

Farm Walk Notes

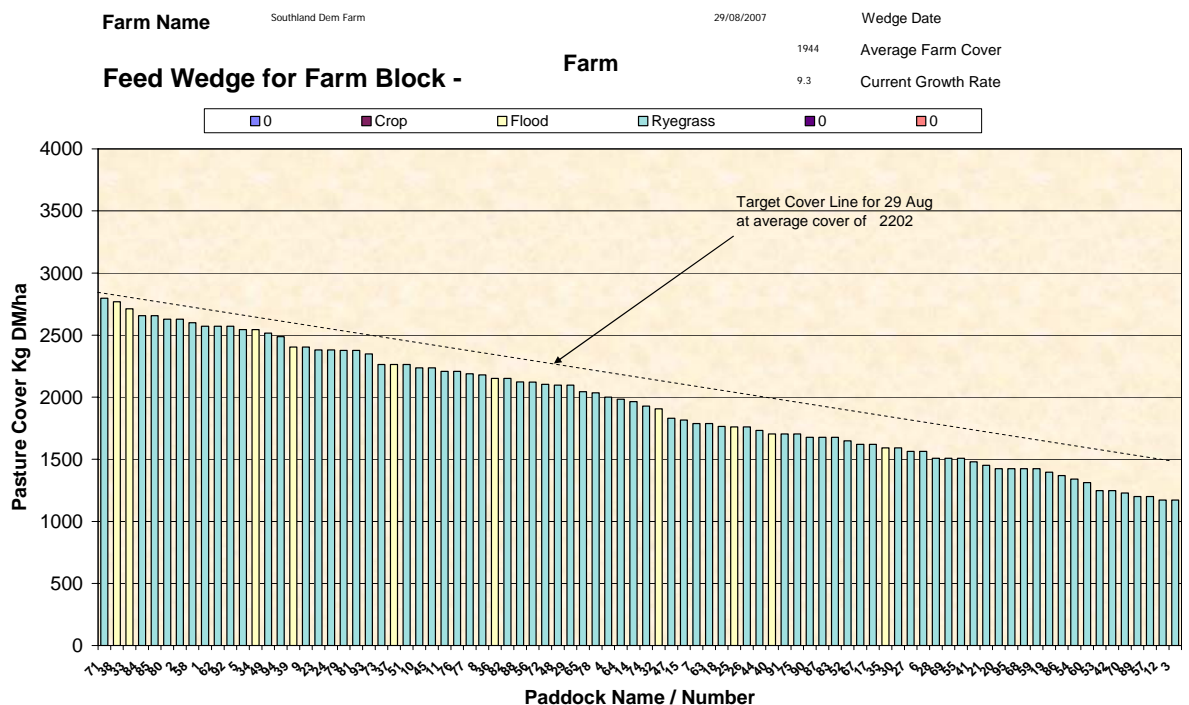
Wednesday 29th August 2007

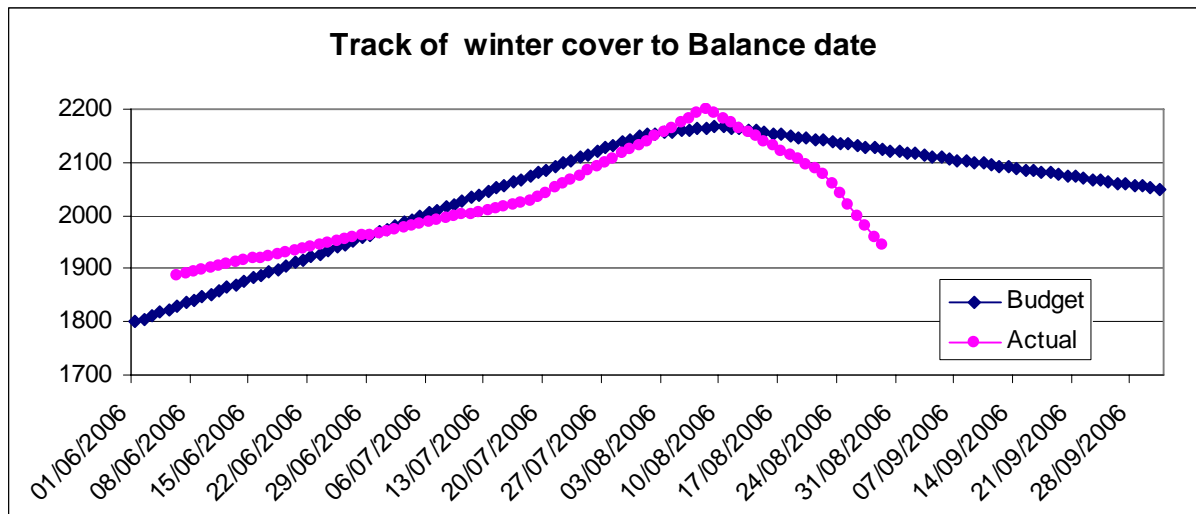
Critical issues for the short term

1. Do not speed the grazing rotation faster than set out in the First Round Planner (this is proving to be difficult due to wet soil conditions).
2. With only 147 cows left off pasture, and with the continuing wet conditions, minimising pasture damage as much as possible is a priority. Standing cows off on races and waste areas, crop paddocks and milkers on the farm dairy yard are the options available.
3. Allocate crop left according to feed plan.
4. Nitrogen needs to be applied. Considering application by helicopter if wet conditions persist much longer.

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

1. Farm walk this week indicates that the farm grew below average growth rates. Average pasture cover has been recorded at 1944 kg DM per ha (from 2079 kg DM / ha last week), with a weekly growth rate of 10 kg DM per day over the last week.
2. The feed wedge below shows that the shape is a straight-line, but as outlined above, all paddocks are now below the target cover line.





3. The graph tracking actual average pasture cover (see above) indicates that as at today, we are approximately 258 kg DM / ha behind target compared to the feed budget target APC of 2202 kg DM / ha. The feed deficit will be filled with silage, and the stack has been re-measured indicating that there is approximately 145,000 kg DM left (from the 172,000 kg DM available at the start). It is gratifying to have the silage available to fill the feed deficit, even though feeding silage and achieving good utilisation is proving to be difficult.
4. The focus now is to apply the remainder of the nitrogen on as soon as possible. Ground application is proving to be extremely difficult, and if this continues into next week, helicopter application will be used.
5. With the ground conditions remaining very wet under foot, the team is now working very hard to limit pasture damage. Cows are stood off on any suitable area available when necessary.
6. Again due to the difficult conditions, slightly more area than budgeted has been grazed again this week. We have grazed a total of 33.6 ha (compared to budgeted 27.6 ha i.e. 22% greater area) with springers / dry cows and the milkers and colostrum cows. The extra area grazed has occurred to limit pasture damage in the wet conditions.
7. Again this week we have 479 milkers and colostrum cows for the week compared to 409 budgeted. This is increasing our feed demand faster than planned.
8. The pasture area left ungrazed on the farm now is 161 ha, compared to 185.7 budgeted to be left. This could result in us completing the first round a week earlier than originally planned. The wet conditions have caused this, and the objective will be to hopefully feed more silage and reduce area grazed per day when drier conditions prevail!
9. Our pasture allocation for this week, targeting intakes of 13.8 kg DM/milker/day, is 85 m² of grass per cow available as per first round grazing planner thus using a total of 28.4 ha (if soil conditions allow). Pre-grazing covers average 2650 kg DM/ha for the week, which means the milkers will have 10.6 kg DM/cow available in pasture above 1350 kg DM per ha residuals.

10. This grazing residual is well below the 1500 kg DM /ha (7 “clicks”) that we would prefer for the milking cows but currently this is the level the cows are grazing to give them amount of pasture and supplement that we are able to provide the cows. We will continue to feed 4 kg DM/milker/day of high quality silage, assuming some wastage at feeding out.
11. The springers will be getting 65 m² which, assuming pre-grazing covers of 2650 kg DM / ha and grazing down to 1200 kg DM per ha residuals (subject to soil conditions) is 9.4 kg DM offered in pasture. On average we expect 85 springers /day on pasture for the week, so we are expecting to utilise an area of 3.9 ha for the week.
12. The farm management team is required to follow the financial budgets set out for the farm and have already spent more on additional feed then anticipated in those budgets. If the current poor weather and growth rates continue we will need to make some hard decisions. This might be to reduce demand by reducing cow numbers, or putting the whole herd on OAD, or we need to find more funds to purchase additional feed.
13. The pasture sample taken in front of the milkers last week, to ascertain pasture quality, has come back and the results are outlined in the weekly data sheet. The results are pretty much within expectations with 18.8% drymatter and 24.5% crude protein, although neutral detergent fibre levels (a measure of mainly lignin, cellulose and hemicellulose content of pasture) at 48% indicates a high fibre level, and Metabolisable Energy (ME) at 11.6 MJ / kg DM and digestibility at 79.6 % indicates that the autumn-saved pasture is a source of high energy feed.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Wednesday 5th September 2007 at 9.00am

Management Group

David Newport, (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (Consultant for Trust), Peter Macfarlane and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel), Brad Houghton (Herd Manager).

Farm Walk Notes

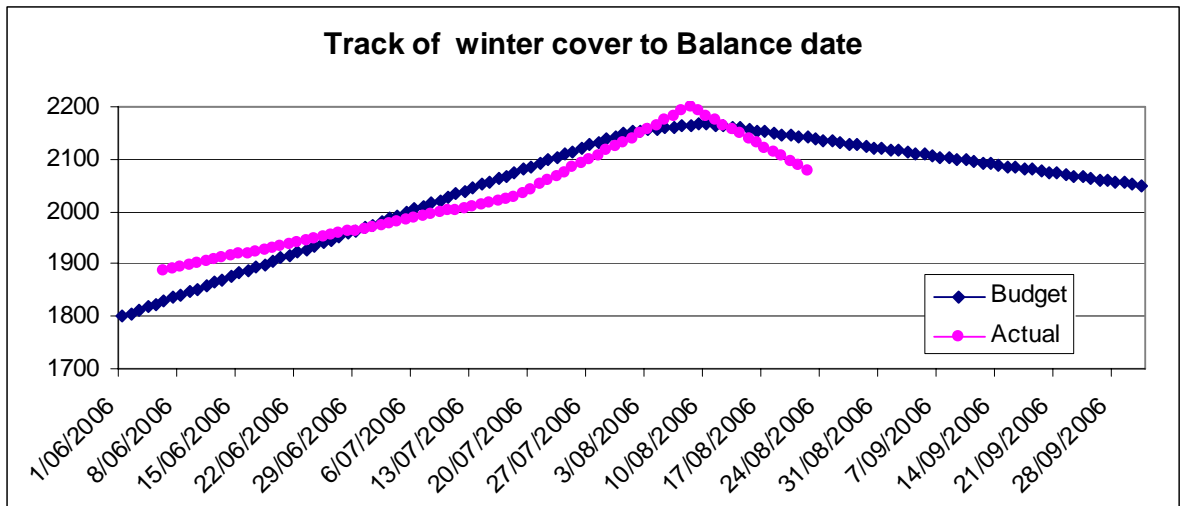
Wednesday 22nd August 2007

Critical issues for the short term

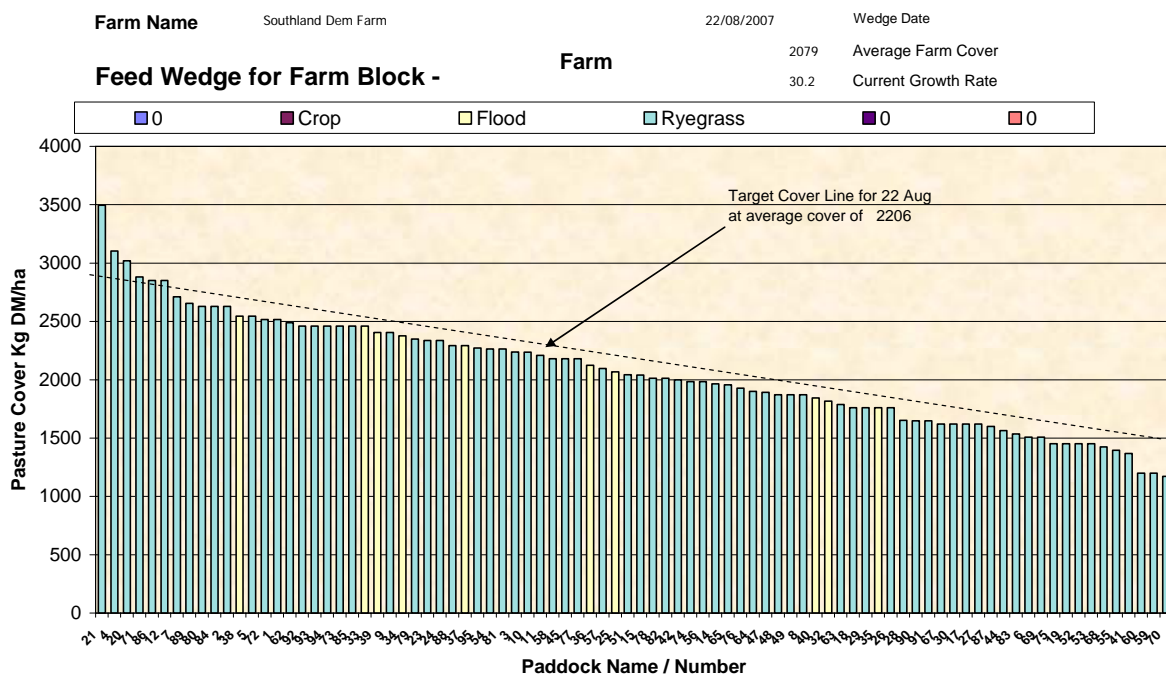
1. Allocate crop according to feed plan.
2. Do not speed the grazing rotation up. Use only the total grass area for this week as set out in the First Round Planner.

<h3>Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance</h3>

1. Dry cows have been moved back onto the crop paddock number 31 beyond the flood bank now that it has dried out sufficiently after the flood on Sunday 12th August. We now have a total of 130 dry cows on Swedes, being fed hay in this paddock, and a total of 48 dry cows being fed Chou in paddock 97. These are the two remaining paddocks of crop left on the farm. We have approximately 51 bales of baleage and 22 bales of hay left which will be fed on crop for dry cows. Thirty eight dry cows are being grazed off-farm for another week. We remain on target with crop area remaining for dry cows.
2. Ground conditions are still wet under foot, and the team is working hard to limit pasture damage. A stand-off for springers has been made on a race and rough area located at the north-end boundary of the farm, with silage being fed to springers during three days of the last week on the fence line along the race.
3. Due to the difficult conditions, more area than budgeted has been grazed again this week. We have grazed 21.1 ha (compared to budgeted 13.4 ha) with the milkers and colostrum cows and 7.8 ha (compared to budgeted 4.1 ha), by springers / dry cows with the extra area grazed being required to limit pasture damage in the wet conditions. Also have a higher actual number of milkers and colostrum cows for the week compared to 299 budgeted, and more dries on pasture than budgeted due to the flooding of crop.
4. 419 cows have calved in less than 3 weeks, this is 54% of the 769 cows wintered.
5. Production is currently 1.47 kg MS/cow/day and 1.5 kg MS/ha/day from the 302 cows going into the vat.
6. Soil temperature was 6.4 °C (last week 3.9°C).
7. Current average farm cover has recorded an increase this week. Average pasture cover has been recorded at 2079 kg DM per ha (from 2009 kg DM / ha last week), with an apparent weekly growth rate of 30 kg DM per day over the last week. We believe that due to some under-reading recorded last week (reasons outlined in last week's farm walk notes), the true daily pasture growth rate has been closer to 20 kg DM per ha per day.



8. The graph tracking actual average pasture cover (see above) indicates that as at today, we are approximately 60 kg DM /ha behind target. We have budgeted to fill this gap with silage, however it is an unwelcome extra job at this time of the year and when soil conditions are wet it takes a lot of care to minimise pugging damage and wastage of the silage.
9. The feed wedge below shows that the shape is excellent, but as outlined in (5) above, there is a general shortage of pasture on the farm compared to the feed budget target.



10. Below is the feed intake table calculated for milkers that has been endorsed by industry experts such as Terry Hughes, John Roche et al. The cows are expected to be on a rising plane of nutrition from calving and as outlined in the table below, cows calved in their first week are expected to intake 12 kg DM per cow per day, in week 2 intake 13 kg DM per cow per day, week 3 intake 14 kg DM per cow per day and so on, lifting by 1 kg DM per week to a peak intake of 18 kg DM per cow per day by week 7.

Inputting our expected calving spread and averaging out the average intake per cow per day, with reference to the table, we are budgeting on an average intake of 12.7 kg DM per milker per day this next week, commencing 22nd August.

Cow Intake Allocated		Herd and cow feeding levels to put into feed budg									
Wk from PSC kgs/Dm/cow.day before PSC		1-Aug	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		8-Aug	15-Aug	22-Aug	29-Aug	5-Sep	12-Sep	19-Sep	26-Sep	3-Oct	
1	12	60	169	190	137	66	50	40	24	18	
2	13		60	169	190	137	66	50	40	24	
3	14			60	169	190	137	66	50	40	
4	15				60	169	190	137	66	50	
5	16					60	169	190	137	66	
6	17						60	169	190	137	
7	18							60	169	190	
8	18								60	169	
9	18									60	
10	18										60
11	18										
12	18										
kgs required for herd/d:		720	2808	5317	7380	8728	9950	11102	12042	12765	
		60	229	419	556	622	672	712	736	754	
kgs required /cow/day		12	12.3	12.7	13.3	14.0	14.8	15.6	16.4	16.9	
Mark key events along here ---->		PSC									

11. Our pasture allocation for this week, targeting intakes of 12.7 kg DM/milker/day, is 72 m² of grass per cow available as per first round grazing planner. Pre-grazing covers average 2900 kg DM/ha for the week, which means the milkers will have 10.8 kg DM/cow available in pasture above 1400 kg DM per ha residuals. We are also feeding 3 kg DM/milker/day in high quality silage, assuming some wastage at feeding out. We are aiming to use almost 23 ha for the milkers this week (assuming acceptable soil conditions). The paddocks at the top of the feed wedge have been allocated for grazing.
12. The springers will be getting 65 m² which, assuming pre-grazing covers of 2800 kg DM / ha and grazing down to 1200 kg DM per ha residuals (subject to soil conditions), is 10.4 kg DM offered in pasture. On average we expect just over 100 springers /day on pasture for the week, so we are expecting to utilise an area of 4.6 ha for the week.
13. We have taken a pasture sample in front of the milkers to ascertain pasture quality, and we will report the results of this as soon as received. We will continue to take a pasture sample in front of the cows from now on a monthly basis.
14. There are a total of 20 induced cows left to calve out of the 102 induction candidates – 12 of these have been given a second first shot again this week, with the remaining 8 being given a drop shot now that they are bagging up. Through careful management of this mob, we have not lost any of the induced cows to date.
15. With the continuing wet soil conditions and soil temperatures, no more N has been applied again this past week. We will wait till weather and soil conditions improve before applying more N, although this is seen as a priority considering the feed budget.

16. The effluent pond is still close to full. The effluent irrigator has run for 12 hrs this past week, with application times still being limited by wet soil conditions.

17. Animal health has been good generally, with only 3 cows being treated for milk fever this week. Close attention is still being paid to calving heifers, with assisted calvings dropping to 3 this week. We also continue to dust pasture in front of milkers, colostrums and springers, and provide MgCl in the water, through the dosatron.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Wednesday **29th August 2007 at 9.00am**

Management Group

David Newport, (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (Consultant for Trust), Peter Macfarlane and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel), Brad Houghton (Herd Manager).

Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday 15th August 2007

Critical issues for the short term

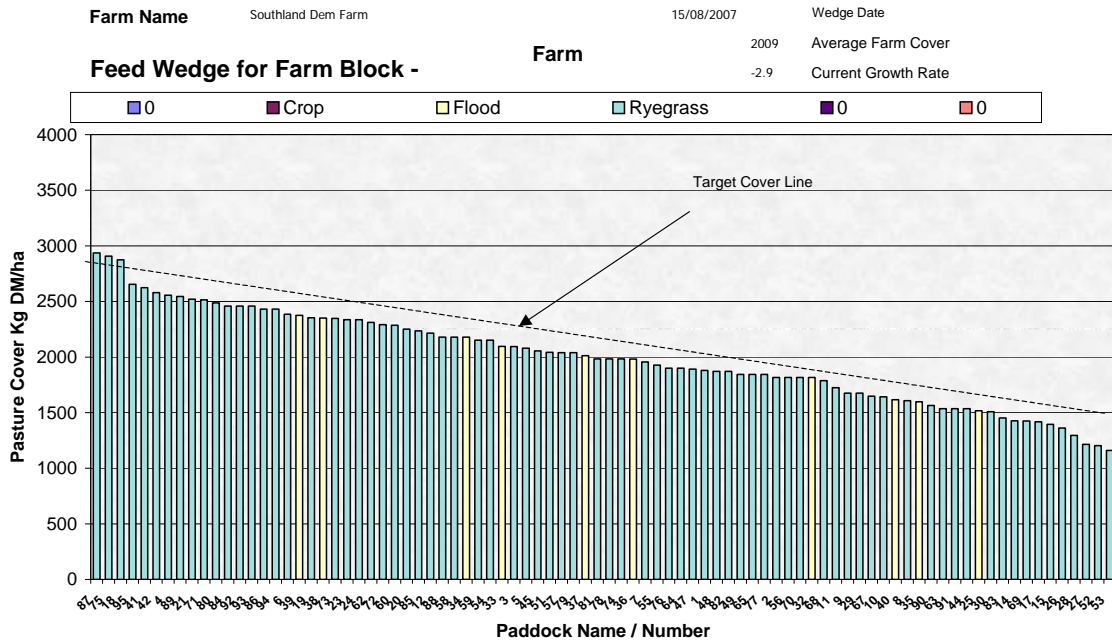
1. Allocate crop according to feed plan.
2. Get dry cows off grass and back onto crop as soon as water has drained away from flooded area and soil conditions improve in crop paddock on riverside of flood bank.
3. Use only the total grass area for this week as set out in the First Round Planner.

<h3>Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance</h3>

1. The Oreti River flooded 53ha below the stock bank on Sunday morning. The team had to move the mob of 54 dry cows off the crop paddock on the riverside of the stock bank, and remove supplements too. This mob was moved onto previously grazed crop paddocks and given ad lib hay. Since Monday they have been on-off grazing for a couple of hours a day on grass as well. The plan is to get them back onto crop as soon as conditions allow. We have 6 broken fences, and no power over that part of the farm due to debris on the fences, so will work on repairing the damage as time allows. Fortunately none of the longer grass paddocks have fences down, so we have some time on our side before we have to graze them. The grass over the 55ha is covered with a light coating of silt, and we envisage having some challenges getting cows to clean these paddocks out well in the short term.
2. Over the weekend during the sleet, snow and hail the springers were given double the grass area allocated plus their previous allocation of silage. Pugging damage still occurred because they continued walking up and down the break. As a result they have been stood off on the races and rough areas and fed ad-lib hay, and allowed 2-3 hours on grass, and silage. They will go back permanently onto pasture as soon as ground conditions allow.
3. Milkers were given twice their allocated area during the wet weather, but have also mildly pugged paddock 49 through walking back and forth. As a result of the wet weather, we have used 19.6ha as apposed to the 15ha planned according to the First Round Grazing Planner for Week 1.
4. Current average farm cover has recorded a big, but not surprising drop this week. This is due to several factors:
 - Platometer assessment of the 53 ha flooded area provided unreliable readings due to impact on the sward by flooding.
 - The introduction of two brand new platometers on two of the three walks gave us slightly different readings than those recorded previously. As mentioned in last week's farm walk notes, now that we have three reliable, sound working platometers, we will align a specific platometer to a specific person, as much as practicable, to the same walks.
 - Commencing the walk as soon as possible after the eight-degree frost may be a further contributing factor to reduction in measured covers.
 - Grazing more area than originally allocated this week.

Average pasture cover has been recorded at 2009 kg DM per ha (from 2200 kg DM / ha last week), with an apparent weekly growth rate of -2.9 kg DM per day over the last week.

Feed wedge is as follows:



- The paddocks grazed over the past week have been between 1200kg DM/ha and 1450kg DM/ha residuals. We are happy for springers to continue to graze to 1200kgDM/ha in dry conditions, but are targeting residuals for milkers of no lower than 1350kg DM/ha (with inclusion of silage) this next week, soil conditions allowing. Milkers have commenced TAD milking now that we have started sending milk.

Date (start of week)	Average Cows on pasture Dry/Springing	Area/cow/day (Sq m per cow)	Pregrazing	Residual	Pasture Intake (kg DM)	Supplement (kg DM)	Intake	Area Grazed Per week
8/8	413	50	2900	1200	8	2	10	14.5 ha
15/8	121	55	2800	1200	8	2	10	4.2 ha
22/8	102	55	2700	1250	8	2	10	3.9 ha
29/8	84	55	2700	1250	8	2	10	3.2 ha
5/9	48	58	2650	1250	8.1	2	10.1	1.9 ha
12/9	34	60	2600	1250	8.1	2	10.1	1.4 ha
19/9	20	65	2550	1250	8.5	2	10.5	0.9 ha
	Milking							Total Area Grazed
8/8	133 (OAD)	65	2900	1200	9	3	12	5.2 ha
15/8	299	65	2850	1350	9.6	3	12.6	13.4 ha
22/8	409	75	2700	1350	10.2	3	13.2	20.9 ha
29/8	528	77	2700	1350	10.8	3	13.8	28.4 ha
5/9	639	90	2650	1400	11.4	3	14.4	39.3 ha
12/9	700	100	2600	1400	12.2	3	15.2	50 ha
19/9	734	120	2550	1450	13.0	3	16	60.6 ha
								Total Area Grazed
								217.8 ha

6. Our pasture allocation for the Spring is based on a 49 day first round starting on the 8th August (official calving start) and finishing on September 25th. We are targeting intakes of 12.6kg DM/milker/day this week and have 65 m² of grass per cow available as per first round grazing planner. Pre-grazing covers average 2800 – 2850 kg DM/ha for the week, which means the milkers will have 9.75 kg DM/cow available in pasture above 1350 residual. We are also feeding 3kgDM/milker/day in high quality silage (see silage stack feed quality results in (9) below. We are therefore aiming to use 13.4 ha for the milkers this week (assuming acceptable soil conditions).
7. The springers will be getting 55 m² which is 8.8 kg DM offered in pasture. On average we expect 121 springers /day on pasture for the week, so will be offering them 4.2 ha for the week. We are targeting intakes of 10kg DM/springer, so we will be offering 2 kg DM/springer per day of silage. We will be feeding out silage at least a day ahead of the cows.
8. The 49-day planner aims to have grazed a total of 247.9 ha of the 259 ha milking platform, giving a small amount of room for contingencies to finish round by 25th September.
9. The feed quality analysis carried out by ARL on the stack silage indicated 22.2% DM, 18% crude protein, 46.9% NDF, 4.2% pH, 79.2% digestibility and 11.6 MJ / kg DM. Good, milking quality silage.
10. The 47 cows in the induction mob have been running along the roadside during the wet weather to minimize soil damage, but will be moved back onto grass and fed silage from tomorrow.
11. With the soil temperatures falling below 5 °C and with the wet weather no more N has been applied this past week. We will wait till weather and soil conditions improve before applying more N.
12. The effluent pond is still full. The effluent irrigator has run for 10hrs this past week due to wet soil conditions.
13. We have had another 30 heifers calved (in calf to LIC AB short gestation Friesian), with five requiring assistance, which is a big improvement on last week, but we have one heifer being given a caesarean today to pull out an exceptionally large dead calf.
14. We still have 2.07 ha of crop (or 19 tons) available to feed to dry cows, 56 bales of baleage and 40 bales of hay. We will have 257 dry cows total on crop. This is 17 days of crop and supplement/cow offering 5kgDM/cow crop and 5kgDM/cow supplement/day. We are on target with crop area utilised due to tight budgeting and monitoring.
15. Animal health has been good generally, but over the last 2-3 days, as a lag from the difficult weather conditions over the weekend, we have had more milk fever having treated 10 cows for milk fever. We are still dusting 140g/cow/day MgO to milkers, colostrums and springers, and have been putting 60g/cow MgCl through the dosatron for the last week, twice the level of the previous week. We are also continuing to dust MgO on the crops being grazed by the early calving cows.

Other points to note:

16. The farm staff has been working from 6am to 7pm with 1.5hrs break during the day during the wet weather, but have maintained an 11 on and 3 off roster.
17. We had our first pick up today of 2800 litres on the 15th, so are looking forward to some cash coming in!

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Wednesday **22nd August 2007 10.00am**

Management Group

David Newport, (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (Consultant for Trust), Peter Macfarlane and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel), Brad Houghton (Herd Manager)

Southland Demonstration Farm

Wednesday 8th August 2007

Farm Walk Notes

Critical issues for the short term

1. Allocate crop according to plan.
2. Use only the total grass area for this week as set out in the First Round Planner.
3. Get rest of nitrogen on as soon as possible.
4. Target first pick-up on Tuesday, so have shed up and going by then.

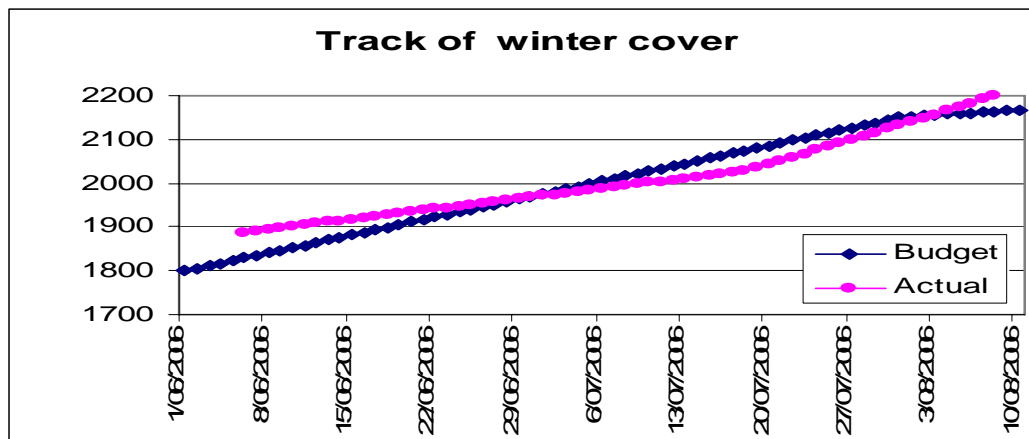
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

5. Our feed budget from now to balance date still shows a deficit. This is because there was less supplement (hay and crop) on hand at 1 June than assumed, and because the heifers came home from winter grazing two weeks earlier than planned.
6. We have sourced 56 bales of baleage, about half the number we require to be able to feed dry cows and springers on crop until 18 September. We will send 40 late calving cows away to grazing on autumn saved pasture at \$18/cow/week for 3 weeks, and will buy in 20 bales of baleage or straw to fill in the shortfall, which we will still have. The cost of grazing is \$3.57/cow/day including freight for 10kgDM grass, a cost of 36c/kgDM. At this cost we could afford to purchase and feed out a bale of baleage for \$63. On this basis we feel that the decision is justified.
7. This will allow us to continue offering 5 kg DM crop plus 5 kg DM hay or baleage targeting and intake of 8 kg DM for the remainder of the dry cows. By doing this dry cows will be kept off pasture until Spring which will enable us to minimise pasture feed demand and pugging.
8. Cows were condition scored once again by our vet and our average BCS is 5.5, 0.3CS higher than target. It is higher than we expected.

MOB	Mob size	Target CS 8-Aug	Actual BCS 20-Jun	Actual BCS 8-Aug
rising 3's	110	5.5	4.6	Not done
late - inductions	87	5.5	5	5.7
lease	100	5	4.5	5.3
8-16Aug	99	5	5.1	5.35
17-28 Aug calving	95	5	5.1	5.65
29 -14 Sep	85	5	4.7	5.4
15-22 Sep	46	5.5	5.4	5.7
heifers	150	5.5	Not done	5.8
Average		5.2	4.7	5.5

9. Twelve early induction cows have calved, 15 others have bagged up and have been given a drop shot with zero withholding, and the remaining 27 have received a second first jab with a 12 day milk withholding period.

10. All 40 of the late induction mob have also been given their first jab this week. They are being fed on rough areas and are having 140g/cow/day MgO dusted onto pasture.
11. We are dusting MgO at the rate of 140g/cow/day to milkers, colostrums and springers, and have been putting 30g/cow MgCl through the dosatron, which we will lift to 60g/cow/day this coming week. We have only had 2 cases of milk fever both of which have recovered well. We are also continuing to dust MgO on the crops being grazed by the early calving cows.
12. Twenty-five heifers have calved and have assisted 15, all of which have had large bull calves. The survival rate of these has only been 20%, and we have had to put down 1 heifer. This was unexpected, as the heifers had been mated to an easy-calving team from LIC. We will be speaking to our vet about ways to deal with this. We are checking this group more frequently to assist earlier if we have to.
13. We had a broken plate meter, so used different plate meters for two of the three walks this week. The result was a drop in cover in the areas where different plate meters were used. Based on the last week's weather we believe that it was unrealistic, so have gone with the growth rate from the one walk, which was done with the same plate meter. Growth rates on this area were 15kg DM/day, so estimated average cover has lifted to 2200kgDM/ha, which is slightly ahead of target. It is a priority to align the plate meter and person to the same walks from next week on.



14. The AgResearch Penetrometer is pushing over 2cm into the ground in 60% of probe tests confirming soil conditions are very soft on the poorly draining soils (Makarewa, Tomoporaku, and Northope) which make up 75% of the farm. Careful paddock selection and on/off grazing for cows on grass is currently very important, especially during periods of rainfall, to prevent pugging and a loss of pasture growth for the rest of the spring. Over the past week soil conditions have been more favourable, with only 6 mm of rain for the week, so springers and milkers have remained on grass for the full 24 hours.
15. We have identified a piece of little used track and rough area of approximately 0.75 ha on the Southern part of the farm, which we can use as a stand off area for milkers in wet weather. In order to make this work we will target grazing paddocks to the north of SHWY 99 in dry conditions, and keep paddocks at the south-end of the farm for wet conditions.

16. The two longest paddocks have been grazed to between 1200kgDM/ha and 1450kgDM/ha. The soil conditions have not been too wet, so pugging damage is minimal. We are happy for springers, and milkers at this early stage which are still milking OAD, to continue to graze to 1200kgDM/ha. If residuals are too high we will put the milkers back into the paddock to tidy it up before giving them a new break if soil conditions are favourable. Milkers will switch to TAD milking once we start milk collection, which will hopefully be next Tuesday.
17. Our pasture allocation for the spring is based on a 49 day first round starting on the 8 August (official start of calving). We expect an average of 151 milkers for the week ending 14 August. We are targeting intakes of 12kgDM/cow/day and have 65 m² of grass per cow available as per first round grazing planner. Pre-grazing covers average 2950kgDM/ha for the week, which means cows have 11.3kgDM/cow available above 1200 residual, which will give an intake of 9kgDM/cow at 80% utilisation. We will therefore be opening the silage stack and feeding 3kgDM/milker/day. We will be getting the silage tested for DM and ME, so that we can use the scales on the silage wagon to accurately allocate supplement. Assuming 30% DM we will average 1510kg wet silage per day. We will therefore use 6.9ha for the milkers this week, which is 3 paddocks.
18. The springers will be getting 55 m², which is 9.6 kg DM offered or 7.7kgDM intake at 80% utilisation. On average we expect 210 springers /day for the week, so will be offering them 8.1 ha for the week or 3 paddocks. We are targeting intakes of 10kg DM/springer, so we will be offering 3kg DM/springer per day of silage, which is on average 2100kg wet silage/day. This means on average a total of 3610kg wet weight/day of silage to springers and milkers, which is less than a wagon load a day. We will be feeding out silage at least a day ahead of the cows.
19. Soil temperatures have been steady at 6-7 degrees at 10am and we have applied 9t of Ammo 31, a mixture of urea and ammonium sulphate (31%N and 14%S/t) at 100 kg/ha as recommended by John Hodgkin of Ravensdown. We will target applying a further 5t this week at 100 kg /ha weather permitting.
20. The effluent irrigator has run for 2 hrs over the past week and the effluent pond is still full, so we will be shifting it daily from now on, and this job has been allocated to one specific staff member.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Wednesday **14th August 2007 10.00am**

Management Group

David Newport, (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (Consultant for Trust), Peter Macfarlane and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel), Brad Houghton (Herd Manager).



Wednesday 1st August 2007

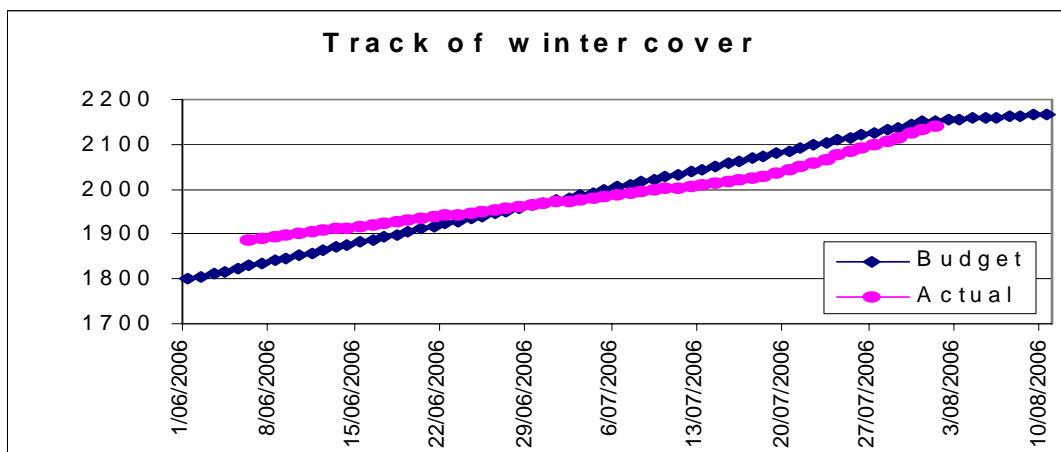
Farm Walk Notes

Critical issues for the short term

1. Allocate crop according to plan.
2. Prepare thorough induction plan with consultation with vet.
3. Use only the total grass area for this week as set out in the First Round Planner.

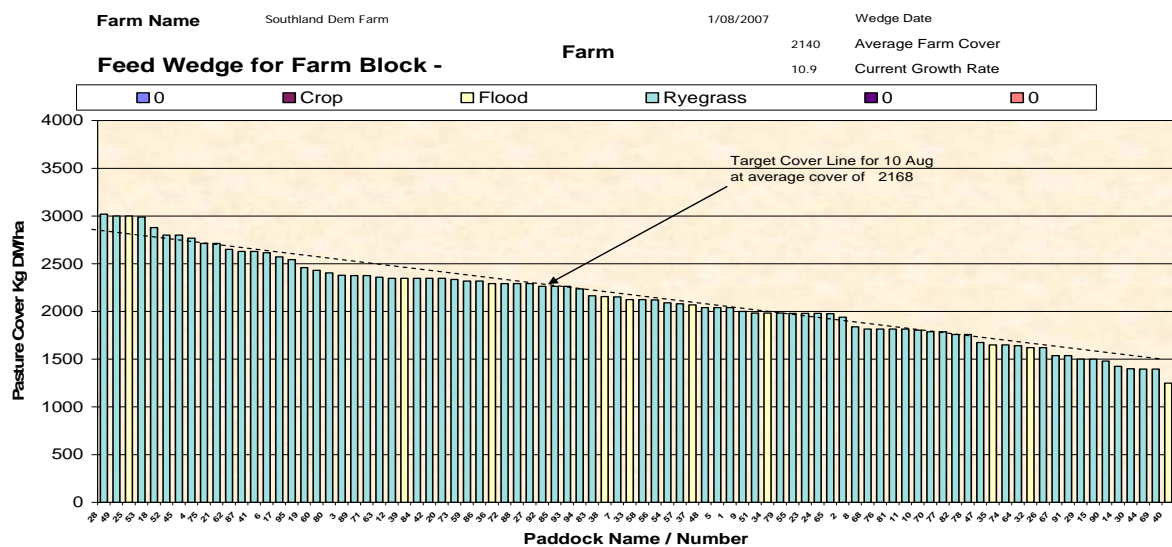
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

1. We do not have enough baleage or bales of hay to feed with the crop that is left for the dry cows. We are 19t of baleage short (105 bales) which we will purchase. If we do this we will be able to feed dry cows and springers on crop until 18 September. We will be offering them 5 kg DM crop plus 5 kg DM hay or baleage targeting and intake of 8 kg DM which is lower than ideal. These cows are at target condition score of 5.0 and we do not wish to purchase more additional feed than this.
2. Current farm position for pasture cover is very close to budget assuming that soil conditions are good enough to feed out pit silage during the first round, and if our heifers came back in small groups as they came close to calving. However, they have all arrived home this week, two weeks on average earlier than planned and have also gone onto crop. The grazier had run out of feed. We will need extra feed to cover this.



3. Pasture growth has been very variable over the farm. Paddocks that have pastures with a high density of modern ryegrasses are growing at about 20 kg DM/day while other paddocks that are mostly Poa ryegrass, Twitch, and other weed grasses are not yet growing. The average growth has been 10.9 kg DM/ha/day since the 20 July.

- The AgResearch Penetrometer is pushing over 4cm (almost 2 inches) into the ground confirming soil conditions are very soft on the poorly draining soils (Makarewa, Tomoporaku, and Northope) which make up 75% of the farm. Careful paddock selection and on/off grazing for cows on grass is currently very important to prevent pugging and a loss of pasture growth for the rest of the spring.



- The feed wedge closely matches the ideal shape and is also very close to target. The longest paddocks need to be grazed as they are starting to rot at the base. Two of these paddocks are on our drier soils so will be grazed at this stage. If there is no further significant rain and the other two paddocks on heavier soils are dry enough we will begin to graze these paddocks while we can. Moving back to the drier paddocks when it rains.
- Our pasture allocation for the spring is based on a 49 day first round starting on the 8 August but we have reduced the farm area available from this date by 11 ha to allow for some pasture grazing by early calved cows before this date.. This means that we will be allocating 65 m² of grass per cow (12 kg DM) and are being milked OAD. They will use a total 1.6ha this week.
- The springers will be getting 55 m² which is 10 kg DM, and this mob will use 5.2ha this week. We will be drafting springing cows from the dry cows up to twice a week.
- Our feed budgets show that if calving goes as planned our calved cows will need to also consume 50t of pit silage during the first round. The big unknowns are what soil conditions will be, will it be possible to feed it out on paddocks and what will the utilization be? Our big risk is if it rains enough to keep our soil as wet as they currently are.
- Soil temperatures have been steady at 7.0 degrees at 10am and we are planning to begin putting on Nitrogen in the form of Urea. We will target paddocks below 2300 kg DM/ha (just over 50% of the farm) and apply 50 kg N/ha. The first of these paddocks will be grazed in 35 days.

10. We are closely following the Code of Practice Induction Guidelines for our induced cows. The first group of 55 cows will get their second jab on the 7 August. On the same day the second group of 41 will get their first jab. We are dusting with Causmag at a rate of 100gms /cow to induction mobs.
11. The herd will again be condition scored by our vet this week.
12. Liver samples were taken from 7 induction cows and the results show that Cobalt, Selenium, Copper and Zinc were all in the better than adequate range.
13. The effluent irrigator has run for 3 hrs /day for 5 days over the last 3 weeks and we have not been able to empty the pond as planned. This has become a high priority job to make room for effluent once we start milking.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Wednesday **7th August 2007 at 10.00am**

Management Group

David Newport, (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (Consultant for Trust), Peter Macfarlane and Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel), Brad Houghton (Herd Manager).