

SDF Farm Walk Notes

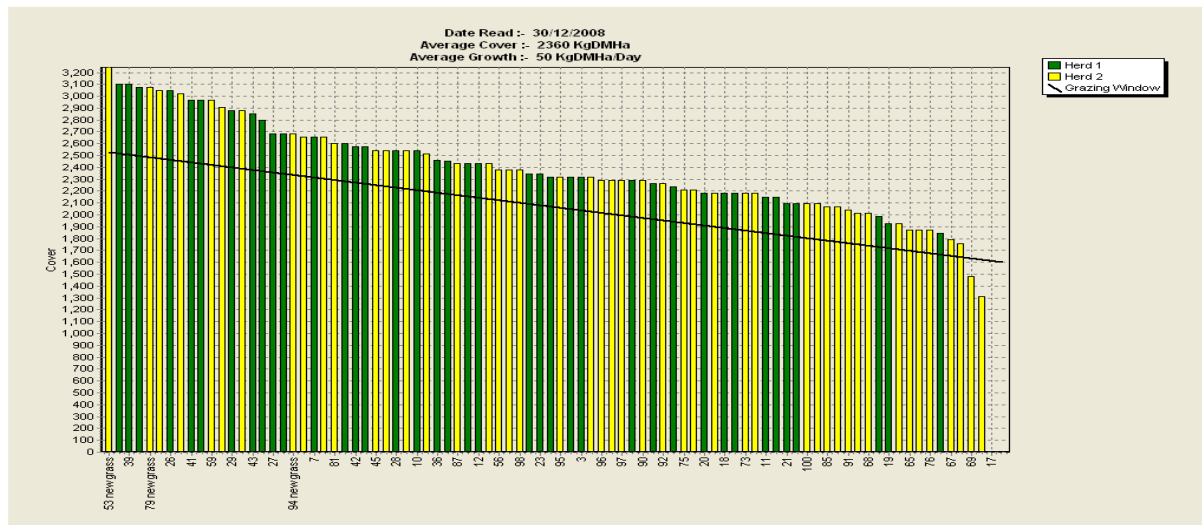
Wednesday, 31st December 2008

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1500 – 1600 kg DM /ha**
2. **Identify and remove surpluses as soon as possible.**
3. **Maintain pasture quality – mow paddocks where optimum residuals are not being met.**
4. **Mg supplementation of all cows – through water supply.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

5. Soil temperatures at 9 am have been average 16.9° C this week, up on 14.7°C last week. Rainfall for the week has only been 1.5 mm.
6. Pasture growth this week was 50 kg DM / ha / day (last week 30).
7. Average pasture cover is 2360 kg DM/ha, down from 2165 kg DM/ha last week.
8. The 30th December pasture feed wedge is below. The green bars are paddocks grazed by herd 1, the yellow bars are grazed by herd 2.



9. The target line is now based on an increased area of 274 ha because the 22 ha of re-sown new pasture are back in the grazing round and we have sprayed out and cultivated the next lot (28 ha) of winter crop paddocks. The stocking rate is now 2.65 cows per pasture ha and we are working on cow intakes of 16 kg/DM to keep our residuals at acceptable levels, using the $x140+500$ rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover, on a 22-day round, is $(2.65 \times 22 \times 16) + 1600 = 2533$. Currently growth rates are greater than requirement of 42.2kgDM/ha/day.
10. The observed pasture cover from the plate walk is not aligned to the visual assessments of paddocks. Further observation over the next few weeks will be done to determine this variance.

11. Production is 4.3 kg MS/ha/day and 1.45 kg MS/cow/day. Pasture ahead is predominantly good quality.
12. We have applied 50 kg Nitrogen/ha on 47.3ha this week.

Future Management Planning

1. Autumn pasture renovation
2. Late January nitrogen use and round length
3. Six week pregnancy testing (late January) to identify conception to AB mating.
4. Recording of grazing round to measure paddock performance alongside growth rates

The WEEKLY farm walk will continue on **Wednesday 7th January 2009**.

On behalf of the **Management Group** Brad Houghton (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (Consultant), Sharn Edwards, Desiree Moseley (C.O.s DairyNZ).

SDF Farm Walk Notes

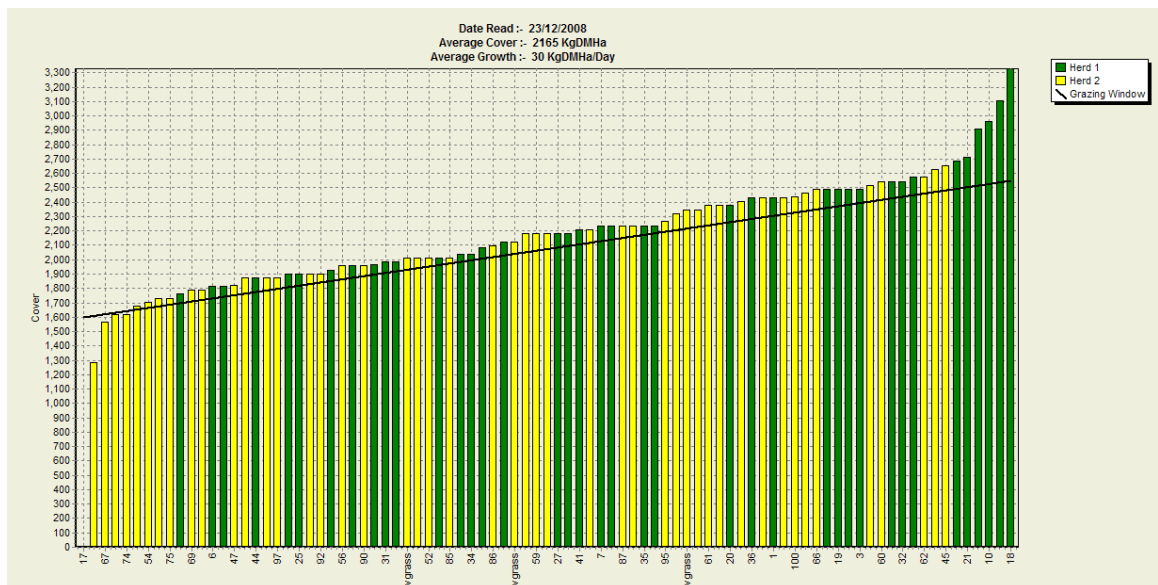
Wednesday, 24th December 2008

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1500 – 1600 kg DM /ha**
2. **Identify and remove surpluses as soon as possible.**
3. **Maintain pasture quality – mow paddocks where optimum residuals are not being met.**
4. **Mg supplementation of all cows – through water supply.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

5. Soil temperatures at 9 am have averaged 14.7°C this week, up on 13.6°C last week. Rainfall for the week has only been 0.9 mm.
6. Pasture growth this week was 30 kg DM / ha / day (last week 71).
7. Average pasture cover is 2165 kg DM/ha, down from 2291 kg DM / ha last week.
8. The 24th December pasture feed wedge is below. The green bars are paddocks grazed by herd 1, the yellow bars are grazed by herd 2.



9. The target line is now based on an increased area of 270 ha because the 22 ha of re-sown new pasture are back in the grazing round and we have sprayed out and cultivated the next lot (28 ha) of winter crop paddocks. The stocking rate is now 2.69 cows per pasture ha and we are working on cow intakes of 16 kg DM to keep our residuals at acceptable levels, using the $x140+500$ rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover, on a 22-day round, is $(2.69 \times 22 \times 16) + 1600 = 2547$.
10. We only have a small surplus of feed of 24t DM with the target average pasture cover required to be 2076 Kg DM / ha.

11. Production is 4.4 kg MS/ha/day and 1.5 kg MS/cow/day. We are currently holding production. We have done a good job to get on top of quality this week. High quality baleage and topped paddocks are now coming back into the round and a shower of rain would help as we have had less than 1mm of rainfall this week.
12. We have applied no Nitrogen over the last month. At this stage some of the Short Rotation paddocks are extremely N deficient (they are pure swards – no clover content), and we have made the decision to apply urea at 50 kg urea per ha on these paddocks.
13. Our new pasture paddocks are looking good as they come into the round for their first grazing, but require to be managed to get them through the establishment stage and set up to be productive swards. A combination of hard grazing, topping to remove flat weeds, and some post grazing spraying of herbicide in selected paddocks are the strategies being adopted. We will follow-up the first grazing with 50 kg urea per ha as it is a recommended best-practice policy.

Future Management Planning

1. Christmas / New Year roster
2. Autumn pasture renovation
3. Late January nitrogen use and round length
4. Six week pregnancy testing (late January) to identify conception to AB mating.

The WEEKLY farm walk will continue on **Wednesday, 31st December** and notes will be produced over the Christmas New Year period.

On behalf of the **Management Group** Brad Houghton (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (Consultant), Sharn Edwards, Desiree Moseley (COs DairyNZ).

SDF Farm Walk Notes

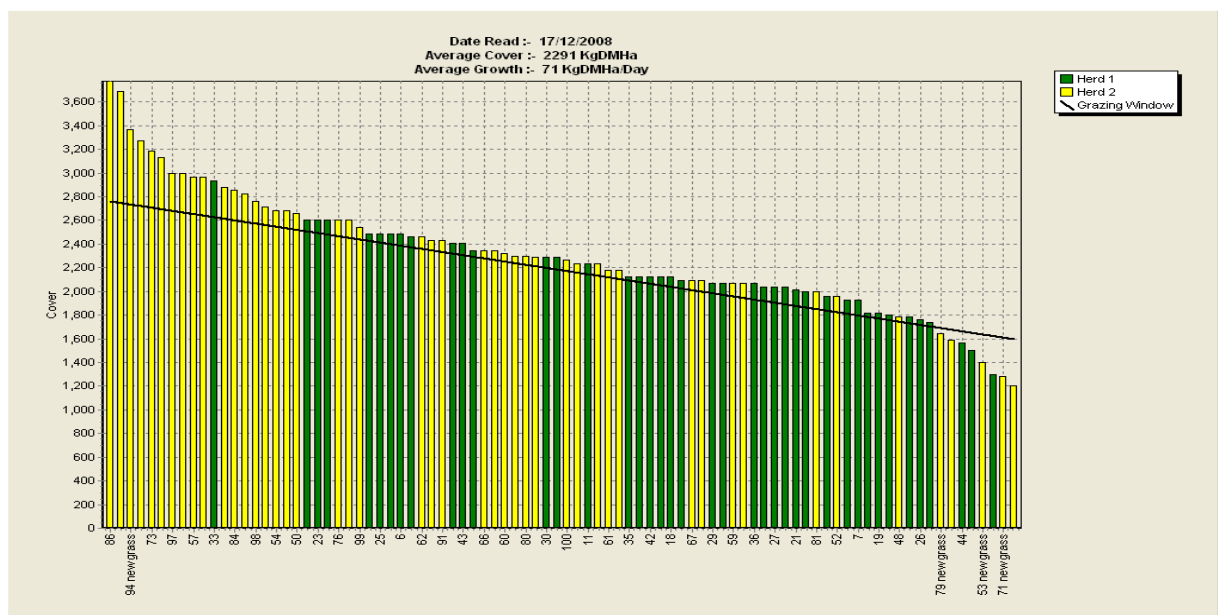
Wednesday, 17th December 2008

Critical issues for the short term

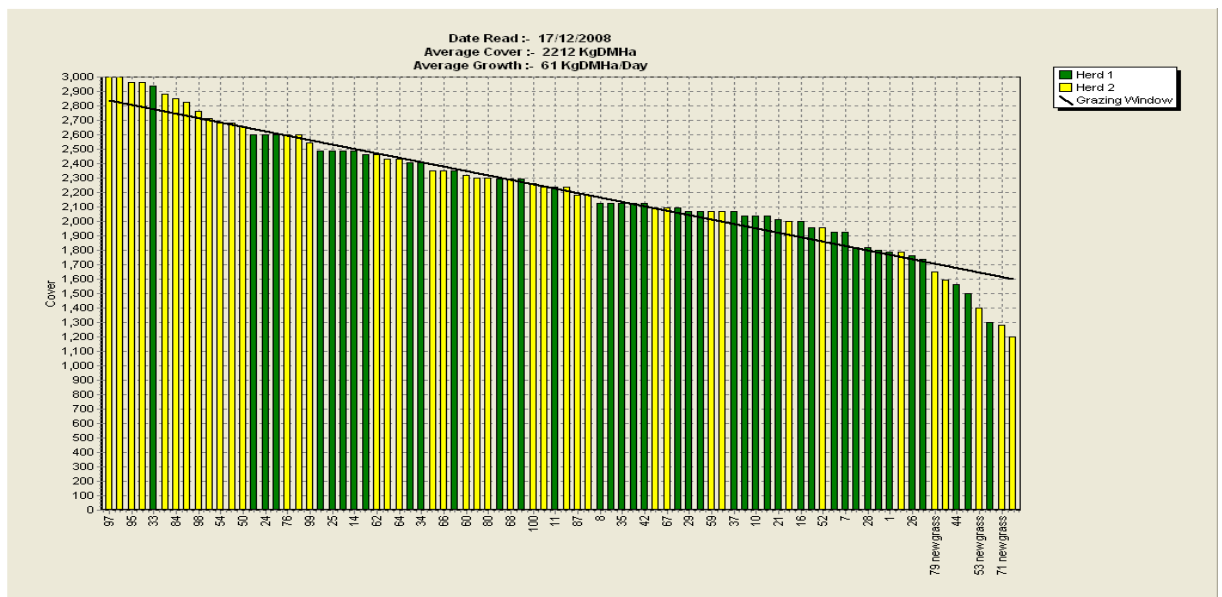
1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1500 – 1600 kg DM /ha.**
2. **Identify and remove surpluses as soon as possible.**
3. **Maintain pasture quality – mow paddocks where optimum residuals are not being met.**
4. **Mg supplementation of all cows – through water supply.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

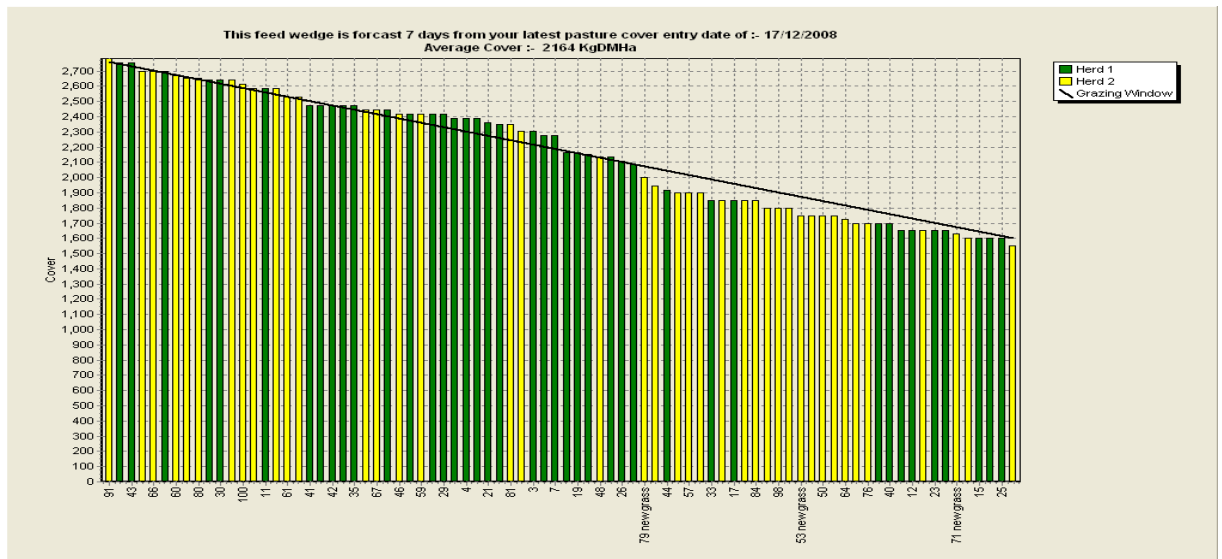
5. Soil temperatures at 9 am have averaged 13.6°C this week, similar to 14.6°C last week. Rainfall for the week has been 17.7 mm.
6. Pasture growth this week was 71 kg/DM/ha/day (last week 67).
7. Average pasture cover is 2291 kg/DM/ha, slightly up from 2240 kg/DM/ha last week.
8. The 17th December pasture feed wedge is below. The green bars are paddocks grazed by herd 1, the yellow bars are grazed by herd 2.



9. The target line is now based on an increased area of 270 ha because the 22 ha of re-sown new pasture is back in the grazing round and we have sprayed out and cultivated the next lot (28 ha) of winter crop paddocks. The stocking rate is now 2.69 cows per pasture ha and we are working on cow intakes of 18 kg/DM to keep our residuals at acceptable levels, using the $x 140 + 500$ rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover is $(2.69 \times 24 \times 18) + 1600 = 2762$.
10. The wedge shows a new clear surplus of about 32t. If we remove 6 further paddocks of silage our feed wedge will look as follows.



11. The following wedge is our prediction for 7 days time with the 6 paddocks of silage out, sticking to a 24 day rotation and assuming a growth rate of 50 kg DM/day.



12. Production is 4.6 kg MS/ha/day and 1.5 kg MS/cow/day. We are currently holding production. We are struggling to get on top of quality but we are still aiming to harvest supplement and strategically mow to achieve this. High quality baleage paddocks are also coming back into the round.

Future Management Planning

1. Christmas / New Year roster
2. Autumn pasture renovation
3. Late January nitrogen use and round length
4. Six week pregnancy testing (late January) to identify conception to AB mating.

The WEEKLY farm walk will continue on **Wednesdays** - notes will be posted in the New Year.

SDF Farm Walk Notes

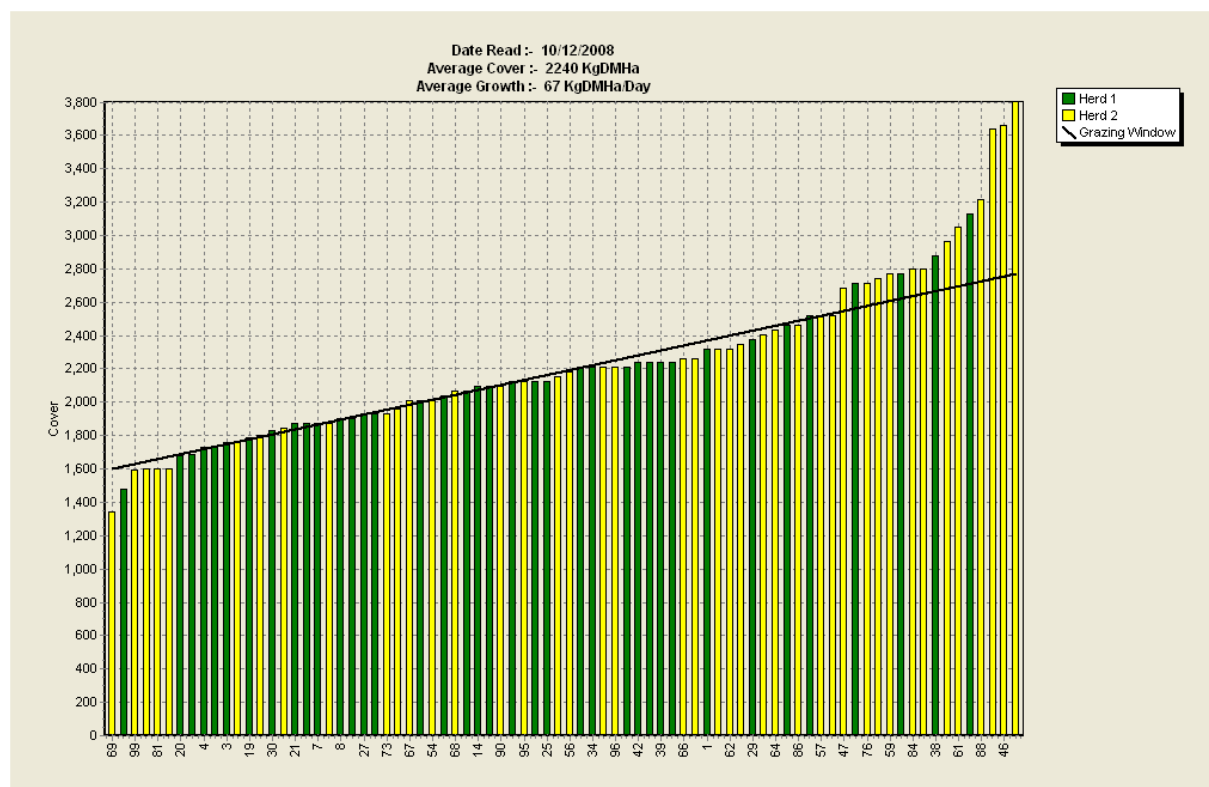
Wednesday, 10th December 2008

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1500 – 1600 kg DM /ha.**
2. **Identify and remove surpluses as soon as possible.**
3. **Maintain pasture quality – mow paddocks where optimum residuals are not being met.**
4. **Mg supplementation of all cows – through water supply.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

5. Soil temperatures at 9 am have averaged 14°C this week, similar to 14.2°C last week. Rainfall for the week has been 38.1mm.
6. Pasture growth this week was 67 kg DM/ha/day (last week 98).
7. Average pasture cover is 2240 kg DM/ha, down from 2883 kg DM/ha last week. Baleage has been harvested.
8. The 10th December pasture feed wedge is below. The green bars are paddocks grazed by herd 1, the yellow bars are grazed by herd 2.



9. The target line is now based on a reduced area of 246 ha because the old crop paddocks (22 ha resown in new pasture) are not yet back in the grazing round (although not far from first grazing) and we have sprayed out and cultivated the next lot (28 ha) of winter crop paddocks. The stocking rate is now 2.96 cows per pasture ha and we are working on cow intakes of 18 kg DM to keep our residuals at acceptable levels, using the $x140+500$ rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover is $(2.96 \times 22 \times 18) + 1600 = 2772$. The target average pasture cover is 2180 kg DM / ha.
10. The 20 paddocks of baleage have now been harvested. The 470 bales harvested will be used for the winter crop
11. We have 708 cows being milked twice a day into the vat. There are 20 lame and sick cows on OAD milking.
12. Production is 4.6 kg MS/ha/day and 1.5 kg MS/cow/day. We are currently holding production, and pasture quality is on the rise with strategic topping and baleage paddocks coming back into the round.
13. Topping is going to continue for the next week, both pre and post grazing, to help correct further pasture quality issues.
14. In the first 40 days of mating we have put up 708 cows for the first insemination, which is 98% of the herd. The 20 cows not yet submitted have been CIDR'd with inseminations to be carried out prior to AB finish this weekend. 16 bulls will be brought on farm for natural mating starting Monday 15th. Bulls are due to come out mid January, confirmed after vet consultation.

Future Management Planning

1. Christmas / New Year roster
2. Autumn pasture renovation
3. Late January nitrogen use and round length
4. Six week pregnancy testing (late January) to identify conception to AB mating.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday 17th December**.

On behalf of the **Management Group** Brad Houghton (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (Consultant), Adrian van Bysterveldt (DairyNZ).

SDF Farm Walk Notes

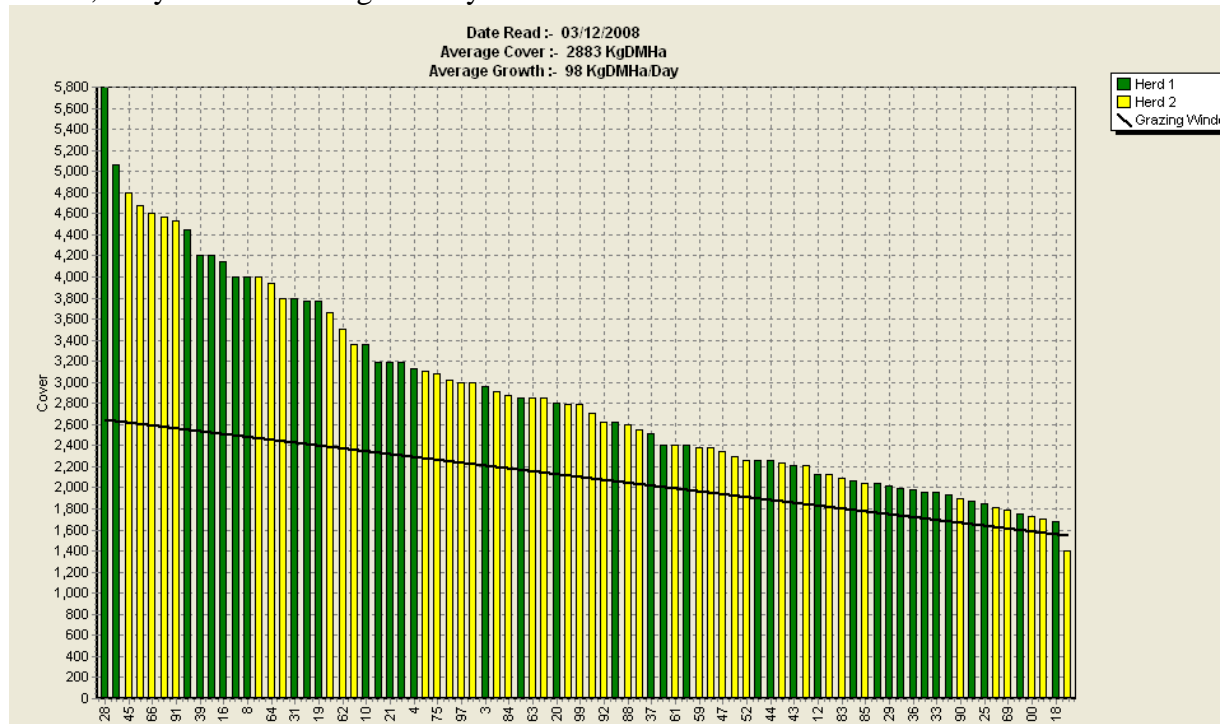
Wednesday, 3rd December 2008

Critical issues for the short term

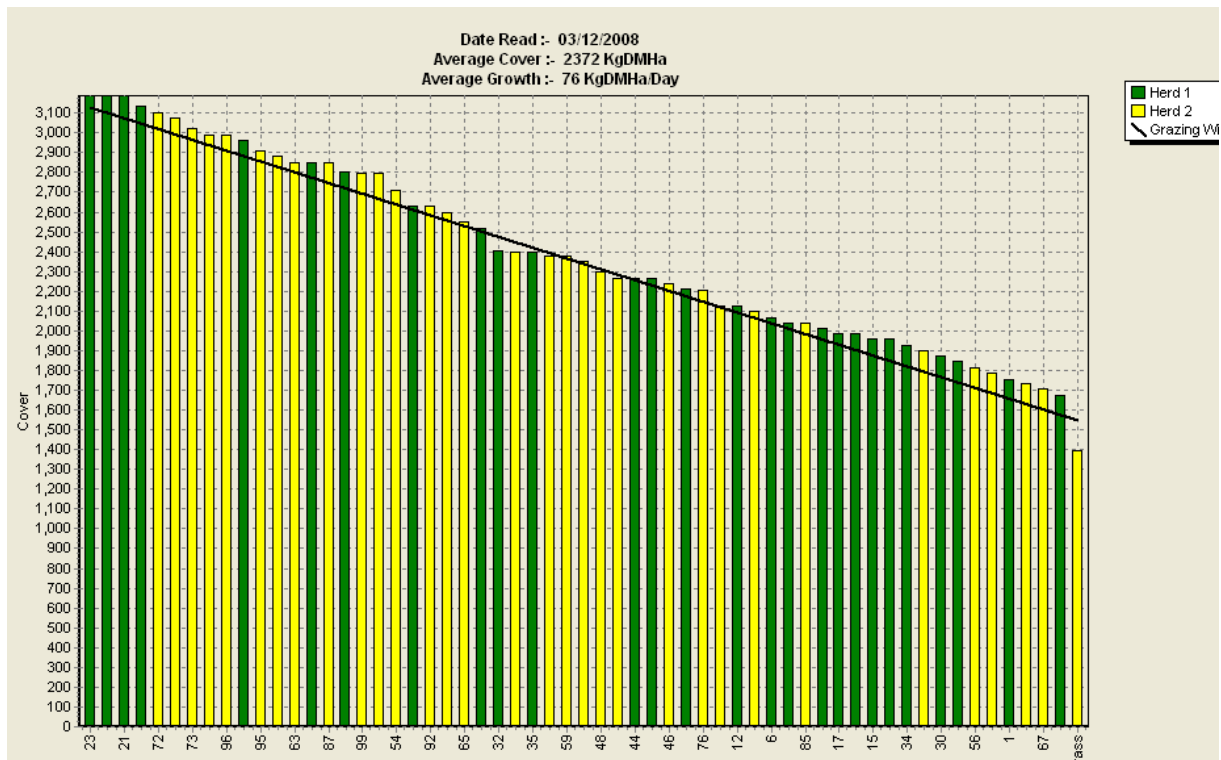
1. **Mg supplementation of all cows – through water supply and causmag.**
2. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1500 – 1600 kg DM /ha.**
3. **Identify and remove surpluses as soon as possible.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

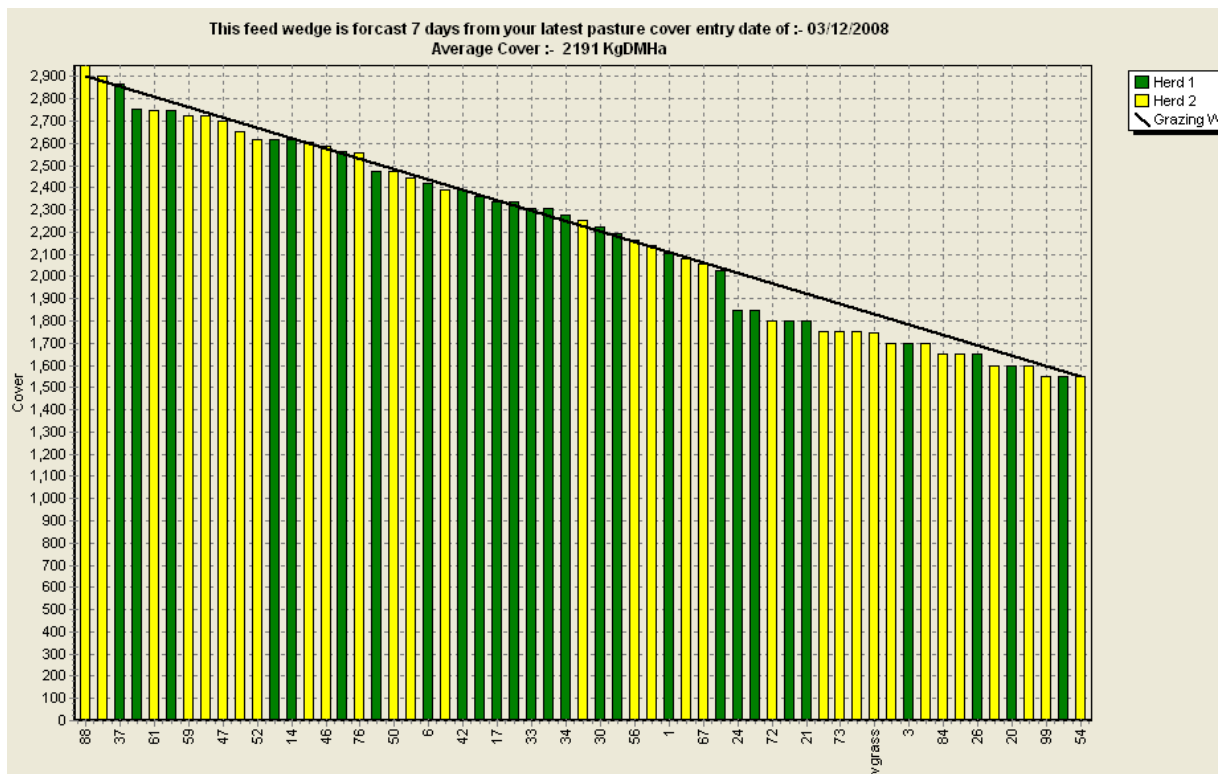
4. Soil temperatures at 9 am have been average 13.8°C this week, similar to 14.2°C last week.
5. Pasture growth this week was 98 kg DM/ha/day (last week 118).
6. Average pasture cover is 2883 kg DM/ha, up from 2813 kg DM/ha last week.
7. The 3rd December pasture feed wedge is below. The green bars are paddocks grazed by herd 1, the yellow bars are grazed by herd 2.



8. The target line is now based on a reduced area of 246 ha because the old crop paddocks (22 ha resown in new pasture) are not yet back in the grazing round and we have sprayed out and cultivated the next lot (28 ha) of winter crop paddocks. The stocking rate is now 2.9 cows per pasture ha and we are working on cow intakes of 18 kg DM to keep our residuals at acceptable levels, using the $x140+500$ rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover is $(2.9 \times 21 \times 18) + 1600 = 2700$.
9. No silage has been harvested this week as was planned at last week's management meeting due to not getting the silage contractor. The wedge below shows our position tomorrow, if we harvest immediately the top 20 paddocks and maintain a 22 day round on the reduced area and allocate 18 kg DM to the cows.

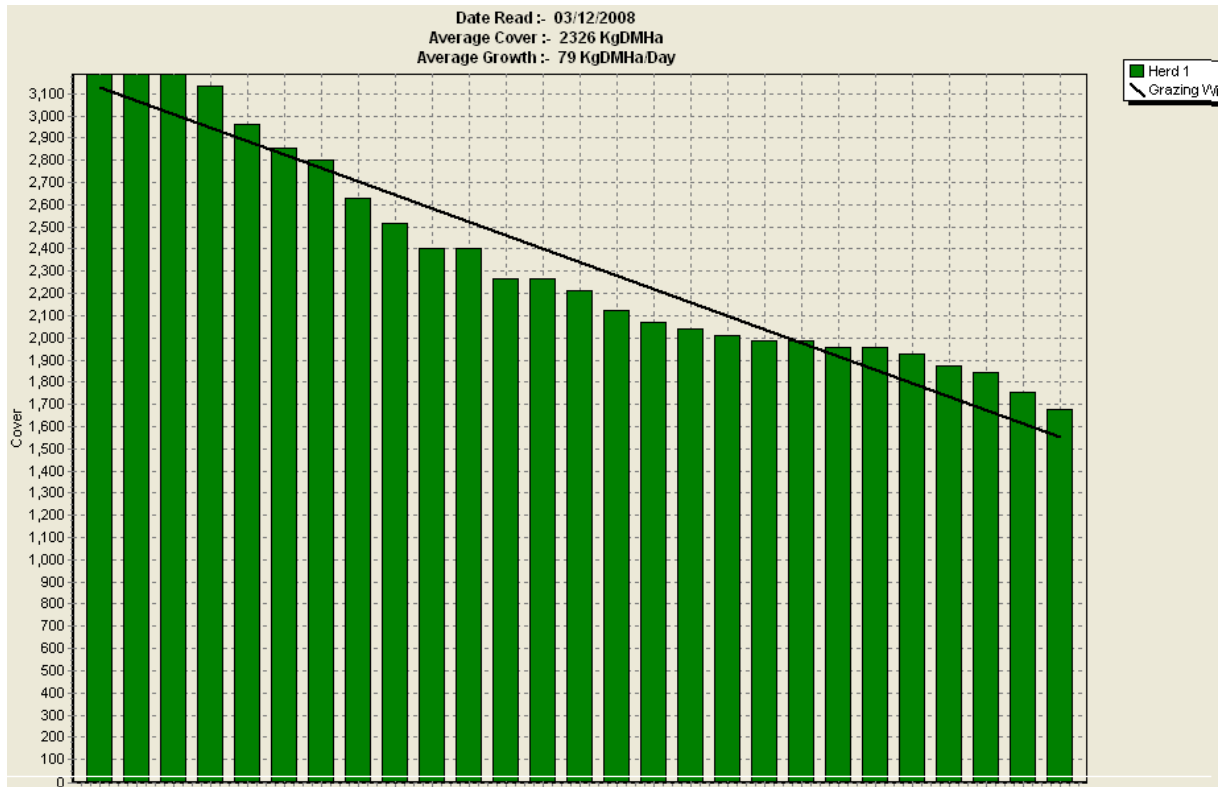


10. The following wedge is our prediction for next week if we take out 20 paddocks for silage (71ha or 29% of the farm) and get a growth rate of 50 kg DM/day which would be below the November average. The target line is now based on a 19 day rotation.

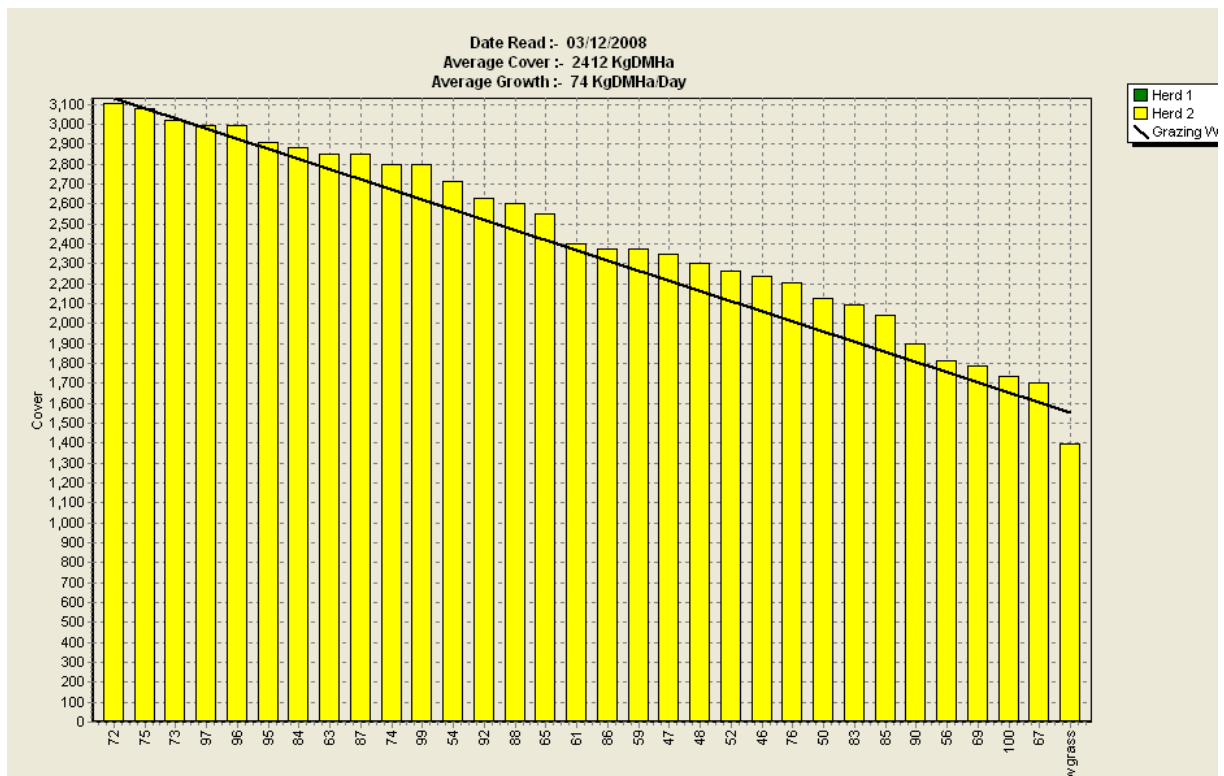


The silage will be coming off in several stages and so if growth rates are lower than 50 we will still have an option of grazing some of the shorter silage paddocks if required. In addition to this we will be grazing the grass round the edges of the silage paddocks and our new grass paddocks are about to get their first nip off.

11. Herd 1 pasture wedge is below is fine even with silage paddocks removed.



12. The Herd 2 wedge is below, silage paddocks removed.



13. We have 675 cows being milked twice a day into the vat. There are 53 lame and sick cows on OAD milking.

14. Production is 4.3 kg MS/ha/day and 1.5 kg MS/cow/day. Production is still dropping and reflects the poor quality pasture the cows have been getting offered. Three weeks ago pasture quality was still over 12ME. We are awaiting the results of our next pasture sample which was taken last week to update the ME for our current pasture.
15. We had expected all surpluses identified last week to have been harvested prior to this week's management meeting. As this has not happened, it will be vital to have cut surplus paddocks this week in an endeavour to get pasture quality under control on the farm. The staff have found it difficult to adjust to the continuing changes that arise when the conditions change greatly (growth rate twice demand).
16. In the first 26 days of mating we have put up 95% of the herd. The target for 4 weeks is 98% which means we only need 22 cows for first insemination over the last two days to reach this target.
17. Somatic cell counts are now about 240,000 slightly up from last week

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday, 10th December 2008**

On behalf of the **Management Group** Brad Houghton (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (Consultant), Adrian van Bysterveldt (DairyNZ).