

SDF Farm Walk Notes

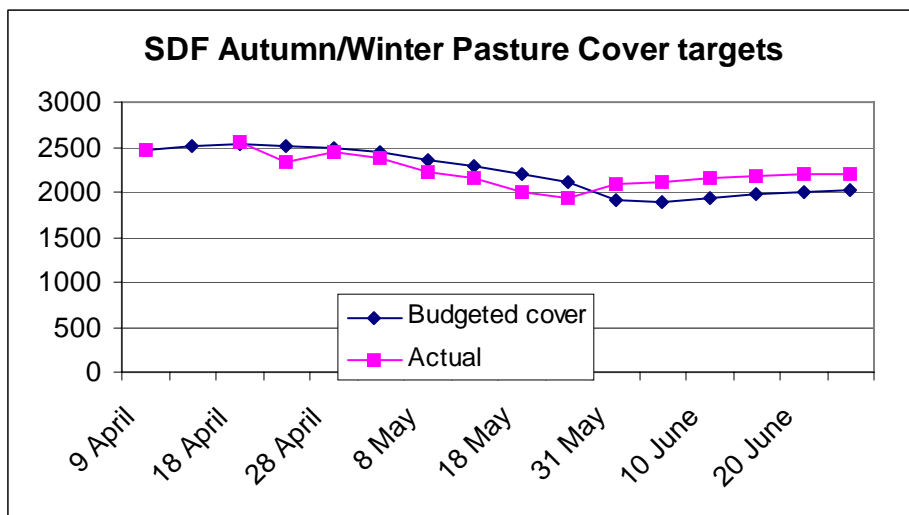
Wednesday, 25th June 2008

Critical issues for the short term

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

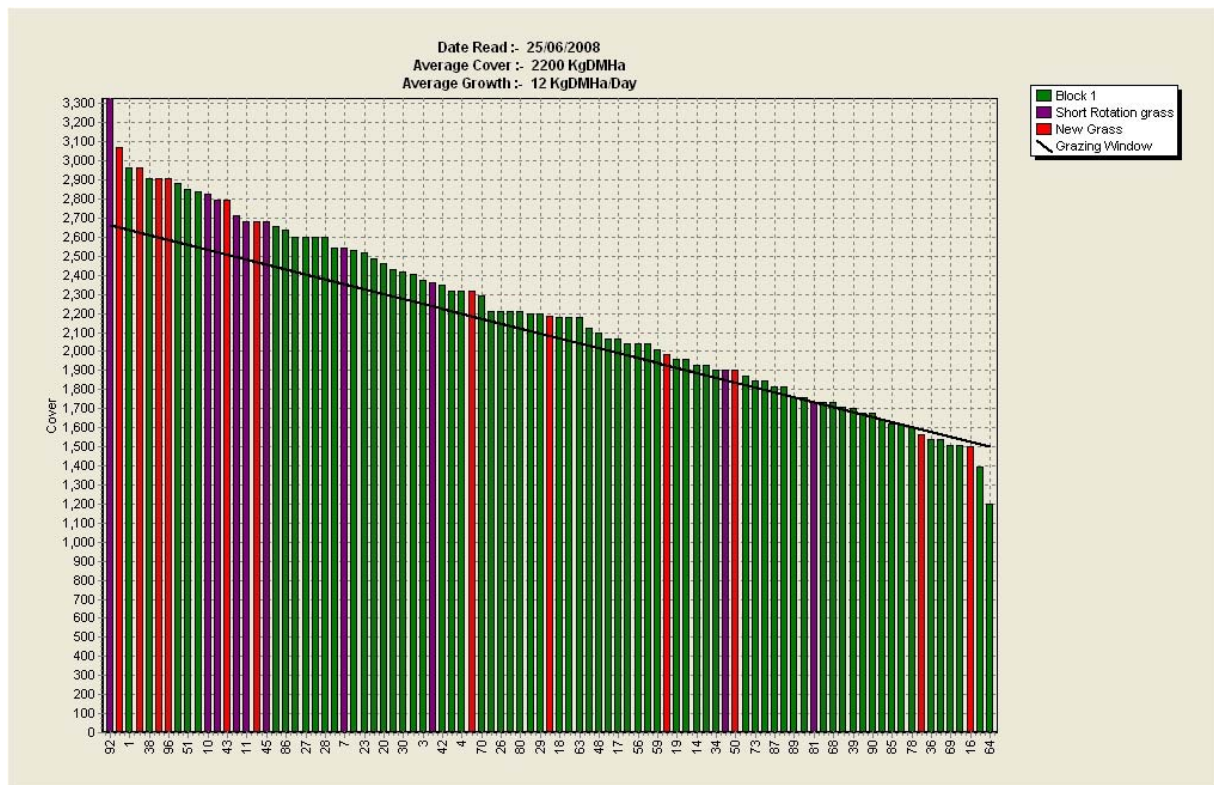
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

4. Soil temperatures have increased to 7.9 degrees C from 7 degrees C last walk
5. There was 29.7 mm fall measured since last farm walk on the 11th June and there has been no frosts, hence higher soil temperatures.
6. Average pasture cover has increased from 2153DM / ha last week, up to 2200DM / ha.
7. Average pasture growth rate this week has been 12g DM / ha /day.
8. 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.

9. This week's 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 25 June. The wedge shows that we have more grass than target. The paddocks at the bottom of the sedge show that the proper post grazing target residuals have been reached.
11. There is one short rotation ryegrass paddock at the top of the wedge that are already getting too long especially for new grass. This paddock will be 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.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday 2nd 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

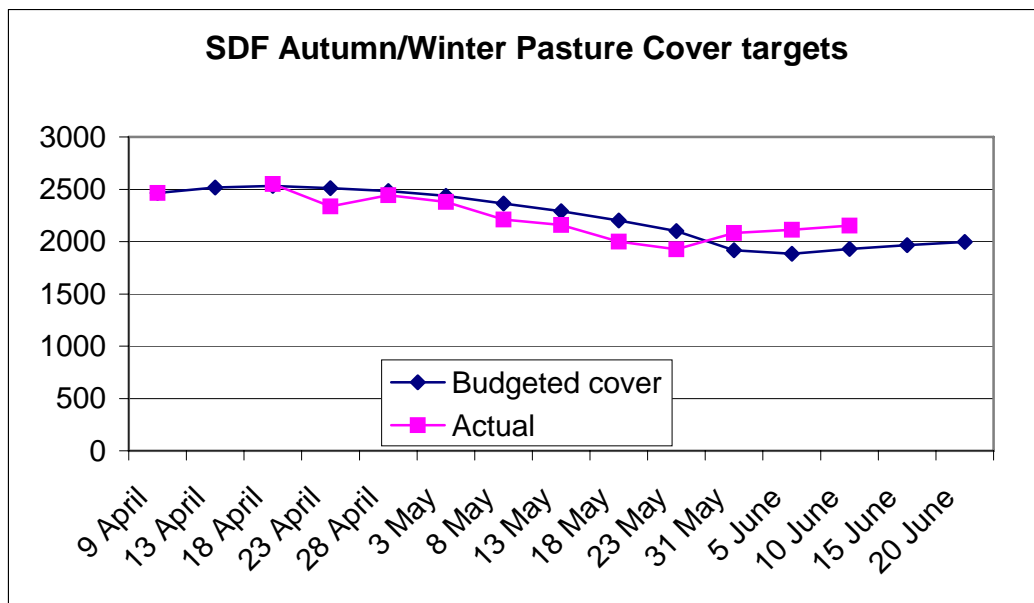
Wednesday, 11th June 2008

Critical issues for the short term

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

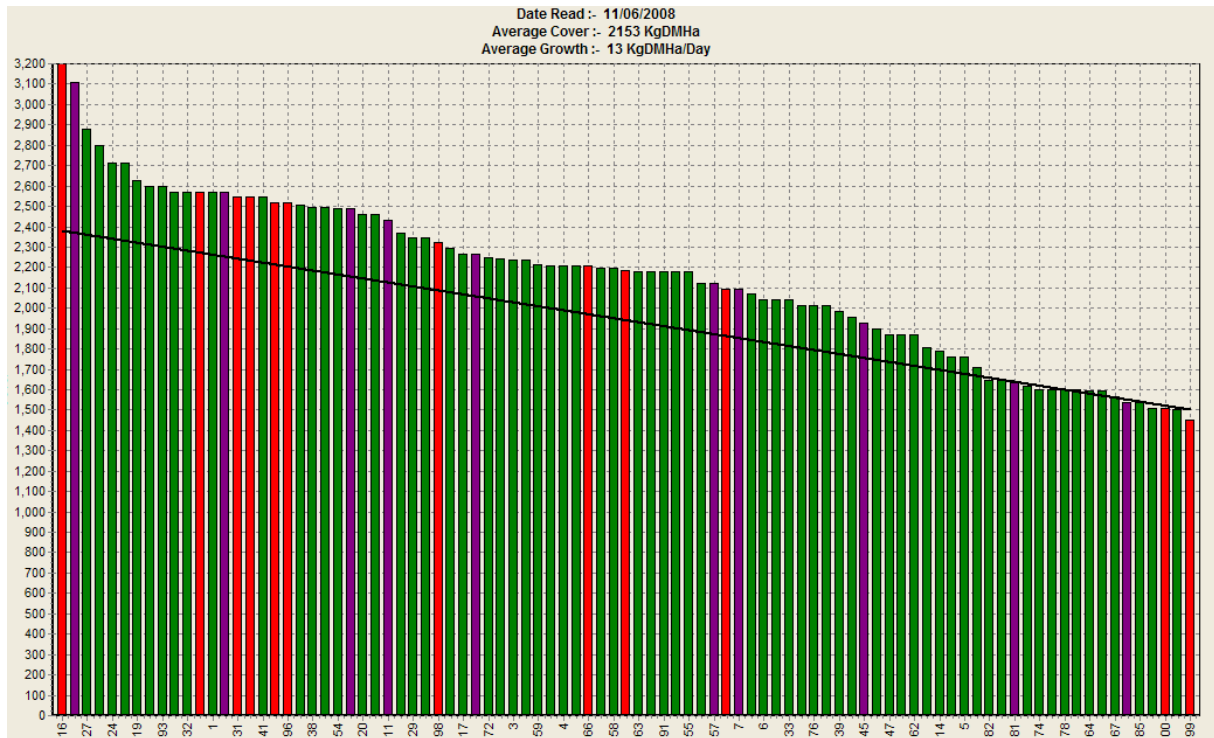
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance
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4. Soil temperatures have held at 7 degrees C.
5. There was 35.7 mm rainfall measured since last farm walk on the 27th May and with the cloud cover this past week there has been no frosts.
6. Average pasture cover has increased from 1927 kg DM / ha last week, up to 2153 kg DM / ha.
7. Average pasture growth rate this week has been 13 kg DM / ha /day.
8. The graph comparing budgeted average pasture cover as predicted by the autumn feed budget with actual is shown below:



We are now above the budgeted target cover for this week.

9. This week's 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 11 June. The wedge shows that we have more grass than target. The paddocks at the bottom of the sedge show that the proper post grazing target residuals have been reached. There are two paddocks at the top of the wedge that are already getting too long especially for new grass. These paddocks will be 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.

11. The last 26 culls are still grazing waste areas on the farm because of lack of space at the works.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday 25th June**. On behalf of the **Management Group** Brad Houghton (Farm Manager), Alex Hunter (Consultant), Adrian van Bysterveldt (DairyNZ), Josh Dobbs (Herd Manager).