



Wednesday 18th July 2007

Farm Walk Notes

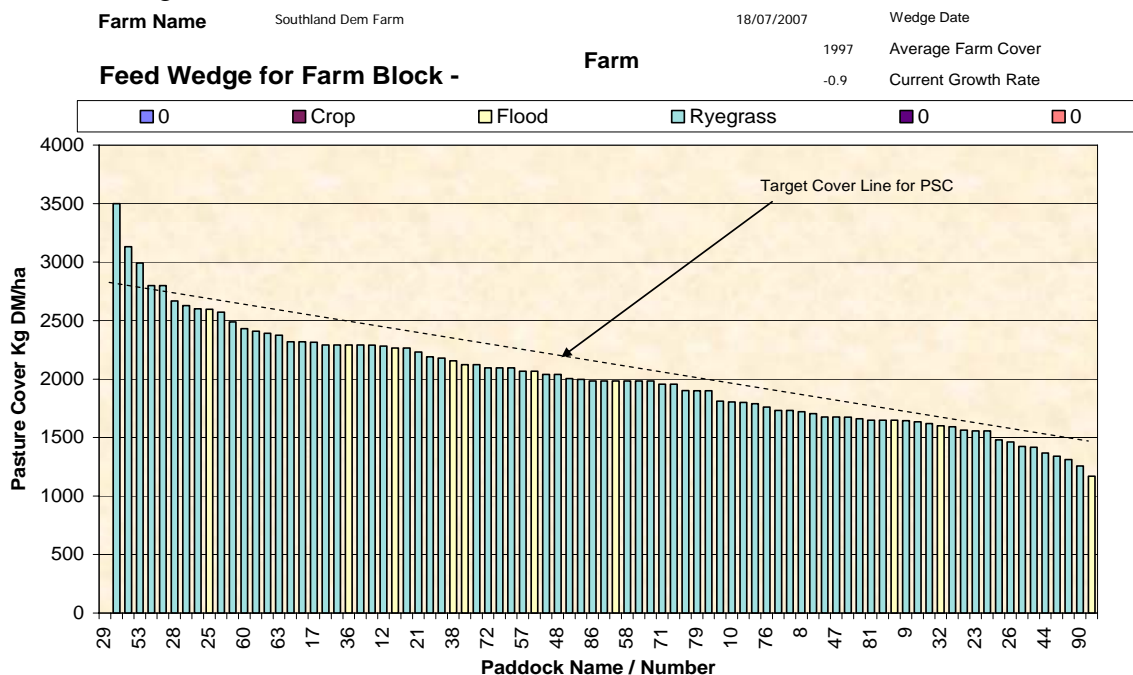
Critical issues for the short term

1. Get all calving and health records into MINDA every day.
2. Slow down the rate the cows are eating the crop.
3. Do not pug any grass paddocks.

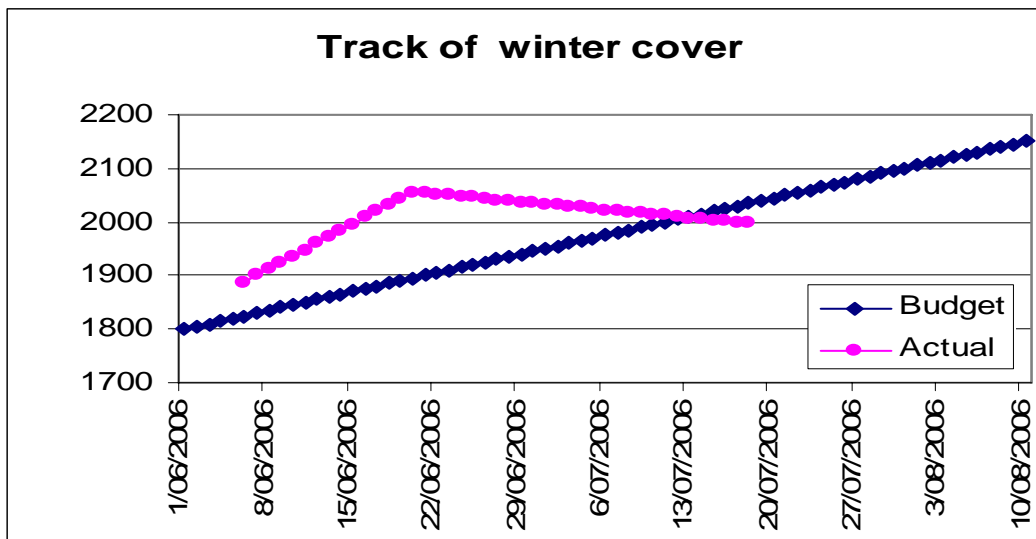
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

4. Soil temperature at 10am during the last week has averaged less than 3 °C.
5. There has been no apparent grass growth over the last two weeks. The slight negative growth rate of -0.9 kg DM/ha/day is well within the normal error when measuring with a Rising Plate Meter Pasture. The Plate Meter measures compressed height and we are using the standard winter equation of $x140 + 500$.
6. Grass growth is not just about an increase in height. It is also about the % Dry Matter in the grass. If the pasture height stays the same but the % Dry Matter has increased then there actually has been a positive growth rate. During a period of frosts in the winter, pasture often increases in % Dry Matter from 17% into the mid 20%s. Pasture samples will be taken on the 1st August for a full analysis.

7. Feed Wedge



8. Average farm cover has dropped to 1997 due to the negative growth rate and because 18 calved cows have been grazing grass only.



9. The graph of farm cover is showing that we have now fallen behind our target average farm cover for the 18th July. There is no cause to panic because we have large reserves of silage, baleage and hay on hand. At the moment there is time in each day to feed silage so it is practical to feed some silage to the calved cows to limit pasture consumption. The target average cover at calving is very important to reach as the first lot of 80 (11% of the herd) cows to be induced will get their first injection late next week.
10. The spring pasture allocation plan (first round planner) starts on the 7th August and the first round will be 49 days. The feed budget has been done on this basis.
11. Soil conditions are dry and firm so crop and pasture utilisation is very good.
12. The cows are currently getting Mag Chloride through their drinking water and Mag Oxide is also being dusted onto the Chow and Swede crops. The heavy frosts are causing water pipes to freeze but so far there have been few problems and troughs are getting refilled each day.
13. The cows are also getting their Rotovirus injection this week.
14. Blood samples have been analysed and an initial selenium injection is being planned as well as a specific mineral mix for long term dosing through the in line dispenser. Selenium will be added to the fertilizer. Liver biopsies will be done on 10 cows to ascertain Copper status.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Wednesday **25th July 2007 10.00am (after the frost)**.

Management Group

David Newport, (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (for Trust), Adrian van Bysterveldt (Dexcel), Peter MacFarlane (Dexcel CO), Brad Houghton (Herd Manager) and John Colligan.



Wednesday 11th July 2007

Farm Walk Notes

Critical issues for the short term

1. Monitor weekly allocations of crop to ensure that we do not run out.
2. Prepare thorough induction plan in consultation with vet.
3. Get water to remaining mobs so all mobs can have access to Mg through dosatron.
4. Complete spring rotation planner to ensure that we do not complete the first spring rotation too early.

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance
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1. Effluent pond almost overflowing. Heavy frosts have meant that we have not been able to apply effluent due to frozen pipes. It is a top priority to start irrigating as soon as possible.
2. With inclusion of lease cows into calving spread the mean calving date has gone back 3 days with the last to calve on 9 November. We are considering inducing all cows (which fall within Code of Practice Induction Guidelines) calving after 8.5 weeks to tighten up calving spread, so that we can improve the herds reproductive performance. We are looking at inducing in 2 groups, with the first group to calve at PSC, and the second 3 weeks later based on our vet, John Kidd's, guidelines. We are dusting with Causmag to induction mobs.
3. Staff feel that BCS has improved, and we will confirm this with an independent assessment prior to calving.
4. We have been moving baleage around to ensure that daily intake targets (supplement and crop) are met. The objective being to increase daily energy intakes of lighter mobs by increasing the proportion of crop allowance (i.e. the higher quality feed). As mobs reach their target BCS we will stop moving baleage and allocate it as a higher percentage of diet.
5. All cows will be vaccinated with Rotovac and injected with Se at 3 weeks prior to Planned Start of Calving (8th August). Liver biopsies to be carried out on sample set of 10 cows to assess Cu status.

OPEN DAY – 19th July 2007 - 10.45 am. On farm at SN 31442 1km west of Wallacetown on S/H 99.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Wednesday **18th July 2007 10.00am (after the frost).**

Management Group

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



Wednesday 4th July 2007

Farm Walk Notes

Critical issues for the short term

1. Get all calving and health records into Minda every day.
2. Monitor weekly allocations of crop to ensure that we do not run out.
3. Do not pug any grass paddocks.

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance
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4. There are no pasture cover figures resulting from a farm walk this week because of continuing problems with platimeters. We operated with two platimeters of which one would not function properly, and the other was used on a different area of the farm to the previous week. The aim is to have the same plate and operator doing the same area of the farm each week. An additional platimeter will be purchased before the next walk.
5. We expect the growth to have been less than 5 kg DM/Ha/day due to frosts and cold weather, so there will have been little change in the feed wedge. On walking the farm it is very apparent that a lot of the paddocks have severe frost damage.
6. The mob of 50 lighter conditioned cows are getting swedes and baleage twice/day, plus access to grass for two to three hours/day when conditions allow and then go back to their crop area.
7. The milking cows, 7 slips and 1 calved cow are on all grass along with a small group of lame cows, being moved before they start doing pasture damage. We did have them behind an electric fence but found they were making a mess walking the fence.
8. The crop areas have been measured again this week and at the current rate of use we have 37 herd grazing days of crop left. We required 39 days in our budget. As mobs get up to target Condition Score the area allocated each day will reduce. This should mean we reach our target of another 39 herd grazing days. We also have sufficient baleage and hay to fill in any short fall.
9. The effluent pond is nearly full. This is mostly because of the heavy rain falling on the yard. As soon as we have had a few dry days we will apply a very light application of effluent to one of the driest paddocks with a short pasture cover. This will mean that there is no ponding, pasture fouling is minimised and the N is available for pasture re-growth.

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The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Wednesday **11th July 2007 10.00am (after the frost).**

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