

# Westland Monitor Farm Project

## Weekly Update – 1 October 08

### General Comments

Cooler wet conditions this week has resulted in more variable growth rates across the region, the range being 24 to 71 kg DM/ha/day. Growth rates in some regions may have been under estimated due to wet conditions during plating. With the cooler conditions soil temperatures have also declined to around 10 °C. Weather conditions when this farm was walked were cold and wet. Supplement inputs range from no supplements on the Westport farm to 2.2 kg DM/cow/day at Ikamatua. The Westport and Ikamatua farms have now passed their balance date and have paddocks shut for conservation. The Ikamatua farm has grazed several of the paddocks shut for silage as growth has slowed. Rainfall across the region ranged from 40 to 75 mm.

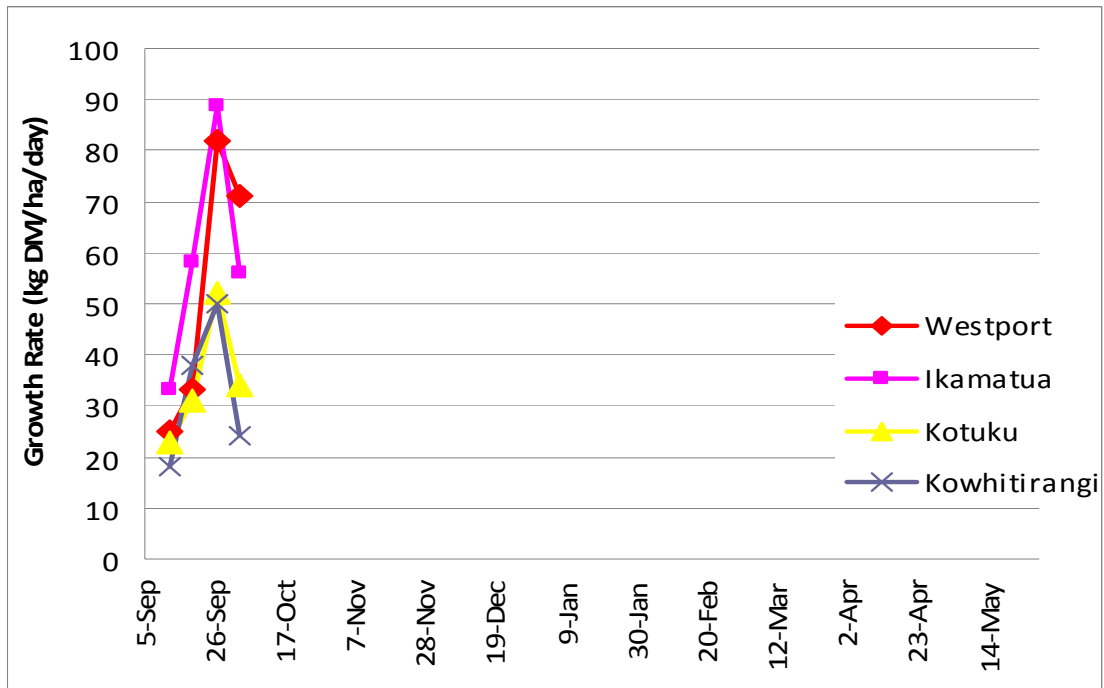
### CO Comments

With calving almost finished mating is just around the corner. Vet check at risk cows which are those that had calving difficulties, light cows, RFMs etc. Tail paint cows 4 weeks pre mating and record pre mating heats. These can give early indications of any cycling trends. Many of the above are reactive. The InCalf programme is designed to take a more proactive and long term approach to farm management factors affecting reproductive performance. Ask for your herds fertility focus report for a benchmark of your herds previous performance (available in through MINDA Pro by clicking Report and then Reproductive Analysis). This allows you to assess the herd reproductive performance from last season, identify improvements and devise a reproduction management plan for this season.

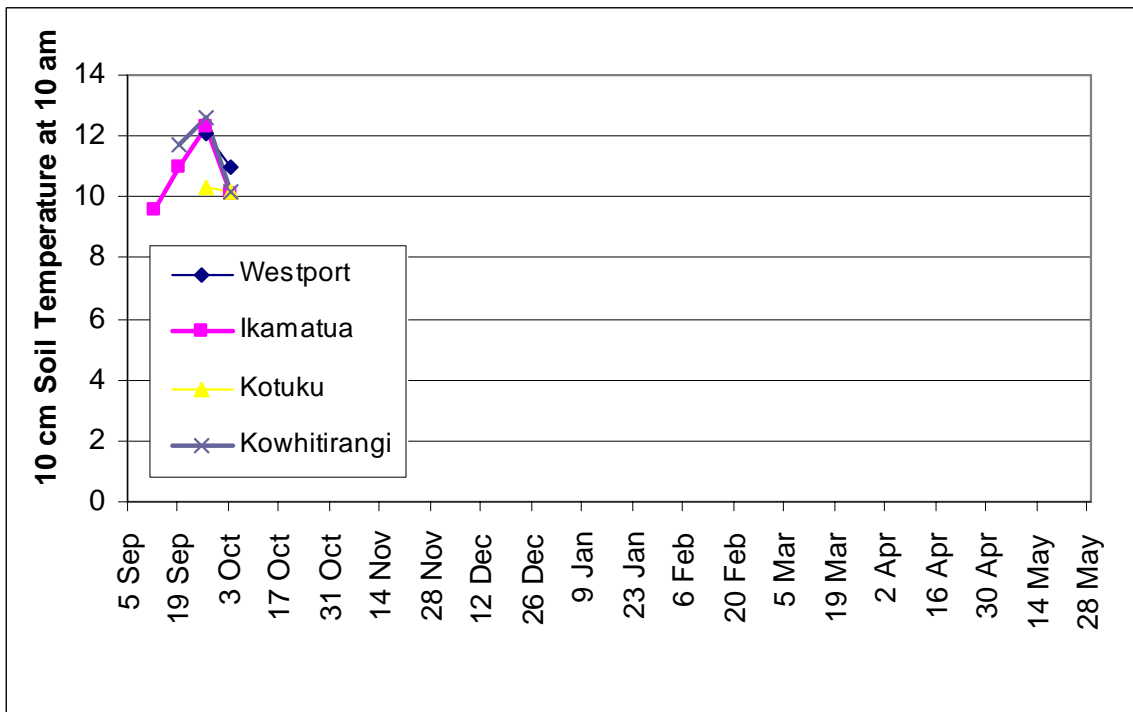
### Farm Summary

	Westport	Ikamatua	Kotuku	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2704	2546	2353	-
Rotation length (days)	28	24	49	26
Percentage in milk	92	87	88	88
Stocking rate	2.68	2.85	2.10	2.42
Milksolids kg/cow	1.67	2.18	1.66	1.77
Milksolids kg/ha	3.9	6.2	3.4	3.5
N (kg/ha)	-	-	-	-
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	0	2.2	1.5	1.0
Soil temperature (°C)	11.0	10.1	10.2	10.2
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	71	56	34	24
Rainfall	61	40	47	75
Comments	6.25 shut	15 ha shut		Very wet when plated

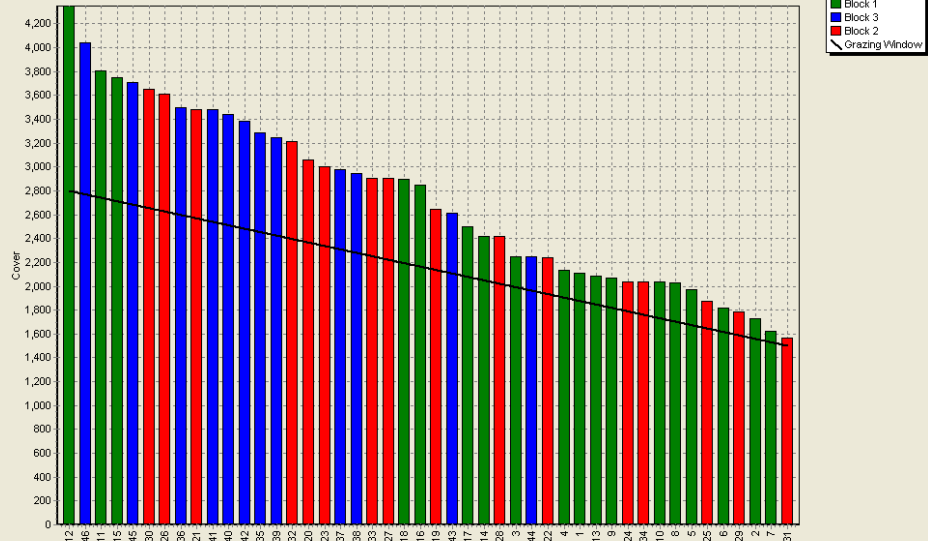
## Pasture Growth Rates



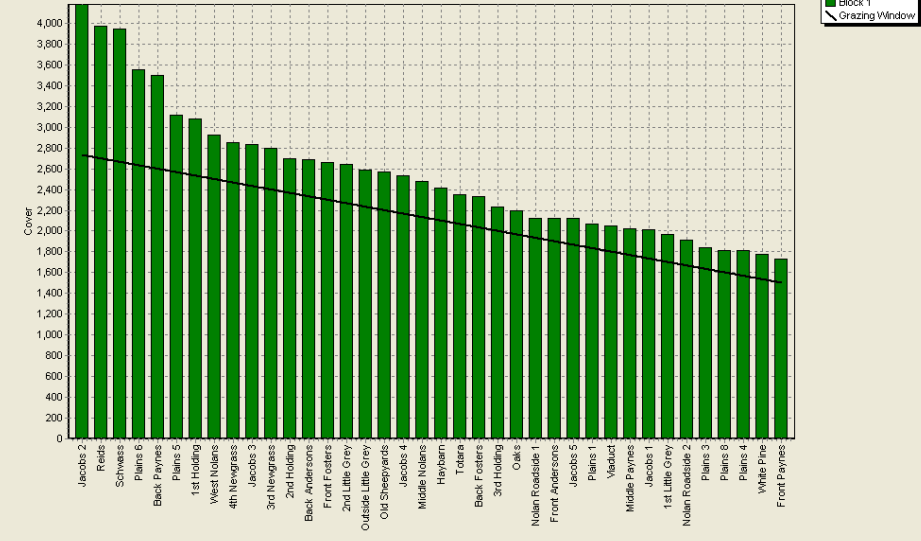
## Soil Temperature



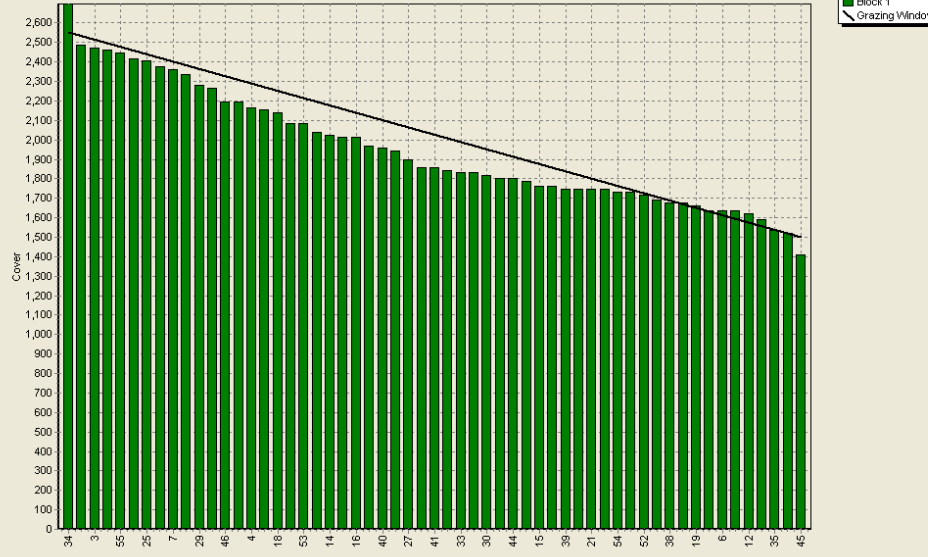
Date Read : 29/09/2008  
 Average Cover : 2704 KgDM/ha  
 Average Growth : 71 KgDM/ha/Day



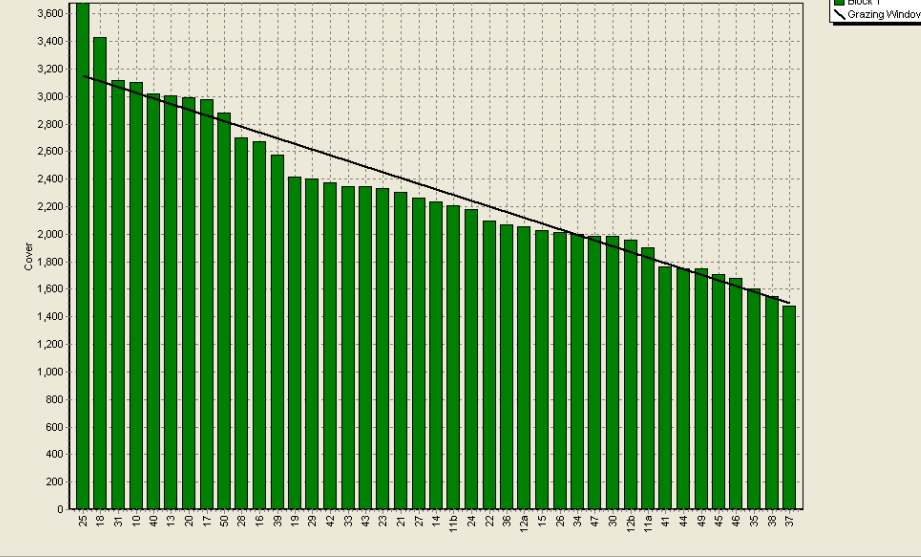
Date Read : 29/09/2008  
 Average Cover : 2546 KgDM/ha  
 Average Growth : 56 KgDM/ha/Day



Date Read : 01/10/2008  
 Average Cover : 1952 KgDM/ha  
 Average Growth : 24 KgDM/ha/Day



Date Read : 30/09/2008  
 Average Cover : 2353 KgDM/ha  
 Average Growth : 34 KgDM/ha/Day







# Westland Monitor Farm Project

## Weekly Update – 24 September 08

### General Comments

Growth rates have doubled in some regions this week and all regions have seen a significant increase in growth. Soil temperatures have continued to increase and were above 12 °C on all but the Kotuku farm. Weather conditions when this farm was walked were cold and wet. By comparison the weather was fine when the other farms were walked. Supplement inputs range from no supplements on the Westport farm to 4.0 kg DM/cow/day at Ikamatua. All farms are over 80% of the way through calving. The Westport and Ikamatua farms have now passed their balance date and have paddocks shut for conservation. Rainfall across the region has been extremely variable in the last 7 days.

It is important to remember the aim of the project when reviewing the data each week. What we are trying to achieve is to provide accurate growth rate, soil temperature and pasture quality information for use by dairy farmers across Westland. The four monitor farms are quite different in the systems they run and were chosen to be representative of the areas they are located in rather than all running the same system. Shortly we will provide a summary document to go alongside the weekly summary that gives background information for each of the farms to help you context what is reported in these summaries with your situation.

### CO Comments

With balance date just around the corner it is important to calculate this for your farm. Historically balance date has been a calendar date that people have referred to however the exact date will be specific to each farm. To calculate Balance Date, ie when pasture supply matches animal demand, for your farm it is important to consider animal intake and stocking rate. For a farm stocked at 2.5 cows/ha and offering 17kg DM/ha/day Balance Date will be when pasture growth rate is 43 kgDM/ha/day.

It is essential to start monitoring the average pasture cover carefully to identify surpluses and maintain good post grazing residuals to ensure high quality pasture is available in the next round. Making a Feed Wedge will assist in identifying the surplus and will help with planning your paddock allocation. Go to [www.dairynz.co.nz](http://www.dairynz.co.nz) and search for Feed Wedge Ready Reckoner to do your Feed Wedge manually.

Otherwise contact Alexis Perez on:

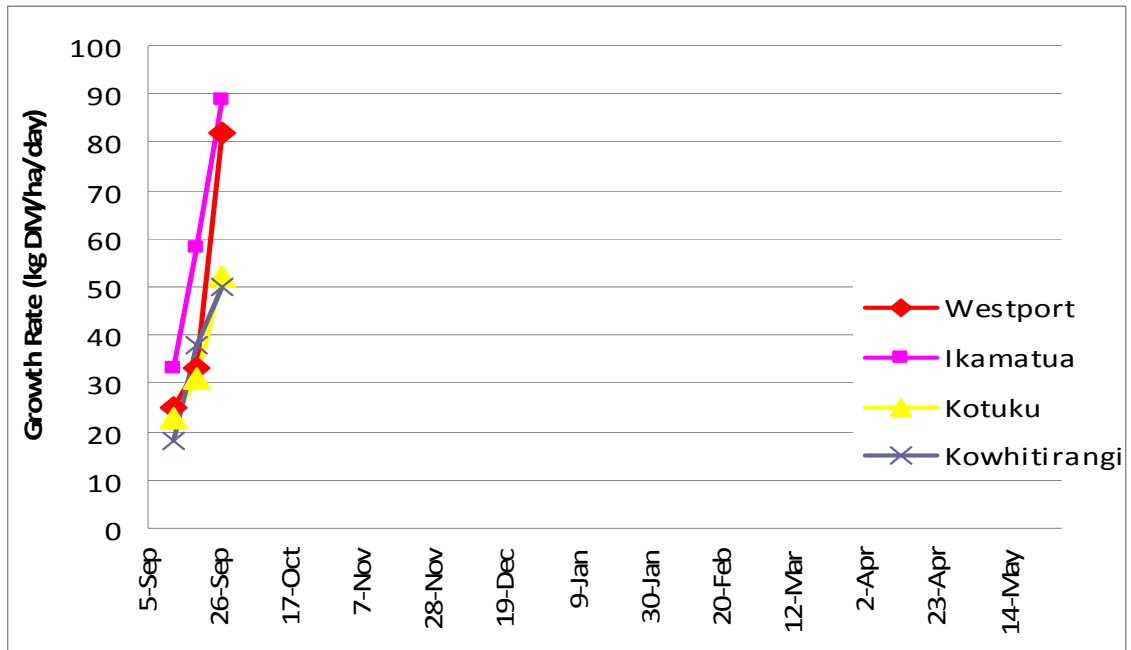
E-mail: [alexis.perez@dairynz.co.nz](mailto:alexis.perez@dairynz.co.nz)

Ph: 03 756 9858; Mobile: 021 2772894

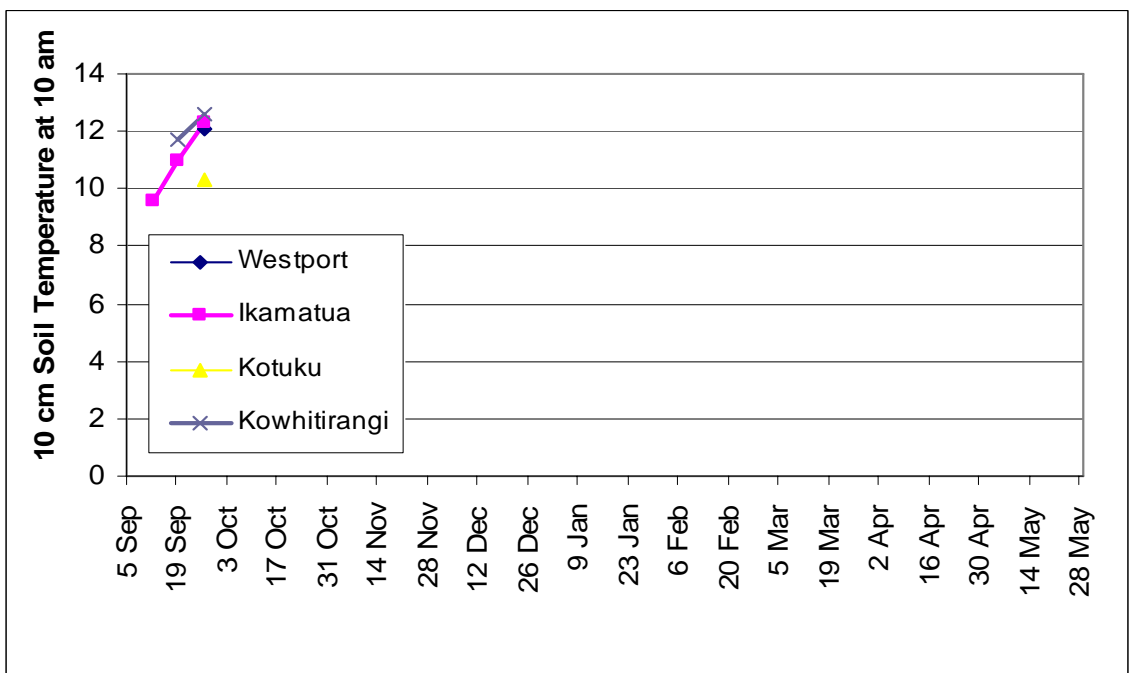
### Farm Summary

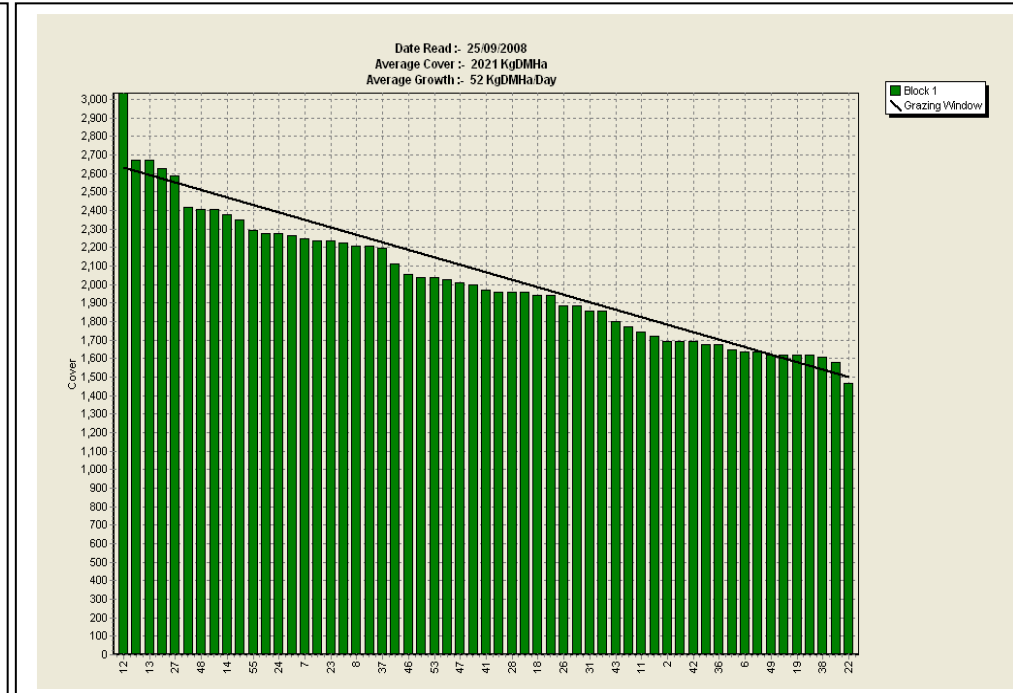
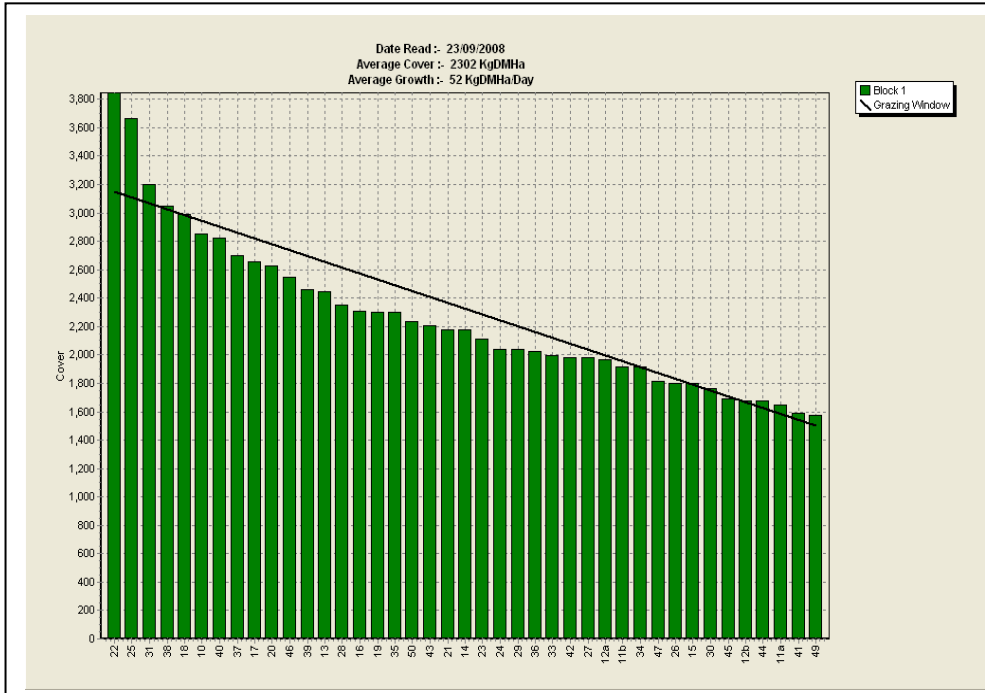
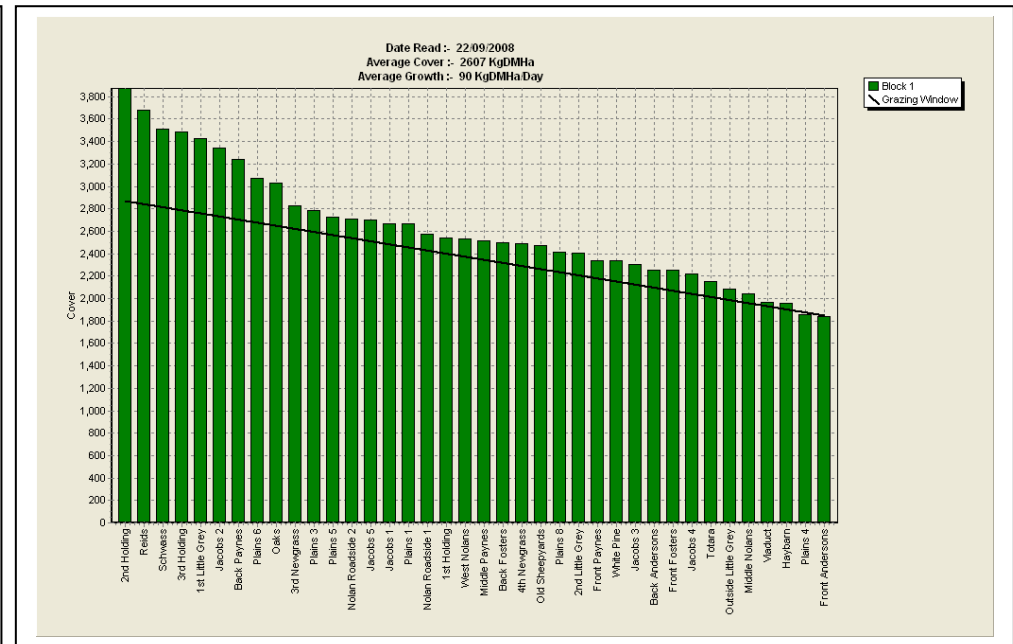
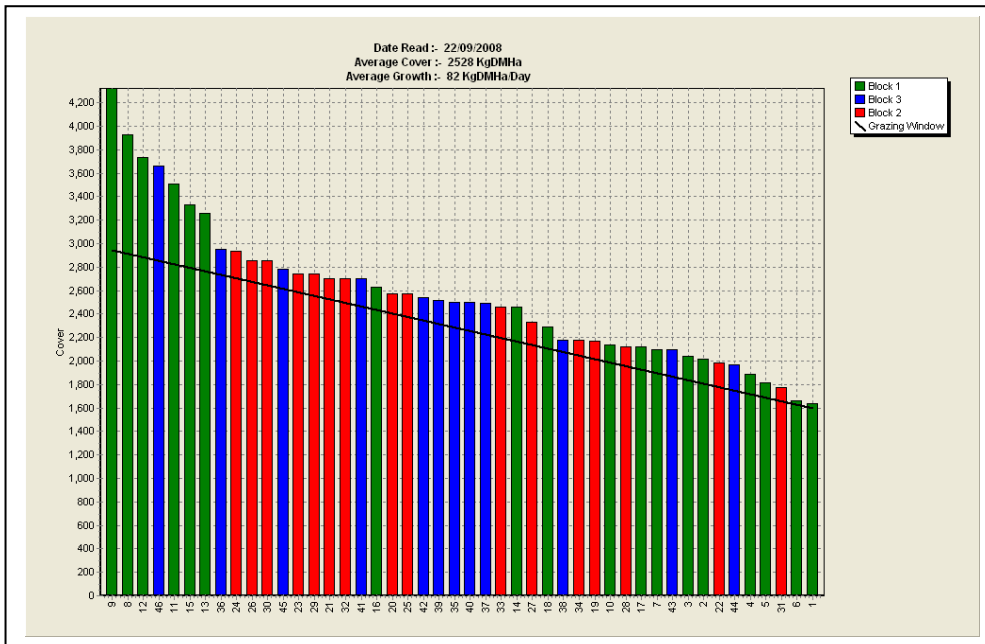
	Westport	Ikamatua	Kotuku	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2528	2607	2302	-
Rotation length (days)	32	20	49	26
Percentage in milk	87	87	84	82
Stocking rate	2.78	3.3	2.4	2.4
Milksolids kg/cow	1.5	2.15	1.65	1.71
Milksolids kg/ha	3.4	5.7	3.2	3.1
N (kg/ha)	-	-	-	-
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	0	4.0	1.5	1.0
Soil temperature (°C)	12.1	12.3	10.3	12.6
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	82	89	52	50
Rainfall	36	8	-	140
Comments		15 ha shut		

## Pasture Growth Rates



## Soil Temperature









# Westland Monitor Farm Project

## Weekly Update – 17 September 08

### General Comments

Soil temperatures and growth rates have both increased during the last week. All farms had soil temperatures above 11.0 °C. Growth rates ranged from 31 to 58 kg DM/ha/day. The farm growing 58 kg DM/ha/day is following the cows with 40 units of N per ha. Production ranges from 1.3 to 2.0 kg MS/cow/day. Again there are considerable differences in the inputs of the farms which is contributing to the production differences. Supplement inputs range from no supplements on the Westport farm to 4.5 kg DM/cow/day at Ikamatua. All farms are over 75% of the way through calving.

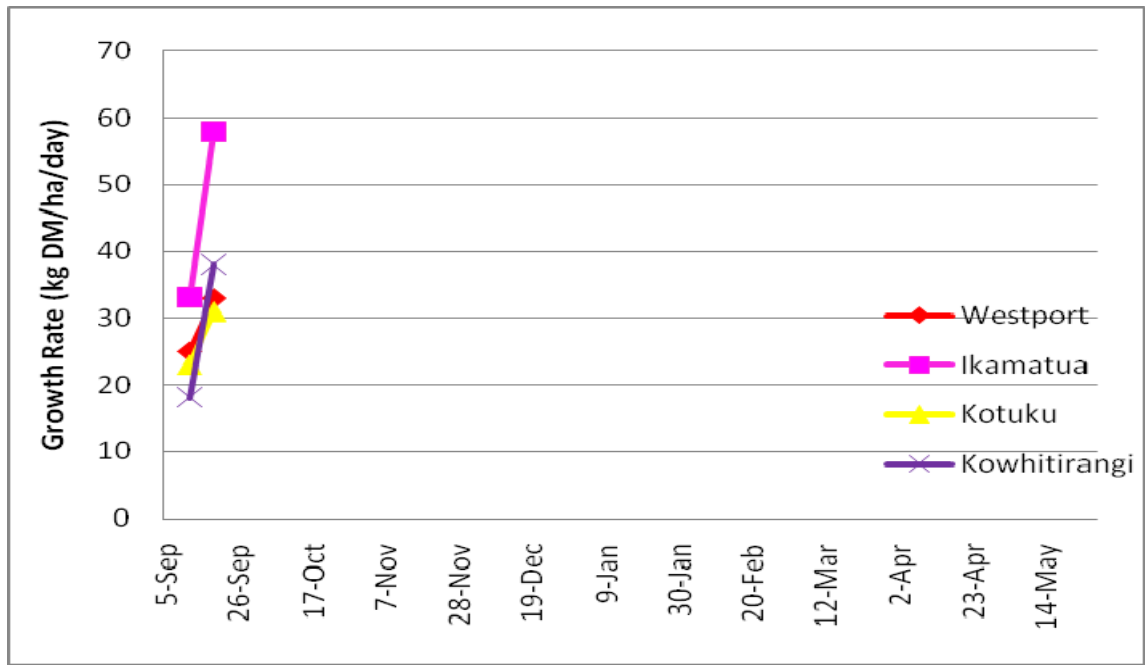
The week has been very good with sunny days and warm temperatures. It is important to stick to your rotation planner and not speed the round because you *“never know what the weather is going to do in the coast”*. Ensure all cows are getting magnesium supplementation. Check cows for mastitis when they are in the colostrum mob. Do not forget to *“stop for 15 minutes”* to communicate an update to your staff.

Milk production in Westland is off to a good start, on the 11<sup>th</sup> September supply to WMP was up by 2,638,145Ltr (12.33%) on 2007/08 season.

### Farm Summary

	Westport	Ikamatua	Kotuku	Kowhitirangi
Average cover (kg DM/ha)	2151	2378	2149	-
Rotation length (days)	33	29	31	32
Percentage in milk	82	85	-	76
Stocking rate	2.8	3.06	1.9	2.4
Milksolids kg/cow	1.3	2.0	1.6	1.6
Milksolids kg/ha	2.9	5.0	3.8	2.8
N (kg/ha)	-	-	-	-
Supplement (kg/cow/day)	0	4.5	1.8	1
Soil temperature (°C)	-	11.0	-	11.7
Growth Rate (kg DM/day)	33	58	31	38
Rainfall	35	17	11	24
Comments				

## Pasture Growth Rates



## Soil Temperature

