

SDF Farm Walk Notes

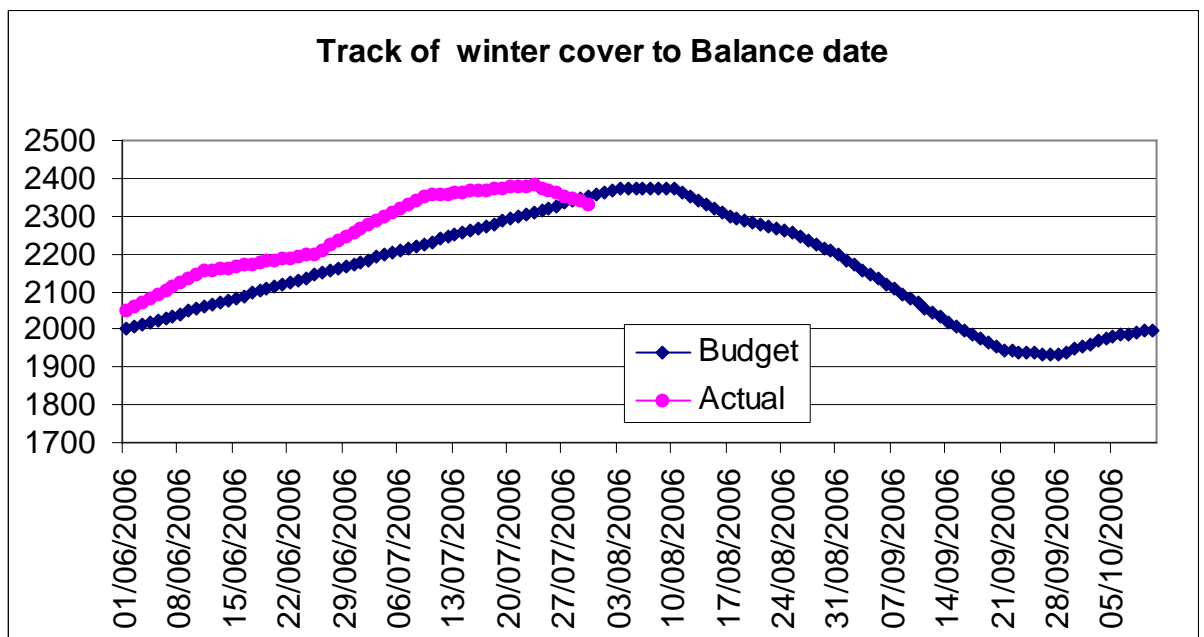
Wednesday, 30th July 2008

Critical issues for the short term

- 1. Draft up synchronised calving heifers and cows that are close to calving out at grazing and bring back to the farm.**
- 2. Monitor springer cows and heifers for mastitis and closely monitor as they calve.**
- 3. Mg supplementation of all cows – through water supply and causmag.**

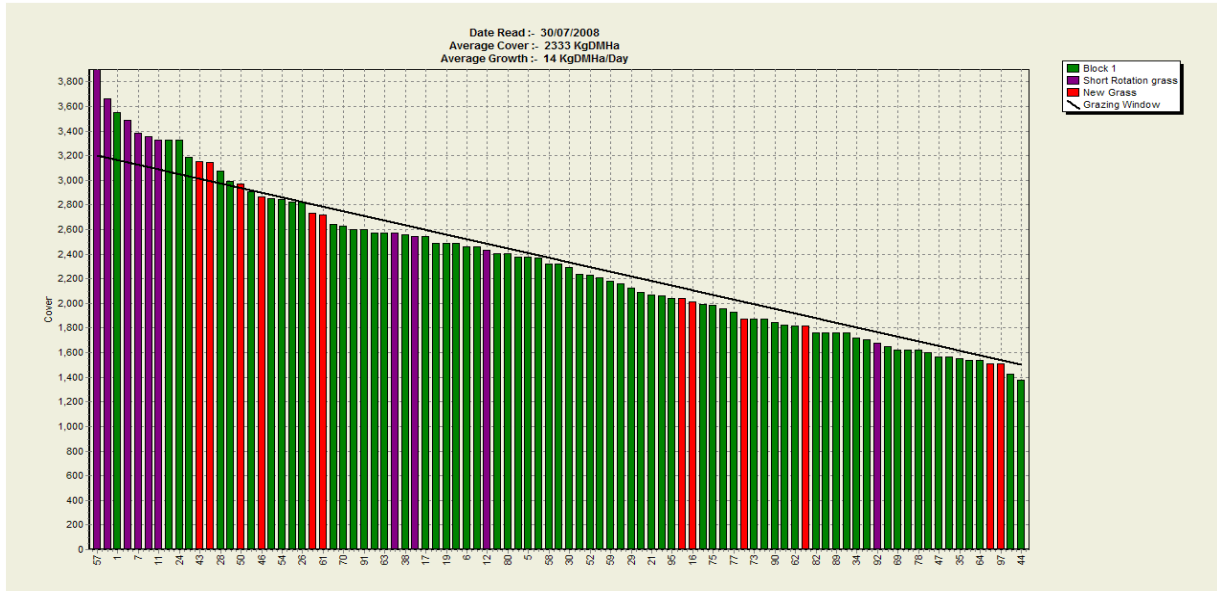
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

4. Soil temperatures have increased slightly to an average of 5.5 degrees C this last week, which is 0.5 degrees higher than last week and 4.5 degrees higher than last year.
5. There was 100mm of rain in June, which is the June average. This week we recorded 24.6 mm of rain and so far for July we are still running slightly behind average monthly rainfall.
6. Average pasture cover was 2333 kg DM/ ha on the farm walk today down from 2382 kg DM / ha last week. The short rotation ryegrasses are growing very well for this time of the year, but some of the older type pastures have lost cover over the past week. Some of this is due to mild patchy porina damage showing up in some paddocks.
7. Average pasture growth rate for this week was overall 14 kg DM / ha /day with short rotation ryegrass paddocks averaging 27 kg DM / ha per day.
8. The graph comparing budgeted average pasture cover as predicted by the autumn feed budget with actual is shown below:



The targeted cover has now come down to meet the autumn / winter feed budget line due to grazing three more grass paddocks this week. From now on, the Spring First Rotation Planner will be followed allocating square metres per cow per day to dries / springers and milkers.

9. The 30 July pasture feed wedge:



The red bars are new perennial ryegrass pasture
The purple bars are new short rotation pasture

10. The target line is now based on the budget average cover for 30 July. The wedge shows that overall supply now equals almost exactly the budgeted demand.

11. Being able to graze the occasional paddock of surplus grass has allowed us to make up for the reduced yield on one of the Swede paddocks (affected by a fungal disease).

12. We continue to spread Causmag at 100gm /cow/day on the pasture and supplements being fed to our cows.

13. Cows at off farm grazing are being continually monitored, and will slowly come home from now on as per recorded calving date or signs of bagging up.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday 6th August.**

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

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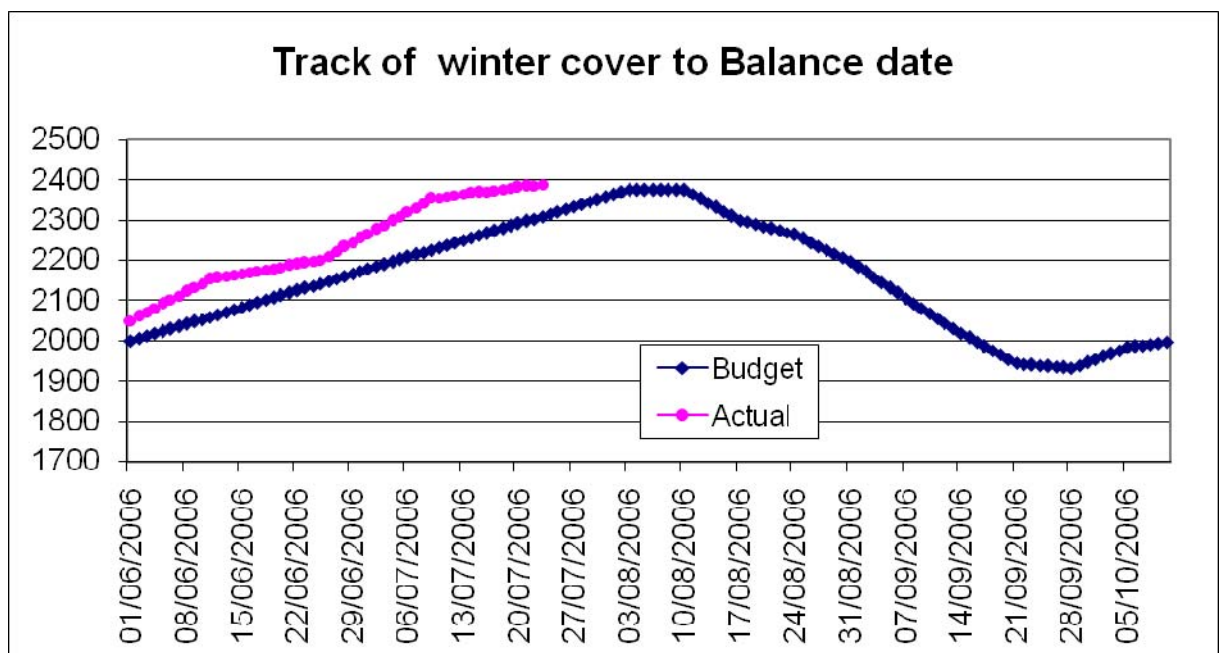
Wednesday, 23rd July 2008

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Draft up synchronised calving heifers that are close to calving out at grazing and bring back to the farm.**
2. **Do regular condition score assessments of each mob and remove lightest cows to grass if they are not gaining weight.**
3. **Monitor dry cows for mastitis and treat any infected quarters.**
4. **Mg supplementation of all cows – through water supply and causmag.**

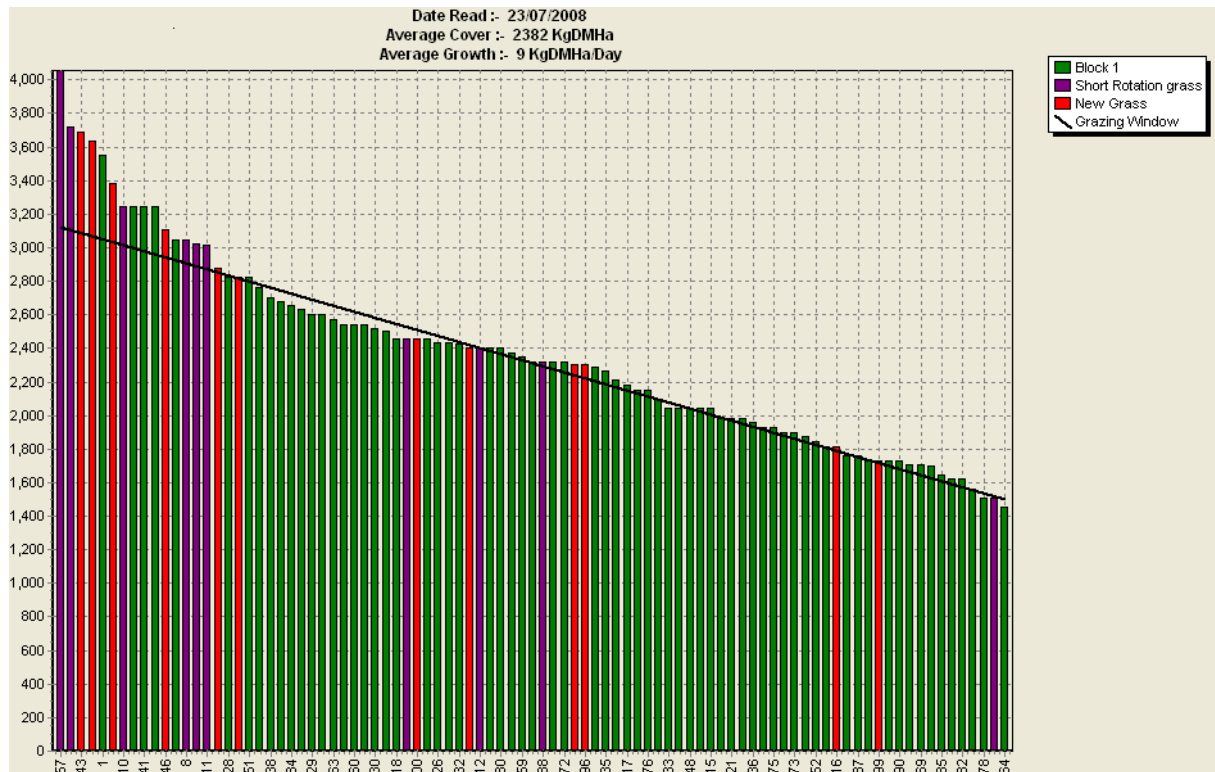
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

5. Soil temperatures have continued to average 5 degrees C this last week, which is average for this time of the year but 4 degrees higher than last year.
6. There was 100mm of rain in June which is the June average but so far in the first half of July we have had only half the expected average rainfall.
7. Average pasture cover was 2382 kg DM/ ha on the farm walk today. The new perennial ryegrass and short rotation ryegrasses are growing very well for this time of the year, but some of the older type pastures have lost cover over the past week.
8. Average pasture growth rate for this week was overall 9 kg DM / ha /day with short rotation ryegrass paddocks averaging 28 kg DM / ha per day and the new grass paddocks averaging 17 kg DM / ha per day.
9. The graph comparing budgeted average pasture cover as predicted by the autumn feed budget with actual is shown below:



We continue to be above targeted cover, compared to the autumn / winter feed budget even though we have grazed overall eight paddocks since 1st June.

10. The 23 July pasture feed wedge:



The red bars are new perennial ryegrass pasture
The purple bars are new short rotation pasture

11. The target line is now based on the budget average cover for 23 July. The wedge shows that we have 16t more grass than target (down from 34t surplus last week). Another short rotation ryegrass paddock has been grazed off during the past week.
12. Being able to graze the occasional paddock of surplus grass is also allowing us to make up for the reduced yield on one of the Swede paddocks (affected by a fungal disease).
13. We have begun spreading Causmag at 100gm /cow/day on the pasture and supplements being fed to our cows.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday 30th July**.

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

SDF Farm Walk Notes

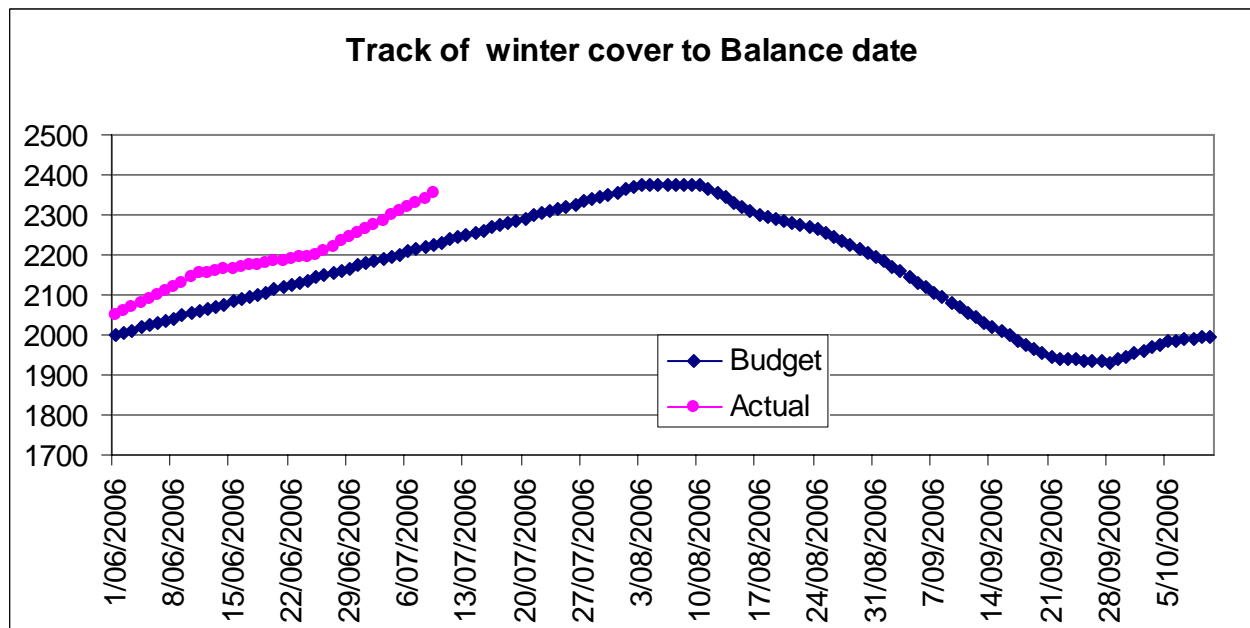
Wednesday, 16th July 2008

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Monitor dry cows for mastitis and treat any infected quarters.**
2. **Regularly visit all mobs away at winter grazing.**
3. **Do regular condition score assessments of each mob and remove lightest cows to grass if they are not gaining weight.**
4. **Set up calf sheds and feeding systems.**

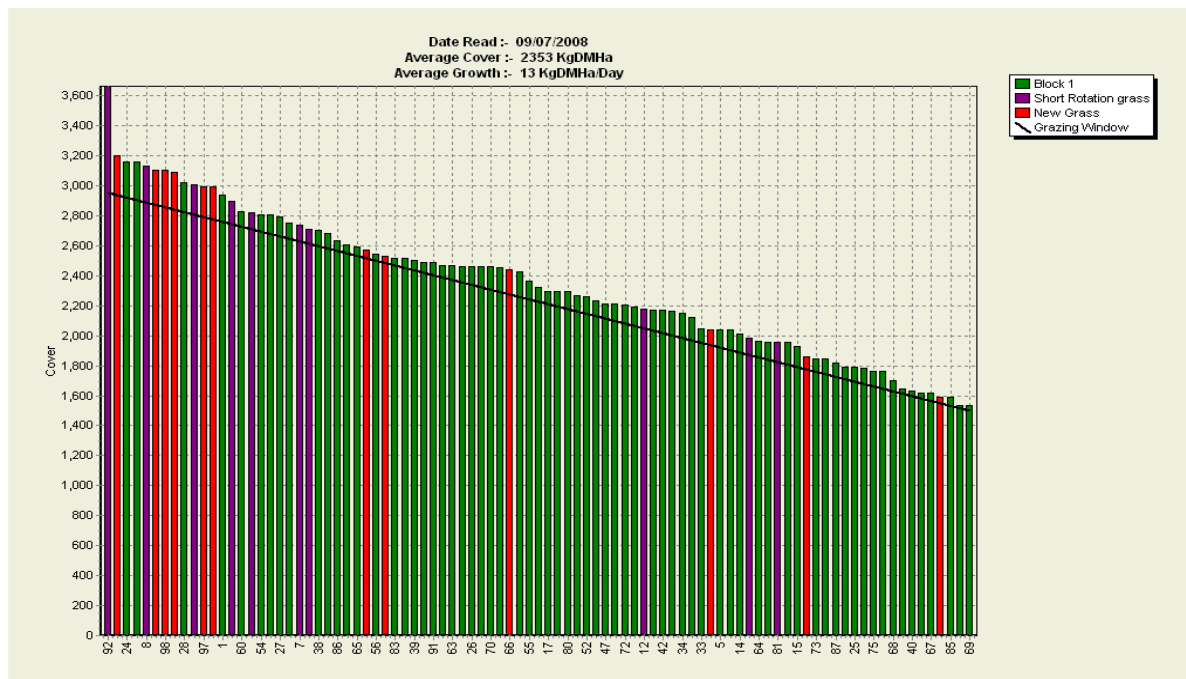
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

5. Soil temperatures have averaged 5 degrees C which is average for this time of the year but 4 degrees higher than last year.
6. There was 100mm of rain in June which is the June average but so far in the first half of July we have had only half the expected average rainfall.
7. Average pasture cover was 2353 kg DM/ ha on the 9 July (date of last farm walk) and with soil temperatures continuing to average 5 °C at 9am we expect that this growth will have continued at over 10 kg DM/ha/day and so average farm cover should be about 2423 this week (no walk carried out today due to staff sickness and painting of the farm office).
8. Average pasture growth rate for the week to 9 July was 13kg DM / ha /day and as soil temperatures have remained the same we expect that this growth will have continued.
9. The graph comparing budgeted average pasture cover as predicted by the autumn feed budget with actual is shown below:



We continue to be above targeted cover for this week, compared to the autumn / winter feed budget even though we have grazed one paddock of grass which was getting long enough that it was going yellow at the base.

10. The 9 July pasture feed wedge:



The red bars are new perennial ryegrass pasture

The purple bars are new short rotation pasture

11. The target line is now based on the budget average cover for 9 July. The wedge shows that we have 34t more grass than target. If growth rates have continued then this surplus will now be about 53t.

12. There was one short rotation ryegrass paddock at the top of the wedge that was already getting too long especially for new grass. This paddock has been grazed while ground conditions are firm, by one of the mobs currently being wintered on the farm. This will only remove a small amount of the surplus but will result in these paddocks being much better setup at calving time.

13. Being able to graze the occasional paddock of surplus grass is also allowing us to make up for the reduced yield on one of the swede paddocks (affected by a fungal disease).

14. We have begun spreading Causmag at 100gm /cow/day on the pasture and supplements being fed to our cows.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday 23rd July**.

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