

SDF Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday, 29th April 2009

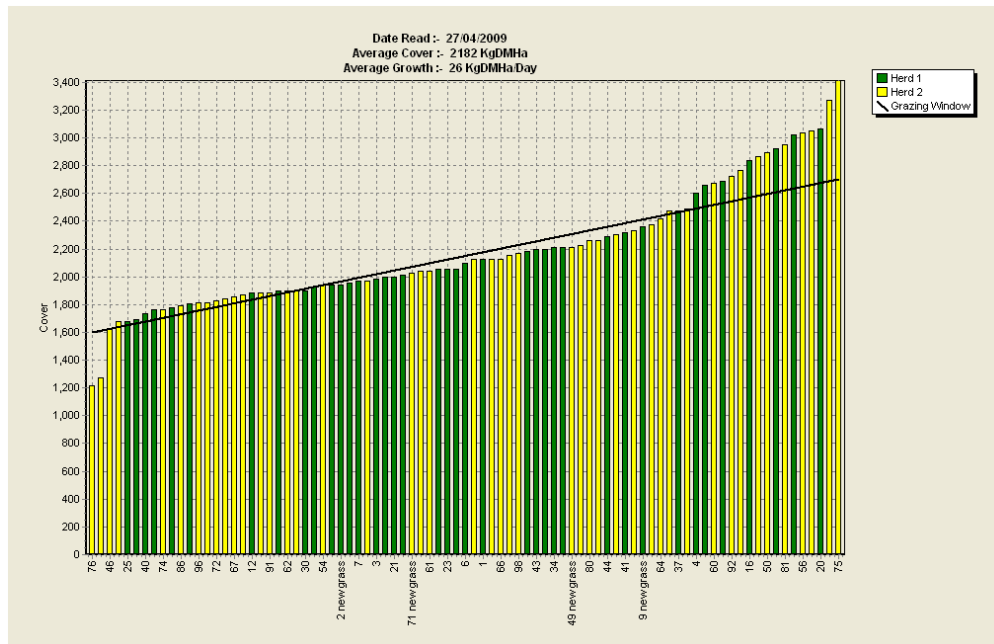
Total Effective Ha: 295ha
Winter Crop Ha: 28ha
Area in Grass Ha: 255ha
Area out Direct Drilled Short Rotation: 12 ha
Cows in Milk: 591 cows

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1600 kg DM /ha.**
2. **Setting up for late Autumn early Winter – hold the round, identify core herd for next season, feed budget and condition score increase.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. Soil temperatures at 9.00 am have averaged 11.7° C this week, a decrease of 2.2 degrees over the last month.
4. Pasture growth this week was 26 kg DM/ha/day, similar to last week's 31kgDM/ha/day.
5. Average pasture cover is 2182 kg DM/ha, down from 2212 kg DM/ha last week.
6. The 29th April pasture feed wedge is below. The green bars are paddocks grazed by herd 1, the yellow bars are grazed by herd 2.



7. The target line is based on an area of 255 ha in pasture (12 ha has been taken out of the round, sprayed, and drilled in short rotation ryegrass on 17th March). The stocking rate is 2.46 cows per pasture ha and we are now working on cow intakes of 16 kg DM, using the $x140+500$ rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover for this week is $(2.46 \times 28 \text{ day rotation} \times 16) + 1600 = 2700 \text{ kg DM /ha}$.

8. The round last week was 1/28th of the farm grazed per day.
9. We have applied 50kg/ha of Urea to the whole farm. The first half of the farm was done on the April 1st and the remaining half was applied on the 23rd April. Both applications went on with the Autumn fertiliser. The effluent area did not receive any fertiliser but did get a dressing of urea.
10. PGG Wrightson's will be doing dry matter assessments and weighing of winter crops this coming Monday 4th May.
11. Ravensdown are also sampling our baleage and pasture's next week so will have an update shortly.
12. Production is 2.7 kg MS/ha/day and up per cow to 1.2 kg MS/cow/day.
13. Mastitis detection and control has been a big focus under the new management with over 20 cows treated for clinical mastitis over the last few weeks. The SCC is now sitting back at 250,000.
14. Lameness in the herd has also been attended to with the OAD mob being comprised mainly of lame cows (3 Mastitis).
15. We had our last herd test for the year on the 12th and 13th March. From this test we have made culling and drying off decisions.
16. To date we have culled 84 cows, the first 41 cows were culled on Thursday 26th March. The remaining 43 were culled on 22nd April.
17. A further 11 low producing in-calf cows have been dried off taking this herd up to 41 animals. These cows are cleaning up behind the milkers where necessary.
18. We have a total of 104 cows confirmed empty at this stage from 707 cows tested. This is giving us a preliminary non-pregnant rate of 14.7%. This is from an 11week mating period. The number of empties in the 2006 born cows is lower than the average at 11%. We had a 29% empty rate in the 1999 born and older cows.
19. 42% of the cows tested are confirmed in-calf to the first service.
20. R2yr heifers were scanned on the 19th March 2009. The empty rate was 8% or 17 empties. This will give us replacement numbers of 218 in-calf heifers to go into the herd for next season.
21. On this basis, from the 707 cows and 235 rising 2 year heifers pregnancy tested, with the total 121 head diagnosed empty, we have 821 cows remaining available to winter. This will allow us to make further culling decisions.
22. With the revised payout announcement at \$5.10 per kg milksolids, we are reviewing all of our farm working expenses. One area that we are looking at is winter cow grazing. Our plan is to winter all mixed age cows (550 head) on the 28 ha of winter crop plus 900 bales of baleage. We will need to achieve an average crop yield of 15 t DM/ha to achieve this. We are working on securing winter grazing for our in-calf heifers at a figure of around \$25 per head per week.

Future Management Planning

1. Hold round length going into Autumn
2. Culling and drying off decisions
3. Updating procedures manuals etc
4. Analysis of our reproductive intervention – CIDR's and induction, how have these cows performed reproductively?

The WEEKLY farm walk will be on **Wednesday 6th May 2009**.

On behalf of the **Management Group** Chris Herud (Farm Supervisor), Barry (Farm Manager), Sharn Edwards, Desiree Moseley (COs DairyNZ).

SDF Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday, 1st April 2009

Total Effective Ha: 295ha

Winter Crop Ha: 28ha

Area in Grass Ha: 255ha

Area out Direct Drilled Short Rotation: 12 ha

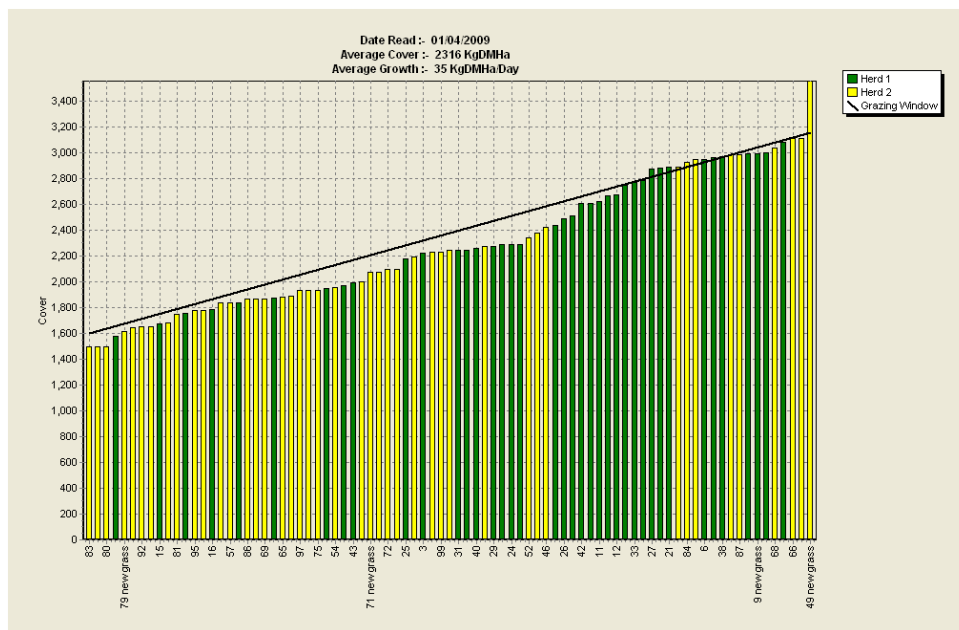
Cows in Milk: 636 cows

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1500 – 1600 kg DM /ha.**
2. **Setting up for the Autumn – lengthening the round, culling and drying off decisions.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. Soil temperatures at 9 am have averaged 13.9°C this week, an increase of 1.4 degrees over the last week.
4. Pasture growth this week was 35 kg/DM/ha/day, similar to last week's 31 kgDM/ha/day.
5. Average pasture cover is 2316 kg DM/ha, down from 2365 kg DM/ha last week.
6. The 1st April pasture feed wedge is below. The green bars are paddocks grazed by herd 1, the yellow bars are grazed by herd 2.



7. The target line is based on an area of 255 ha in pasture (12 ha has been taken out of the round, sprayed, and drilled in short rotation ryegrass on 17th March). The stocking rate is 2.6 cows per pasture ha and we are now working on cow intakes of 15 kg DM, using the $x140+500$ rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover for this week is $(2.6 \times 40 \text{ day rotation} \times 15) + 1600 = 3160 \text{ kg DM /ha}$.
8. The round last week was 1/43rd of the farm grazed per day.
9. A shortfall is appearing mid-wedge, we have applied 50kg/ha of Urea to the bottom half of last week's wedge starting last Monday. The remainder of the farm will be done in 2 weeks.

10. We should (based on 15tDM/ha yield) have enough baleage to winter all our mixed age cows at home this winter.
11. Production is 2.8 kg MS/ha/day and 1.13 kg MS/cow/day.
12. We had our last herd test for the year on the 12th and 13th March. From this test we have made culling and drying off decisions.
13. 41cows were culled last Thursday 26th March. A further 7 low producing in-calf cows have been dried off taking this herd up to 30 animals (5 of the culls were already dry).
14. We have a total of 104 cows confirmed empty at this stage from 707 cows tested. This is giving us a preliminary non-pregnant rate of 14.7%. This is from an 11wk mating period. The number of empties in the 2006 born cows is lower than the average at 11%. We had a 29% empty rate in the 1999 born and older cows.
15. 42% of the cows tested are confirmed in-calf to the first service.
16. R2yr heifers were scanned on the 19th March 2009. The empty rate was 8% or 17 empties. This will give us replacement numbers of 218 in-calf heifers to go into the herd for next season.
17. On this basis, from the 707 cows and 235 rising 2 year heifers pregnancy tested, with the total 121 head diagnosed empty, we have 821 cows remaining available to winter. This will allow us to make further culling decisions.
18. We have revised our autumn feed budget, and at this stage we are reviewing the option to feed silage. By culling one unit load of cattle (41 head) 26th March, with the revised average pasture covers, and applying 50 kg/ha urea to the farm over the next round (12.75 t urea), we are forecast to be able to milk the remaining cows through to late May by feeding some silage.
19. The group of 41 culls are empty, lower producing, high SCC cows that are definite culls, and some poorly uddered, older cows.
20. With the revised payout announcement at \$5.10 per kg milksolids, we are reviewing all our farm working expenses. One area that we are looking at is winter cow grazing. Our plan is to winter all mixed age cows (550 head) on the 28 ha of winter crop plus 900 bales of baleage. We will need to achieve an average crop yield of 15 t DM/ha to achieve this. We are working on securing winter grazing for our in-calf heifers at a figure of around \$25 per head per week.

Future Management Planning

1. Extend round length further going into autumn
2. Culling and drying off decisions
3. Updating procedures manuals etc
4. Analysis of our reproductive intervention – CIDR's and induction, how have these cows performed reproductively?

The WEEKLY farm walk will be on **Wednesday 8th April 2009**.

On behalf of the **Management Group** Matt Hart (Farm Manager), Sharn Edwards, Desiree Moseley (COs DairyNZ).