



Thursday 21st June 2007

Farm Walk Notes

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pasture area: | 295 ha |
| Area in Swedes: | 21.5ha Average Yield: 10.16tDM/ha |
| Area in Chow: | 14ha Average Yield: 11.86tDM/ha |
| Rough grazing: | 2.5 ha Average Yield: 2.5tDm/ha |
| Baleage at start of winter: | 1,003 bales |
| Hay on hand: | 484 bales (10 bale equivalent) |
| Silage on hand for spring | Total 172,620 kg DM (220 kgDM/cow) |
| Cows wintered on: | 628 (528 ex Brock, remainder leased externally – ex North Island) |
| Cows wintered off: | 150 heifers (lease ex Brock) |
| Total Wintered: | 778 |
| Cow type: | Predominantly Friesian |

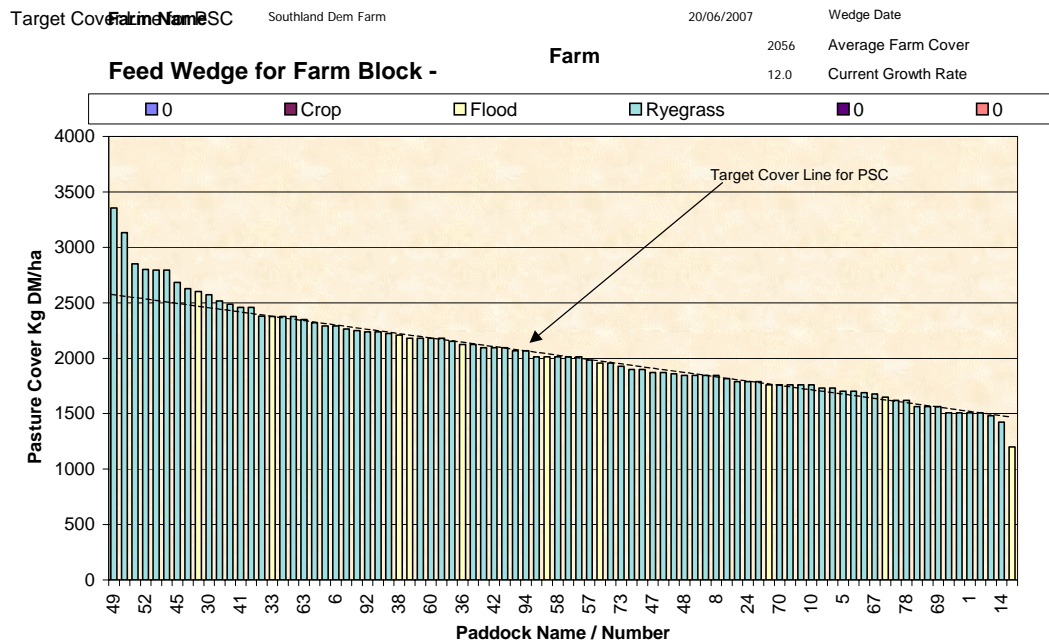
Critical Issues for the short term

- 1) Achieving condition score targets of 5.5 for heifers, 3 year-olds and late calvers (potential inductions), and 5 for mixed age cows.
- 2) Following winter feed budget so that we do not run out of winter feed.
- 3) Achieving good crop and baleage utilisation.
- 4) Getting water to all mobs.
- 5) Recording any premature births and try and keep them milking.
- 6) Monitoring and measuring the wedge of feed on the milking platform.
- 7) Minimising soil damage on milking platform and crop area.

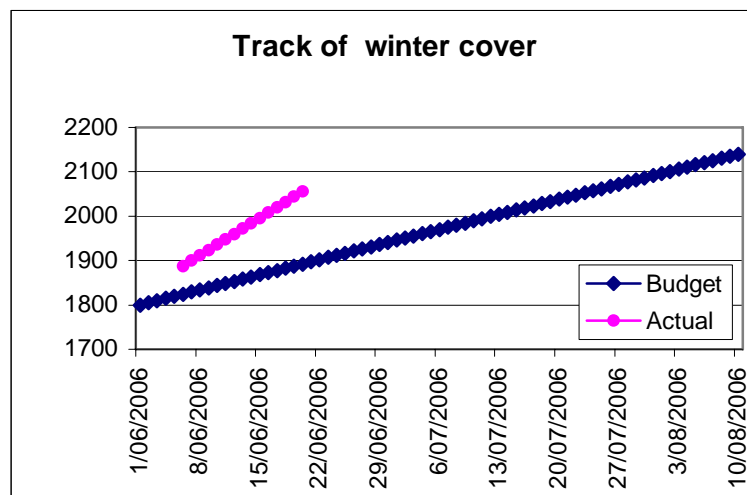
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

1. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER was measured on a full farm walk with the two plate meters. Using the standard winter formula ($\times 140 + 500$) the average farm cover has risen from 1888 kg DM/ha to 2056kg DM/ha.
2. This week's growth rate was 12.0 kg DM/ha. This figure has almost certainly been raised because of sticky plates affecting some readings last week, plates have since been cleaned giving better figures this week.

3. This weeks feed wedge is:



4. Pasture is developing into an even wedge. This will mean that when we come to graze the last paddocks in the first round they will not be rank and yellow at the base. We want to avoid rank paddocks so as to prevent very slow re-growth. The two longest paddocks are already showing signs of decay in the base, so we are targeting on-off grazing of these paddocks by the light mob, soil conditions permitting.



5. We will be doing regular farm walks with the plate meter to demonstrate the farms progress towards the target average farm cover for the 10 August (PSC) using the above graph.

6. The route of the farm walk has been marked and the walk has been split into three sections of about 30 paddocks. Each member of the farm operations team will be responsible for the collection of the pasture cover data for one section. This way the farm walk has taken no more than 1hr 30 min for each person.
7. We have had five early calving cows slip and they are being milked once a day.
8. The farm has increased in cow numbers by 25 cows to 778. The winter crops are going to also have to feed these additional cows. The target is to get to the mid point of calving with all the dry cows still on crop.
9. The crops have been measured and chow crops average 11.8 tDM/ha, and Swede's 10.1tDM/ha.
10. Mobs were wintered in groups by age and calving date, and received no transition feeding going onto crop.

| MOB | Mob size | Target BCS | Actual BCS | Difference |
|-------------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|
| rising 3's | 110 | 5.5 | 4.6 | 0.9 |
| late - inductions | 87 | 5.5 | 5 | 0.5 |
| lease | 100 | 5 | 4.5 | 0.5 |
| 8-16Aug | 99 | 5 | 5.1 | -0.1 |
| 17-28 Aug calving | 95 | 5 | 5.1 | -0.1 |
| 29 -14 Sep | 85 | 5 | 4.7 | 0.3 |
| 15-22 Sep | 46 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 0.1 |

11. Mobs have been condition score by the vet, see table above.
12. Rising 3 year olds and late calving cows and lease cows are well below BCS targets, and so priority is being given to feeding these cows well, particularly over the next 4 weeks. There are also a handful of lighter cows in each mob, which need preferential feeding and will be drafted off.

| MOB | Mob size | Estimated actual intakes assessed 21 st June | Target intakes |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| rising 3's | 110 | 7.8 | 12 |
| late - inductions | 87 | 8.9 | 12 |
| lease | 100 | 8.2 | 12 |
| 8-16Aug | 99 | 10.5 | 12 |
| 17-28 Aug calving | 95 | 6 | 12 |
| 29 -14 Sep | 85 | 6.8 | 12 |
| 15-22 Sep | 46 | 8.3 | 12 |

13. Feeding levels of each mob were calculated. Feed intake for all mobs was below target levels, see table above.
We suspect that they have lost condition since 1 June based on intakes calculated.

Low intakes were due to small face area/cow 0.4m – 1.2m/cow as opposed to target of 2m/cow minimum. Low utilization due to being allocated 5 – 12m breaks once a day. Individual cow intakes could have been particularly low due to all feed being finished within 4 hours of feeding, competition at face and baleage only being accessible from half of circumference due to position in relation to electric fence.

14. All mobs have been split into two, and are being shifted twice a day. This has doubled space at face, decreased competition and improved utilization. All cows are being allocated enough feed to target 12kgDM intake/cow. We do not expect intakes to lift immediately, so will monitor to achieve good utilization.
15. Light cows have been separated from each mob, and have joined all light 3 year olds. These mobs will be offered Swedes and baleage in the morning, grass from lunch till evening (soil conditions permitting), and Swedes and baleage again overnight.
16. No mobs have had access to water to date, so this is a priority at present.
17. Vet has checked mineral status of lease cows from the North Island as we suspect that levels may not be high enough going onto crop.
18. We have had 6 slips and are milking them OAD.
19. We have 3 lame cows, which are on grass.

Winter-feed budget:

Number of cows on crop at home: 622
Number of cows on grass at home: 6
Number of cows off grazing: 150 heifers

Swede Area left: 16ha DM left: 177t
Chow Area left: 9ha DM left: 107t 457kgDM/cow
Baleage left: 705 bales or 121kgDM/cow
Hay: 4484 bales or 136 kgDM/cow

Based on 50 days wintering left (to mid-point calving) this is 15.8kgDM/cow/day available. (9.1kgDM crop, 4kgDM baleage and 2.7kgDM hay).

We will be working on 80% utilisation of Swedes, 70% for chow, and 90% for baleage.

We will allocate crop and baleage over the next 4 weeks, and replace baleage with hay thereafter. This fits in with our strategy of feeding cows the highest energy feed now while they can still gain weight, and lower quality feed, and a higher percentage of supplements closer to calving.

OPEN DAY – 19 July - 11am. On farm at SN 31442 1km west of Wallacetown on S/H 99

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Wednesday **4th July 2007 10.00am (after the frost).**

Management Group

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



Wednesday 6th June 2007

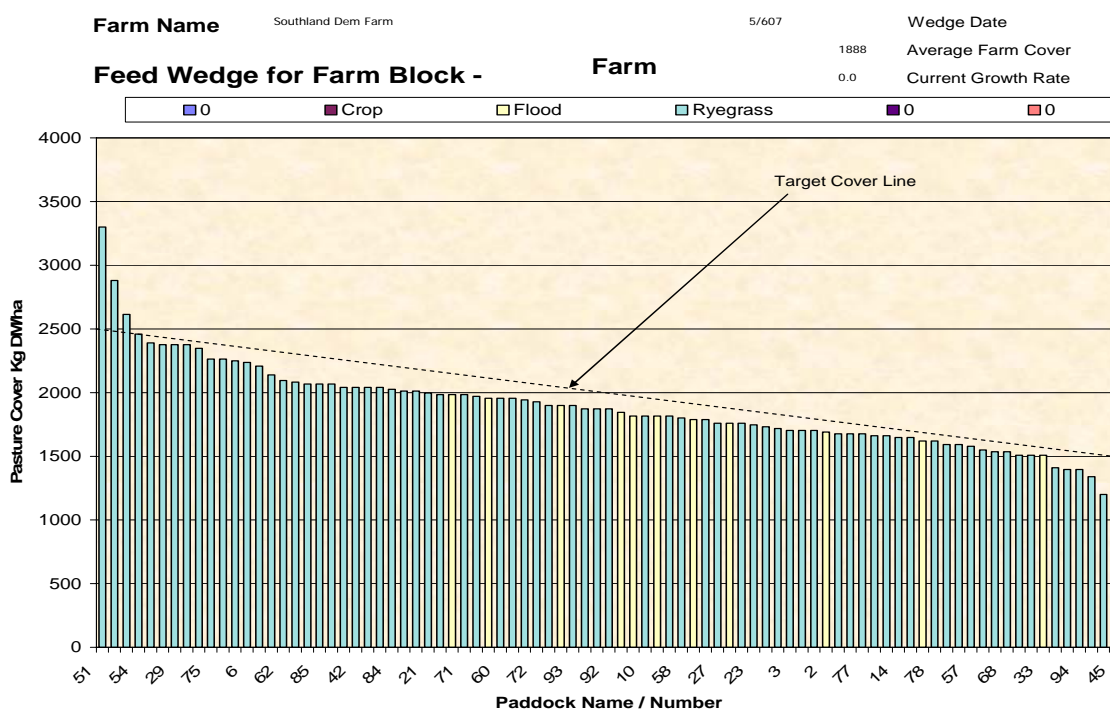
Farm Walk Notes

Critical issues for the short term

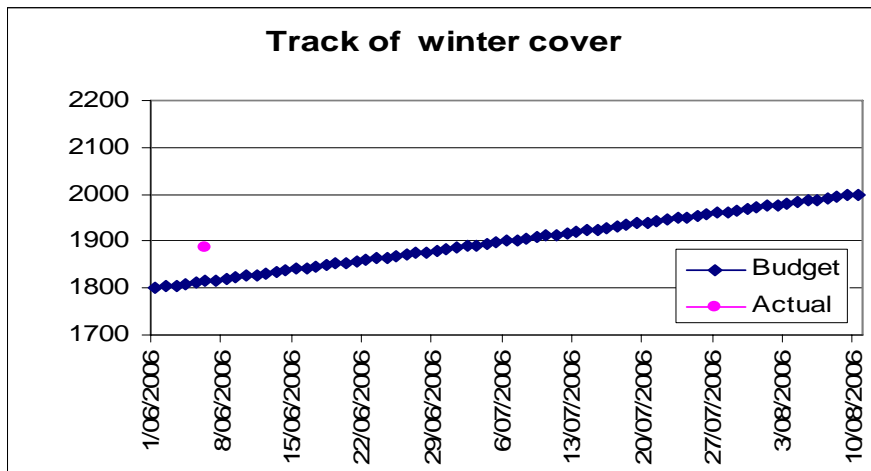
1. Make sure that any cows treated with dry cow therapy do not get sent to the works.
2. Record any premature births

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|

3. AVERAGE PASTURE COVER was measured on a full farm walk with the two plate meters on the farm. Using the standard winter formula the average farm cover was 1888 kg DM/ha. This is 88 above the budgeted cover for the 1 June take over.
4. This weeks feed wedge is;



5. The target cover line indicates the estimated budgeted cover (subject to confirmation once winter feed budget completed) of 2000 kg DM that is required at Planned Start of Calving.



6. We will be doing regular farm walks with the plate meter and demonstrate the farm progress towards the target average farm cover for the 10 August (PSC) using the above graph.
7. The herd has been split into mobs. The 3yrs olds are in one mob, and the rest of the cows are in mobs of 100 cows based on calving date with all the bull mated cows in a separate mob. All cows are being wintered on the milking platform except for the 150 R2yr heifers. The mobs on farm are currently on the Swede and Chou paddocks and planned intakes are for 8 kg DM of Swede plus 4 kg DM of grass silage. The Swede and Chou crops have now been measured with a full feed budget now being done. A full assessment to confirm actual feed intakes on the crops is also to be carried out.
8. The recent cold snap resulted in no snow but the first lot of significant rain this winter.
9. The route of the farm walk has been marked and the walk has been split into three sections of about 30 paddocks. Each member of the farm operations team will be responsible for the collection of the pasture cover data for one section.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on Wednesday **19th June 2007 at 9.00am.**

Management Group

David Newport (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (Farm Business Consultant), Brad Houghton (Assistant Manager), and Peter Macfarlane (Dexcel).