

# Westland Monitor Farm Project

## Weekly Update – 23 November 2009

### General Comments

Average growth continues to be approximately 5 kg DM/ha/day greater than last season. The Ikamatua farm is consistently growing more pasture than the other regions and farms. This farm has applied considerably more nitrogen fertiliser than the other farms and has now cut more than 20% of the farm for silage. The Kotuku farm has 60 ha closed for silage. Both the Ikamatua and Kotuku farms continue to offer supplement to the milkers in the shed.

Soil temperatures increased at Kotuku and Kowhitirangi, remained the same at Westport and eased at Ikamatua. Temperatures ranged from 13.1 to 15.8 °C. Average soil temperature is now 2 °C lower than this time last season.

Milk solids production has plateaued on all farms. The challenge will be over the next 2-3 weeks as post grazing residuals are creeping up on all farms making it more difficult to maintain pasture quality in the next rotation.

Last week we held field days on all the monitor farms with disappointing farmer support. Those that did attend had the opportunity to debate the results from the first 12 months of monitoring and drill down into the economic performance of each of the farms. Considerable resource has gone into this project over the last 12 months and it is disappointing that more farmers are not interested in the results. Continuation of the project will be dependent on the project outcomes being achieved, with use of the data to improve performance on other West Coast farms being one of the performance measures. The notes from the field days are available from the Westland portal and also [www.siddc.org.nz](http://www.siddc.org.nz).

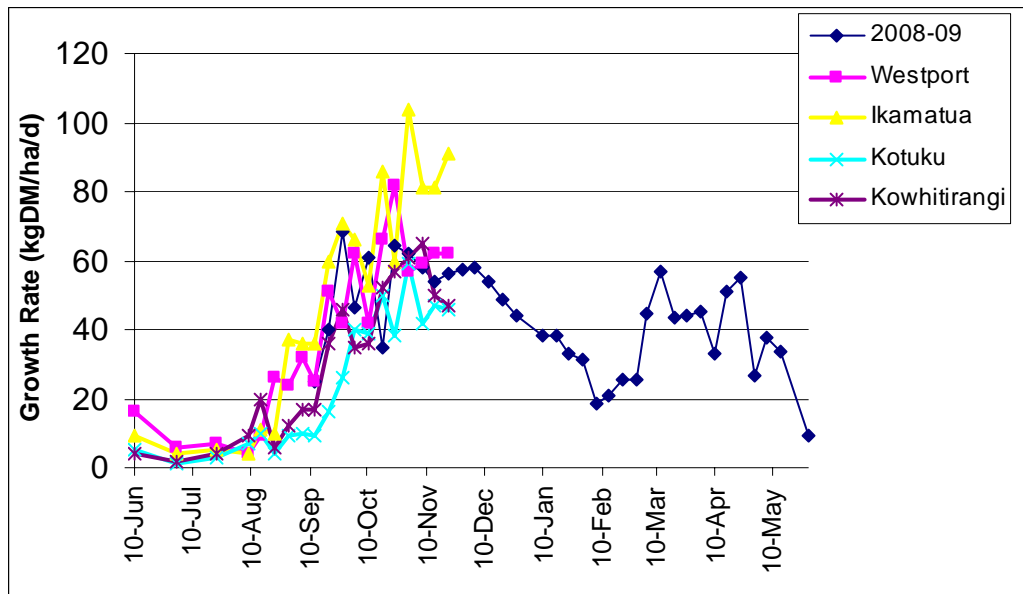
### CO comment

Maintain pasture quality by regular pasture monitoring and achieving a consistent and even residual. Use your feed wedge to identify any surplus feed early and look at conservation options. Continue to monitor bulk milk somatic cell count and if problems arise strip individual quarters to help detect infected cows. Remind staff to maintain their vigilance with heat detection as the AI period nears completion – remember one missed heat costs \$100.

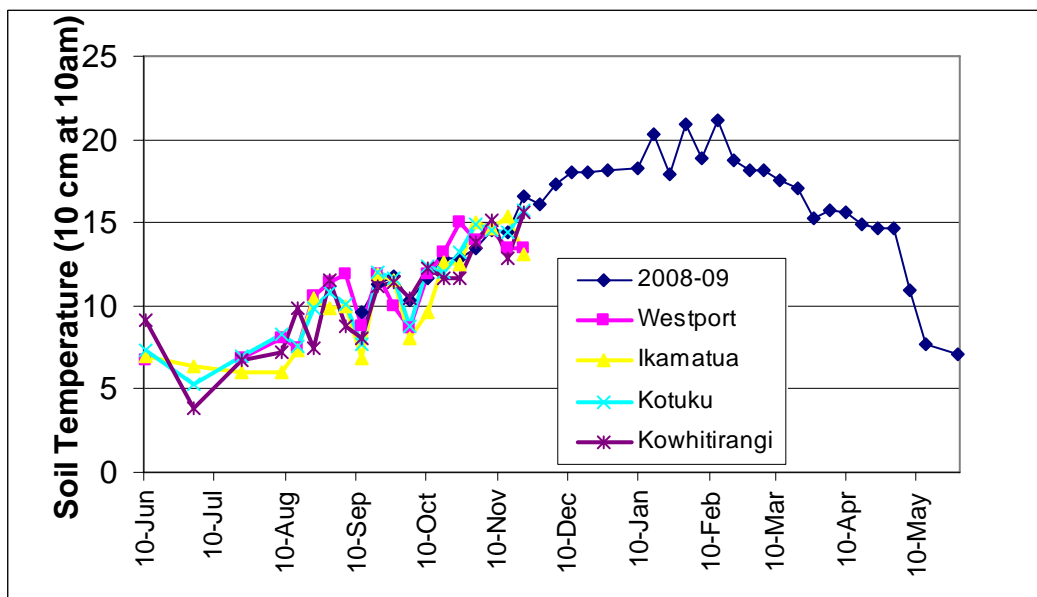
### Farm Summary

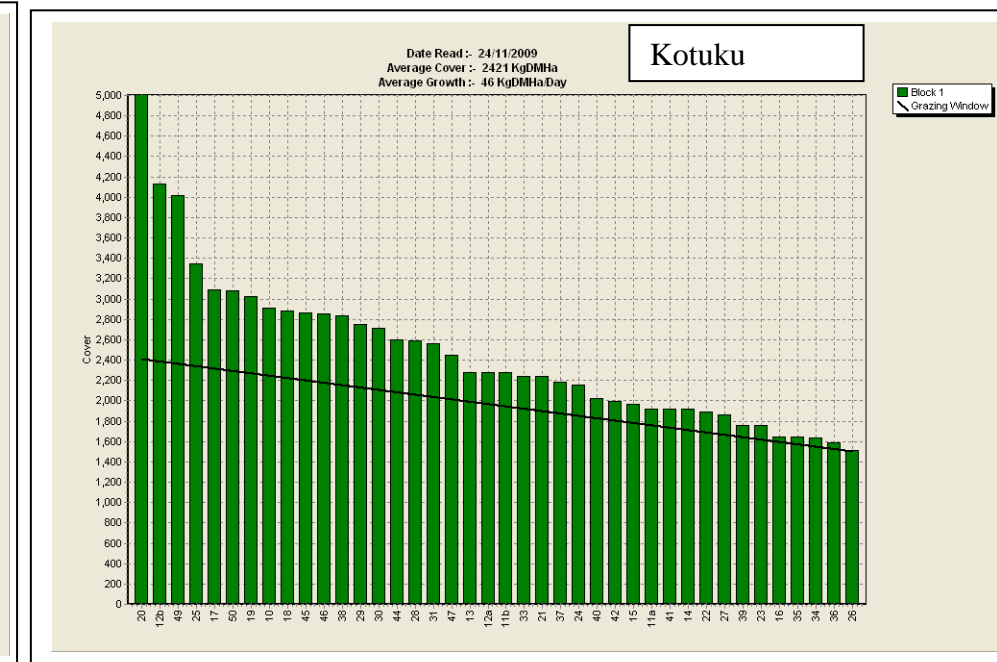
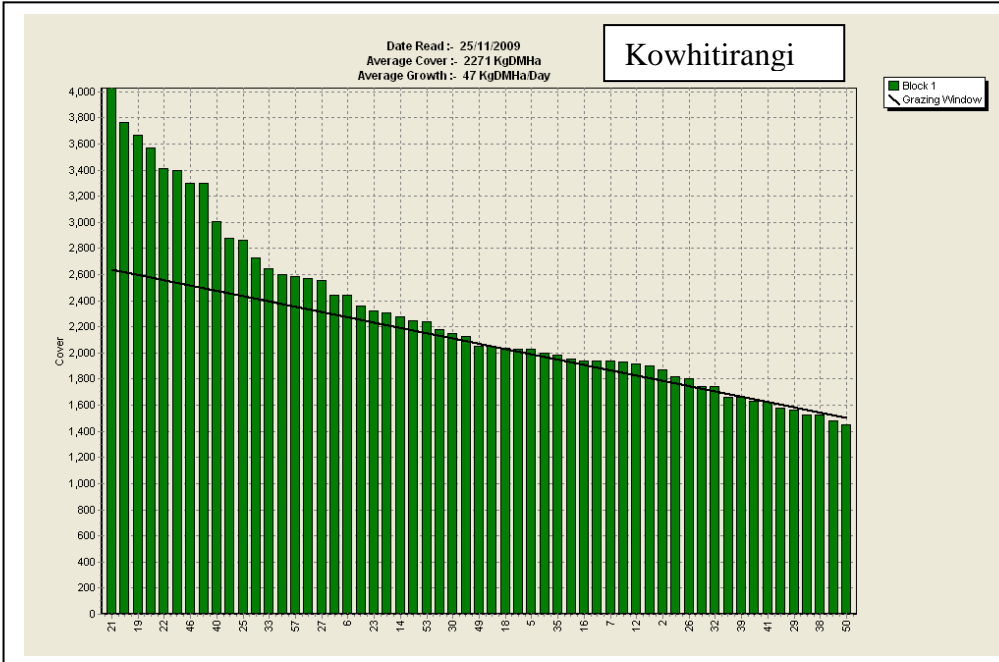
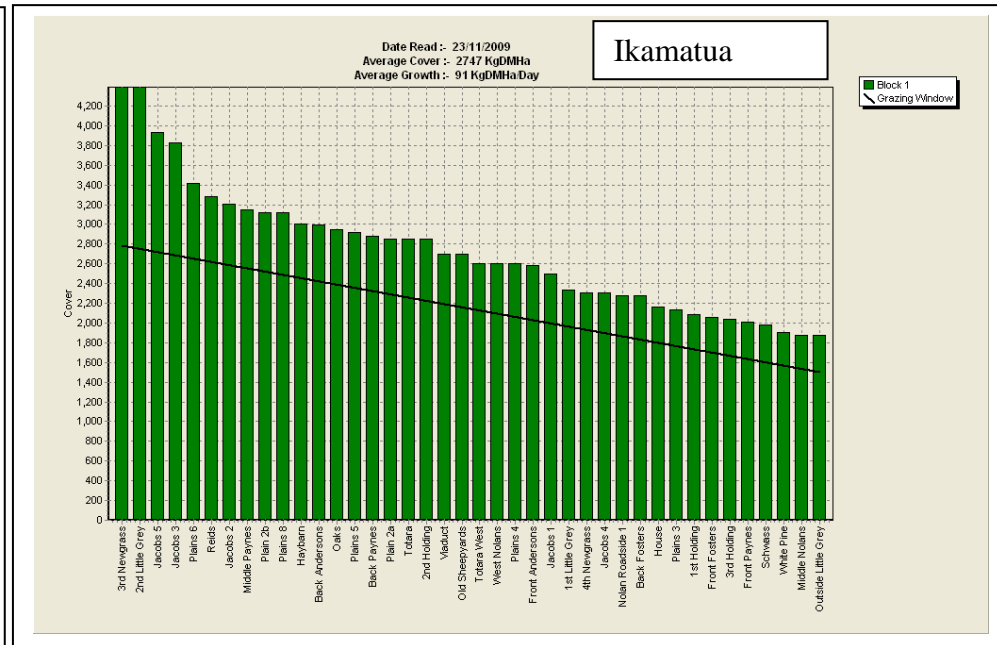
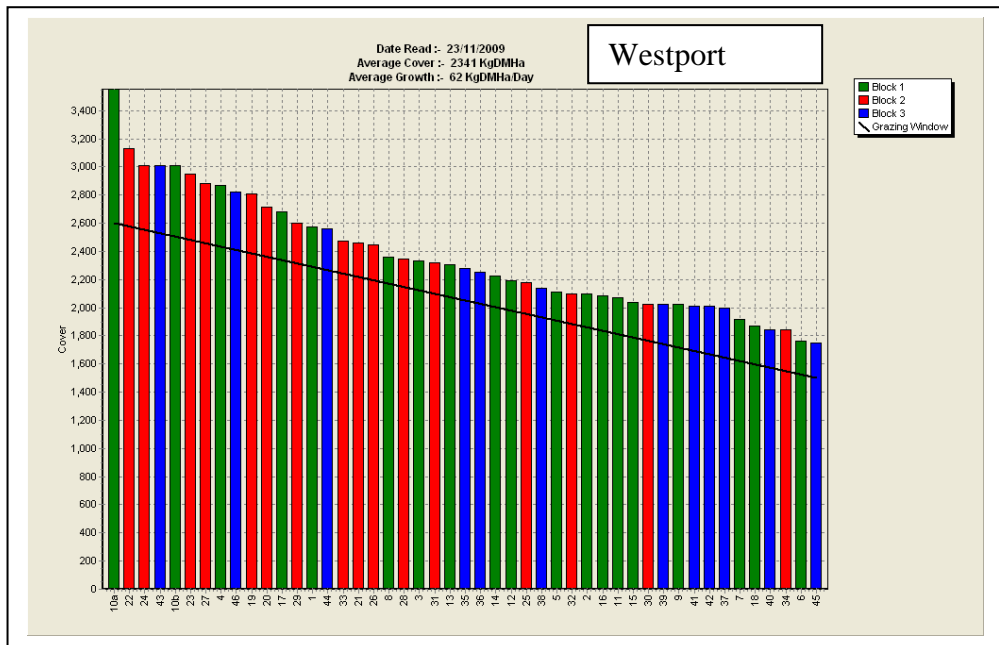
	Westport	Ikamatua	Kotuku	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2341	2747	2421	2271
Rotation length (days)	21	24	24	23
Stocking rate	3.01	2.8	2.8	2.7
Milksolids kg/cow	1.81	2.10	1.53	1.70
Milksolids kg/ha	5.1	5.9	3.6	4.1
N (kg/ha)	10	101	23	20
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	0	2	2.5	0
Soil temperature (°C)	13.5	13.1	15.8	15.6
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	62	91	46	47
Rainfall	46	18	-	88
Comments				

## Pasture Growth Rates



## Soil Temperature









# Westland Monitor Farm Project

## Weekly Update – 11 November 2009

### General Comments

Average growth continues to be slightly higher than last season. Growth did ease in most regions as the high rates recorded last week. The Kotuku farm continues to grow at a slower rate to the other regions and has been growth

Soil temperatures eased slightly at Ikamatua and Kotuku but continued to rise in Westport and Kowhitirangi. Temperatures ranged from 14.5 to 15.1 °C.

Ikamatua has cut 3 more paddocks for silage. The Ikamatua, Kotuku and Kowhitirangi farms all have surplus pasture as seen from the wedge. With all the silage harvested from the Westport farm this farm has a much tighter feed situation than the others but still has a slight surplus at the top of the wedge. Post grazing residuals are creeping up on the Ikamatua farm but appear to be under control on the other farms.

Milk solids production has plateaued on all farms. The challenge will be over the next 2-3 weeks as post grazing residuals are creeping up on all farms making it more difficult to maintain pasture quality in the next rotation.

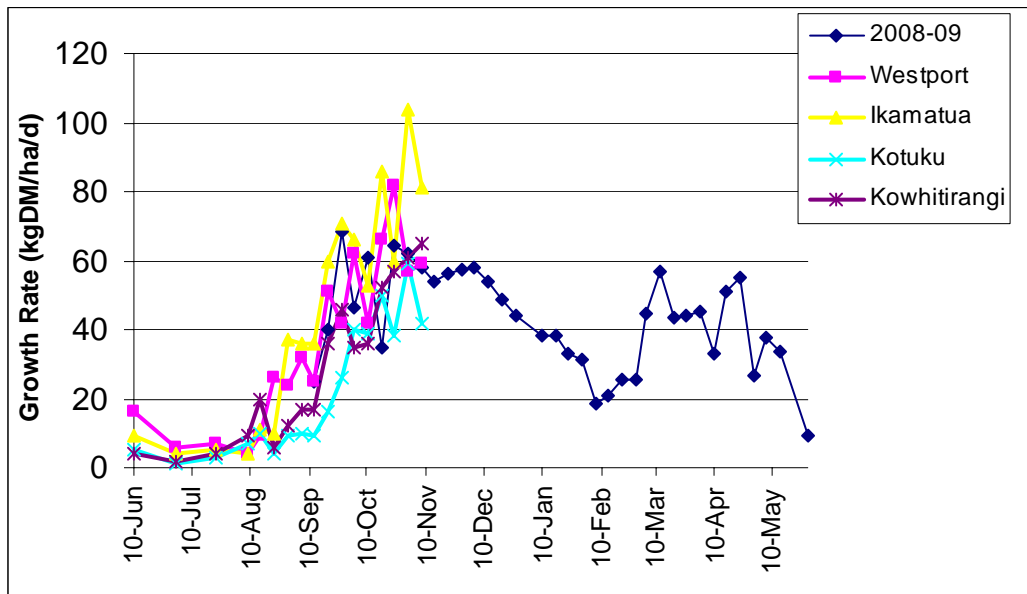
### CO comment

Making good quality silage/baleage is essential for milk production and dry cow feeding. Good quality pasture silage/baleage should be at least 16% crude protein, 70% dry matter digestibility, 30-35%DM (baleage) or 25-30%DM (pit silage), 3.5-4.5pH and >10 MJME/kgDM. Silage quality analysis is available through a number of labs and is recommended especially for silage being offered to milking cows. ARL through your Ravensdown field representative provide silage quality analysis on the West Coast. For more information on making good quality silage go to [www.dairynz.co.nz](http://www.dairynz.co.nz) Farm facts 1-43 to 1-47.

### Farm Summary

	<b>Westport</b>	<b>Ikamatua</b>	<b>Kotuku</b>	<b>Kowhitirangi</b>
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2254	2653	2298	2277
Rotation length (days)	22	24	35	26
Stocking rate	2.9	2.8	2.4	2.4
Milksolids kg/cow	1.88	2.22	1.56	1.80
Milksolids kg/ha	5.2	5.9	3.8	4.4
N (kg/ha)				
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	0	3	2	0
Soil temperature (°C)	14.5	14.7	14.5	15.1
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	59	81	42	65
Rainfall	26	10	-	43
Comments				

## Pasture Growth Rates



## Soil Temperature

