

SDF Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday, 25th February 2009

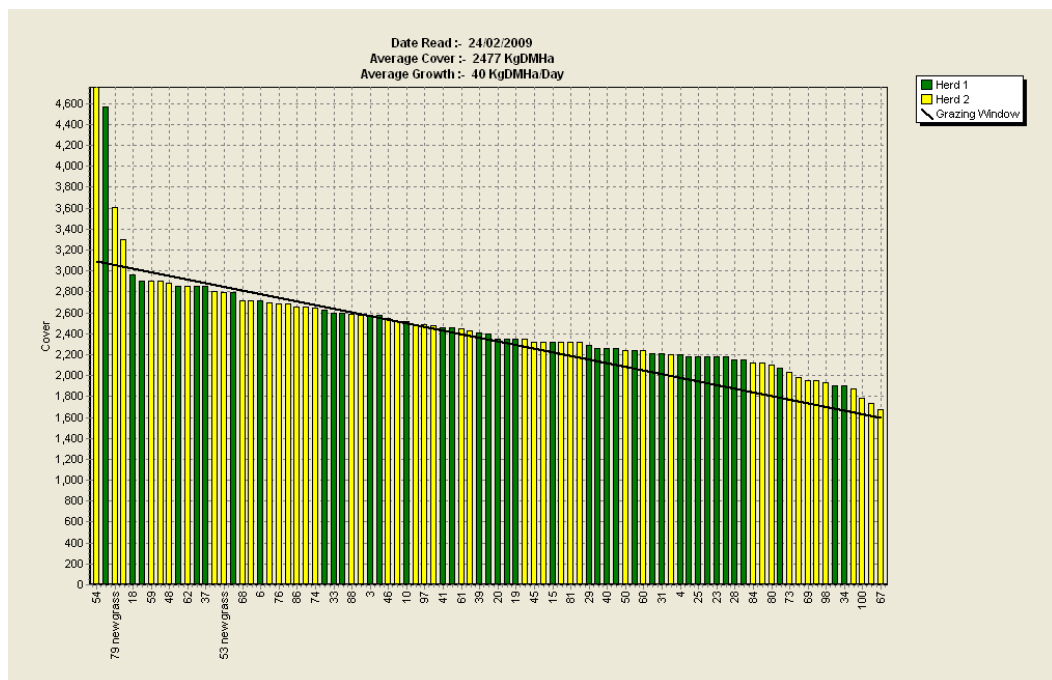
Total Effective Ha: 295ha
Winter Crop Ha: 28ha
Area in Grass Ha: 267ha (22ha New Grass)
Cows in Milk: 708 cows

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1500 – 1600 kg/DM/ha.**
2. **Maintain pasture quality – mow paddocks where optimum residuals are not being met.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. Soil temperatures at 9 am have averaged 14.9⁰ C this week, maintained from last week.
4. Pasture growth this week was 40 kg DM / ha / day (last week 55).
5. Average pasture cover is 2477 kg DM/ha, down from 2524 kg DM / ha last week.
6. The 25th February 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 267 ha in pasture. The stocking rate is 2.66 cows per pasture ha and we are working on cow intakes of 16 kg DM in an endeavour to keep our residuals at acceptable levels, using the x140+500 rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover for this week is $(2.66 \times 35 \text{ day rotation} \times 16) + 1600 = 3090 \text{ kg DM /ha}$.

8. The round last week was 1/30th of the farm grazed per day. We are attempting to lengthen the round in an endeavour to utilise pasture. Area allocation for the herd is constantly under review to help maintain pasture quality and this week it has been decided to extend the round to 1/35th of the farm.
9. The round stayed at 1/30th of the farm this week which is in contrast to our decision to try and extend it out to 1/35th. The reason behind this is that we had a breakdown with the mower so the decision was made to go into paddocks with a lower cover, closer to our target pre-grazing. This was so that post grazing residuals would be reached.
10. Going forward we will be grazing paddocks at the top of the wedge again, which are above target pre-grazing cover. This means that our grazing round will extend out longer than our target of 1/35th but will settle back to 1/35th the following week. We will be pre-topping the paddocks to help maintain our residuals.
11. We should have enough baleage to winter all our mixed age cows at home this winter, but due to continuing surpluses we will need to take out further supplement.
12. Production is 3.40 kg MS/ha/day and 1.25 kg MS/cow/day.
13. Cow condition of the herd is generally very good. The vet has assessed the average condition score last week at 4.64 CS.
14. 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 15t 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 going into autumn

The WEEKLY farm walk will be on **Wednesday 4th March 2009**.

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

SDF Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday, 18th February 2009

Total Effective Ha: 295ha

Winter Crop Ha: 28ha

Area in Grass Ha: 267ha (22ha New Grass)

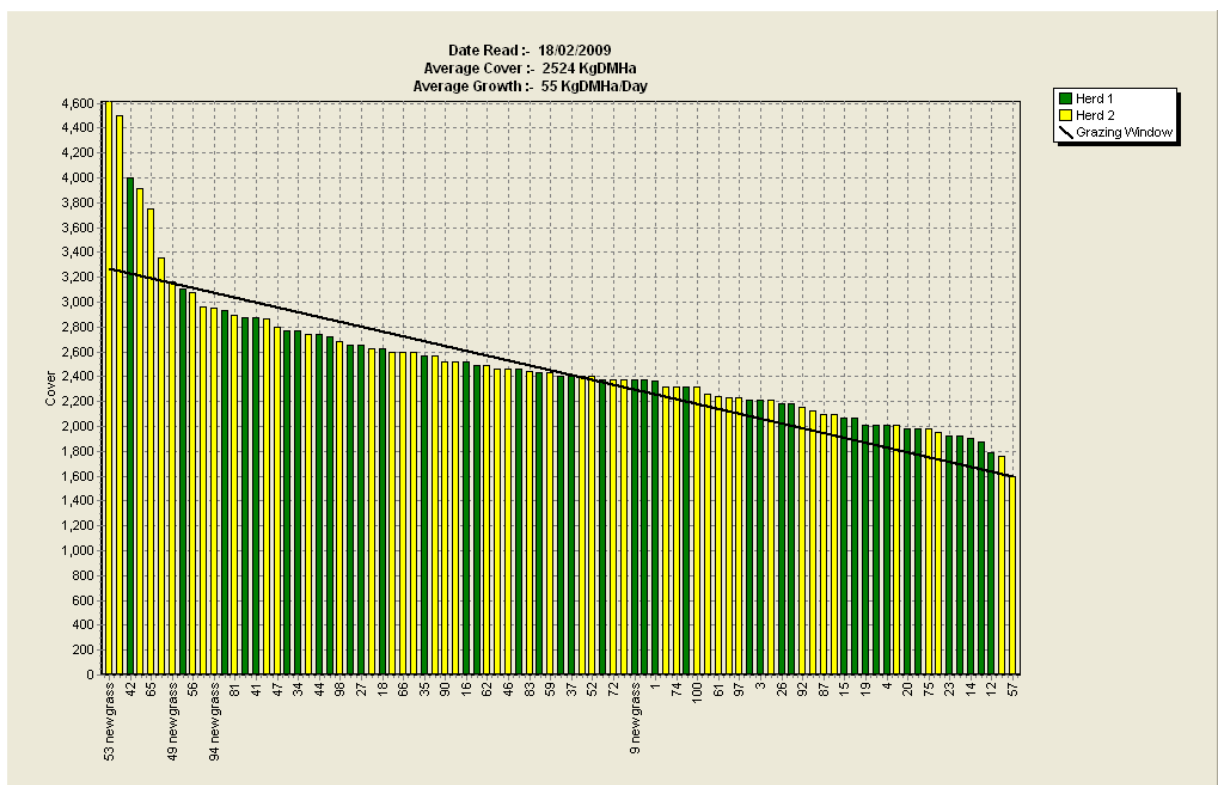
Cows in Milk: 709 cows

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1500 – 1600 kg DM /ha.**
2. **Maintain pasture quality – mow paddocks where optimum residuals are not being met.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. Soil temperatures at 9 am have averaged 14.9° C this week, down from 16.6° C.
4. Pasture growth this week was 55 kg DM/ha/day (last week 47).
5. Average pasture cover is 2524 kg DM/ha, down from 2443 kg DM/ha last week.
6. The 11th February 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 267 ha in pasture. The stocking rate is 2.66 cows per pasture ha and we are working on cow intakes of 18 kg DM in an endeavour to keep our residuals at acceptable levels, using the $x140+500$ rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover for this week is $(2.66 \times 35 \text{ day rotation} \times 18) + 1600 = 3276 \text{ kg DM /ha}$.
8. The round last week was 1/31st of the farm grazed per day. We are attempting to lengthen the round in an endeavour to utilise pasture. Area allocation for the herd is constantly under review to help maintain pasture quality and this week it has been decided to extend the round to 1/35th of the farm.
9. We could definitely do with some more cows grazing on the farm currently as we are consistently having to use the mower to maintain pasture residuals at target levels. Four paddocks have been taken out of the round for supplement this week, i.e. 54, 42, 69 and 65, a total area 11.61 ha. We will continue to mow paddocks in front, prior to grazing, accepting that some mowed grass may be left behind after grazing in some paddocks.
10. We should have enough baleage to winter all our mixed age cows at home this winter, but due to continuing surpluses we will need to take out further supplement.
11. Production is 3.50 kg MS/ha/day and 1.30 kg MS/cow/day.
12. Cow condition of the herd is generally very good. The vet has assessed the average condition score this week at 4.64 CS.
13. 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. Extend round length going into autumn

The WEEKLY farm walk will be on **Wednesday 25th February 2009**.

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

SDF Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday, 11th February 2009

Total Effective Ha: 295ha

Winter Crop Ha: 28ha

Area in Grass Ha: 267ha (22ha New Grass)

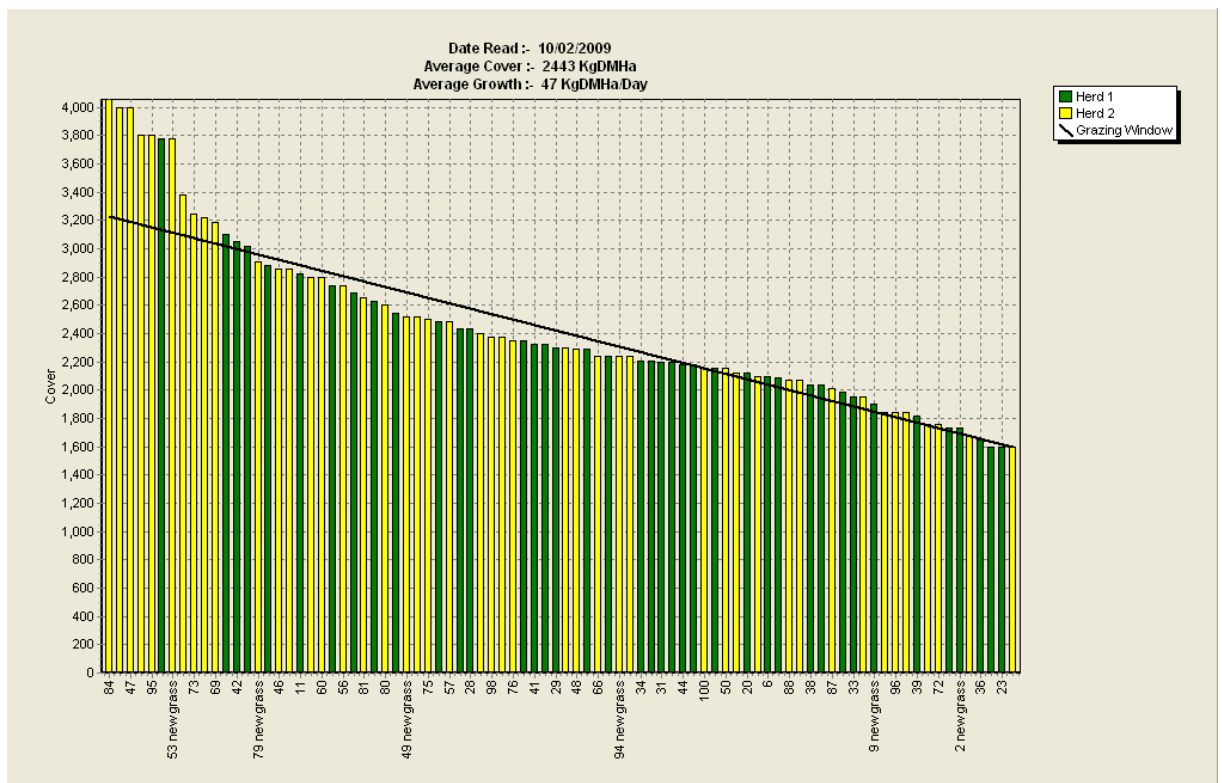
Cows in Milk: 709 cows

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1500 – 1600 kg DM /ha.**
2. **Maintain pasture quality – mow paddocks where optimum residuals are not being met.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. Soil temperatures at 9 am have averaged 16.6⁰ C this week.
4. Pasture growth this week was 47 kg DM/ha/day (last week 80).
5. Average pasture cover is 2443 kg DM/ha, down from 2459 kg DM/ha last week.
6. The 11th February 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 267 ha in pasture. The stocking rate is now 2.66 cows per pasture ha and we are working on cow intakes of 18 kg DM in an endeavour to keep our residuals at acceptable levels, using the $x140+500$ rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover for this week is $(2.66 \times 34 \text{ day rotation} \times 18) + 1600 = 3228 \text{ kg DM/ha}$.
8. The round last week was $1/29^{\text{th}}$ of the farm grazed per day. We are attempting to lengthen the round in an endeavour to utilise pasture, preparing to take out 30 ha of pasture for regrassing and setting up the farm for good pasture covers going into the autumn. Area allocation for the herd is constantly under review to help maintain pasture quality and this week it has been decided to extend the round to $1/34^{\text{th}}$ of the farm.
9. 189 bales of baleage were harvested off the farm last week.
10. We could definitely do with some more cows grazing on the farm currently as we are consistently having to use the mower to maintain pasture residuals at target levels. Instead of taking up to another seven paddocks out of the round for supplement this week, the decision has been made to mow these paddocks in front, prior to grazing, accepting that some mowed grass may be left behind after grazing. However, we have found that cows do intake more from mowed, wilted pasture compared to ungrazed pasture.
11. We should have enough baleage to winter all our mixed age cows at home this winter, and to save costs, we do not want to make more baleage at this stage. An option to make some hay (a lower cost option than baleage) has been discussed and will be considered if surpluses increase further. However, we need to bear in mind that 30 ha will be coming out of the grazing round in the next week or so.
12. 30 ha of the farm has been earmarked to be sprayed out for autumn regrassing (into short rotation ryegrass as part of our 10-year regrassing plan) this week.
13. Production is 3.50 kg MS/ha/day and 1.30 kg MS/cow/day. Some problems with water have again had a negative effect on milk production.
14. Cow condition of the herd is generally very good. It is time to arrange for the vet to carry out another assessment of herd cow condition.
15. Cows have been scanned this morning, and out of 699 cows scanned, 579 were diagnosed in-calf (83%) with the remainder as re-checks. Given that the Bulls came out of the herd on 18^{th} January (24 days ago), we are fairly happy with this result.
16. 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. Autumn pasture renovation – 30 ha spray and drill into short rotation ryegrass
2. Extend round length going into autumn

The WEEKLY farm walk will be on **Wednesday 18th February 2009**.

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

SDF Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday, 3rd February 2009

Total Effective Ha: 295ha

Winter Crop Ha: 28ha

Area in Grass Ha: 267ha (22ha New Grass)

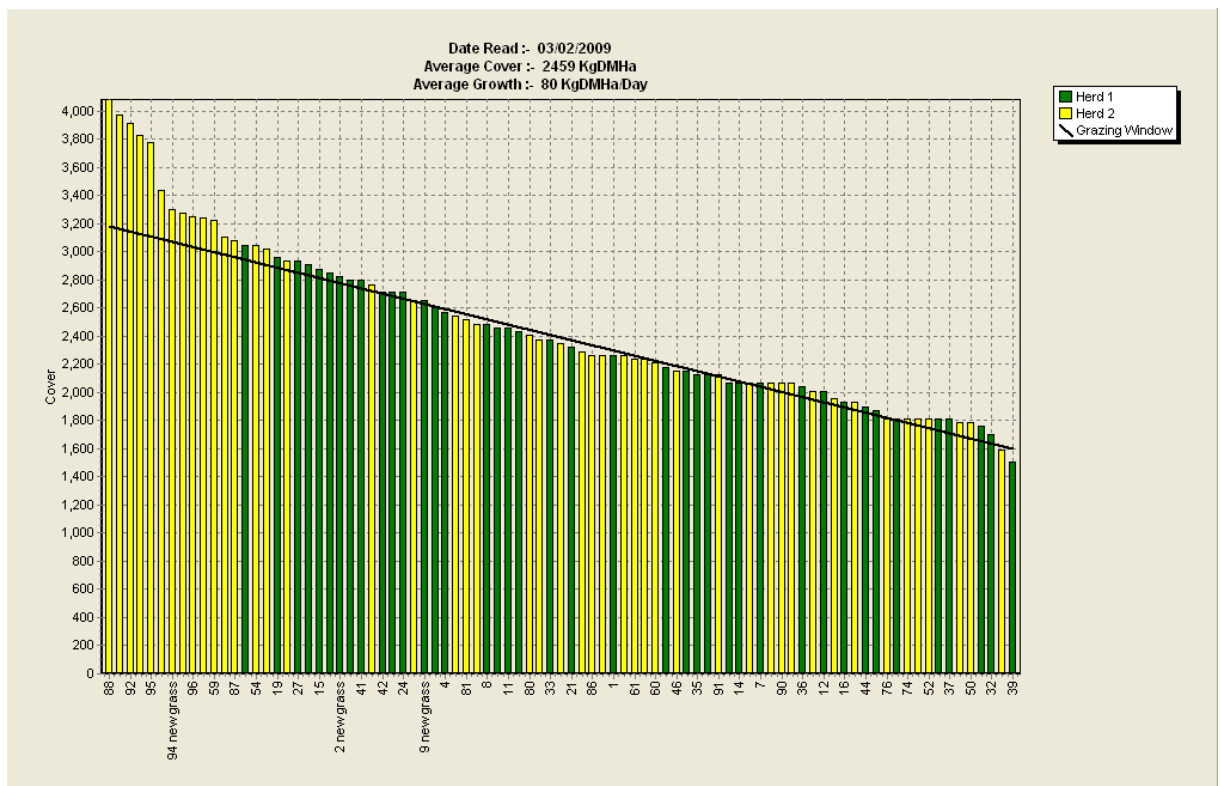
Cows in Milk: 709 cows

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.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

4. Soil temperatures at 9.00 am have averaged 16.0° C this week.
5. Pasture growth this week was 80 kg DM/ha/day (last week 68).
6. Average pasture cover is 2459 kg DM/ha, up from 2369 kg DM/ha last week.
7. The 3rd February 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 based on an area of 267 ha in pasture. The stocking rate is now 2.66 cows per pasture ha and we are working on cow intakes of 18 kg DM in an endeavour to keep our residuals at acceptable levels, using the $x140 + 500$ rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover for this week is $(2.66 \times 32 \text{ day rotation} \times 18) + 1600 = 3130 \text{ kg DM/ha}$. Currently growth rates of 80 kg DM/ha/day are above our demand of 48 kg DM/ha/day, hence the increase in pasture cover this week.
9. The round last week was 1/27th of the farm grazed per day. We are lengthening the round in an endeavour to meet pasture residual targets. Area allocation for the herd is constantly under review to help maintain pasture quality and this week it has been decided to extend the round further to 1/32nd of the farm.
10. Seven lower quality paddocks earmarked last week have been mowed for baleage this week. Instead of taking up to another five paddocks out of the round for supplement this week, the decision has been made to mow these paddocks in front, prior to grazing, accepting that some mowed grass may be left behind after grazing. However, we have found that cows do intake more from mowed, wilted pasture compared to ungrazed pasture. At this stage we should have enough baleage to winter all our mixed age cows at home this winter, and to save costs, we do not want to make more baleage at this stage.
11. Production is 3.70 kg MS/ha/day and 1.40 kg MS/cow/day. Total production per ha to date is 660 kg MS/ha.
12. Cow condition of the herd is generally very good. It is time to arrange for the vet to carry out another assessment of herd cow condition.
13. The third herd test for the season was carried out on 26th January. The herd test average per cow production was 1.39 kg ms – exactly the same as our calculated production to the factory. The average production for our heifers was 1.19 kg/MS, and average production for the herd not including heifers was 1.51, which indicates that our heifers are currently producing 79% of their older herd mates (which is where we expected to be).
14. 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.

Future Management Planning

1. Autumn pasture renovation – 30 ha spray and drill into short rotation ryegrass
2. Extend round length going into autumn
3. Pregnancy testing to identify conception to AB mating to be carried out 11th February

The WEEKLY farm walk will be on **Wednesday 11th February 2009**.

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