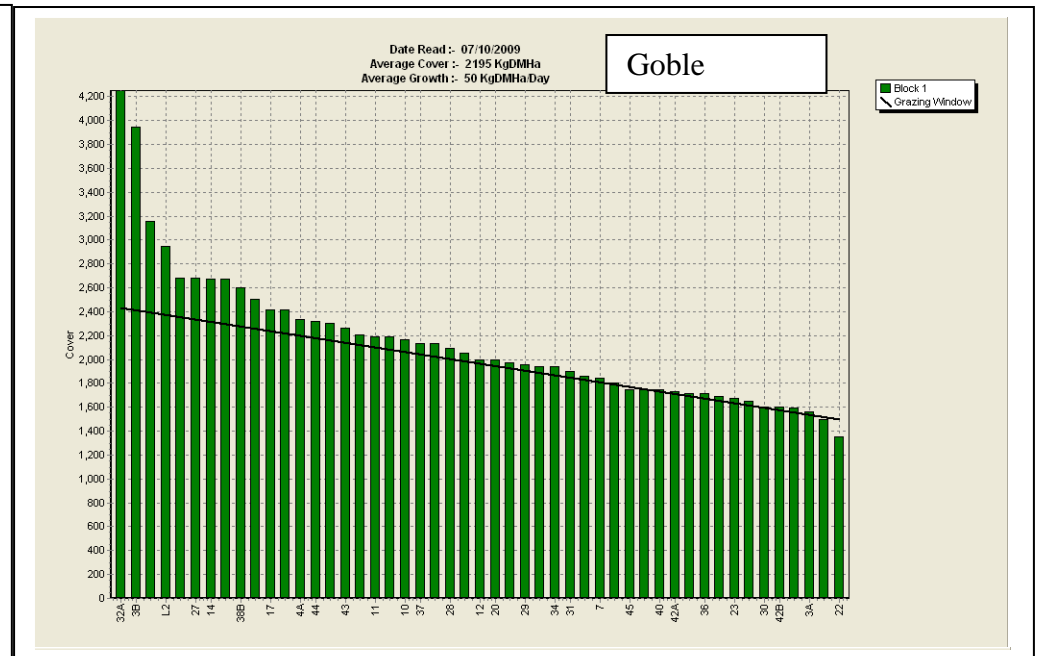
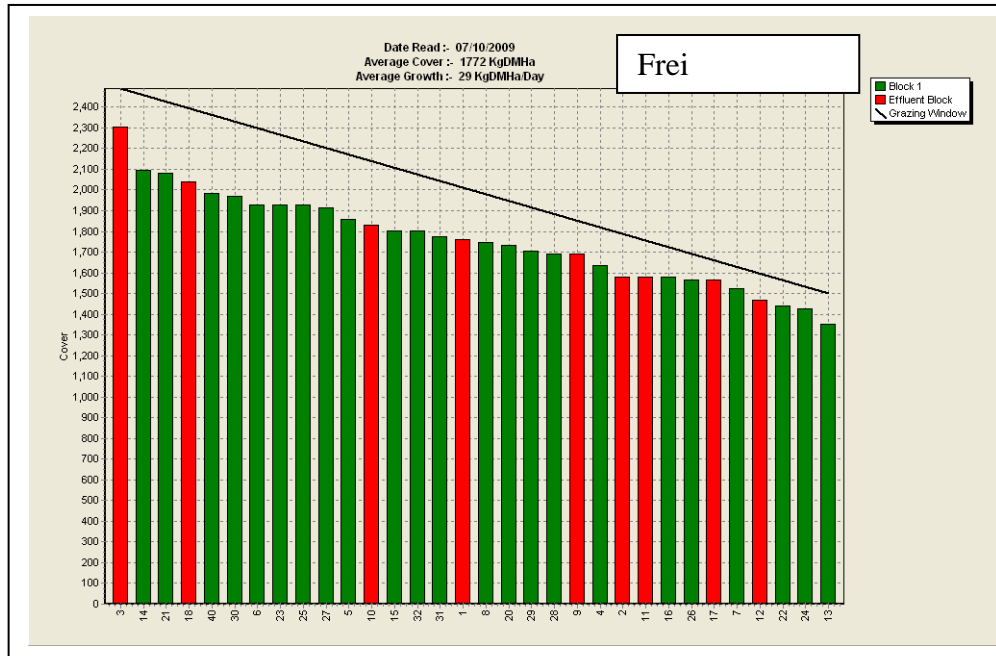
Pasture samples collected at the end of September all tested high in metabolisable energy viz. 11.7 to 12.7 MJME/kg DM. The lowest ME paddock had a mass of 3340 kg DM/ha. Crude protein concentration ranged from 19.1 to 31.2 %, possibly reflecting the different nitrogen fertiliser regimes on the farms. NDF concentrations were low (< 45%) in the majority of the samples with 3 of the samples recorded less than 40% NDF.

Weekly Tips

Keep updating your financial budget and cash flows. There is still a large part of the 2009-10 season before you so don't be tempted to loosen the reins on expenditure. Although it may feel like winter 2009 is still here you need to start planning for winter 2010. For those of you wintering on crops think about the cropping rotations and varieties required to produce the necessary feed. Work out baleage quantities and place bales generated from spring surpluses in the crop paddocks.

Farm Summary

	Demo Farm	Eastern	Central	Northern	West Otago	Telford
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	1997	2265	2189	1772	2195	1929
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	0	2	4.8	1.5	1	0
Rotation length (days)	25	26	25	22	22	30
Stocking rate	2.6	3.1	2.5	2.5	2.2	3.0
% calved	86	91	93	100	93	97
Milksolids kg/cow	1.92	2.04	2.31	2.08	2.13	2.01
Milksolids kg/ha	4.9	5.5	5.2	5.1	4.8	6.0
N (kg/ha)	49	-	40	-	-	27
Soil temperature (°C)	9.1	8.7	8.8	9.0	8.5	-
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	49	67	61	29	50	33
Rainfall	17	24	19	12	22	30
Comments						



Pasture Quality

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Eastern Southland

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Central Southland

Description	Date	RPM	% prot	% Lipid	% SSS	% NDF	% ADF	OMD	MJME/kg DM	%DM
Pdk 2	10 Jun	7.3	24.1	4.5	12.5	49.1	24.2	77.9	11.8	25.3
Pdk 30	10 Jun	8.8	23.4	4.4	15.8	42.1	24.3	77.4	11.6	23.1
Pdk 2	30 Jun	7.5	25.2	4.8	13.0	44.5	24.6	79.4	11.8	20.8
Pdk 30	30 Jun	9.1	22.3	4.2	16.6	40.8	23.9	79.5	12.0	20.8
Pdk 30	4 Aug	9.9	22.1	4.4	13.8	44.5	23.3	80.9	12.1	21.7
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Pdk 3	2 Sep	11.7	18.3	4.5	16.5	45.7	24.1	80.4	12.2	17.0
Pdk 42	2 Sep	11.9	23.3	5.0	16.1	42.8	23.0	81.6	12.3	17.9
Pdk 14	16 Sep	11.5	26.3	5.8	15.9	43.2	23.0	85.5	12.4	19.3
Pdk 45	16 Sep	10.1	23.4	5.3	17.6	49.1	23.5	81.4	12.1	20.5
Pdk 30	29 Sep	12.5	27.1	5.7	17.7	38.4	23.5	84.5	12.1	14.3
Pdk 9	29 Sep	11.2	28.1	6.0	16.8	39.3	22.5	84.5	12.3	14.5

