

SDF Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday, 27th May 2009

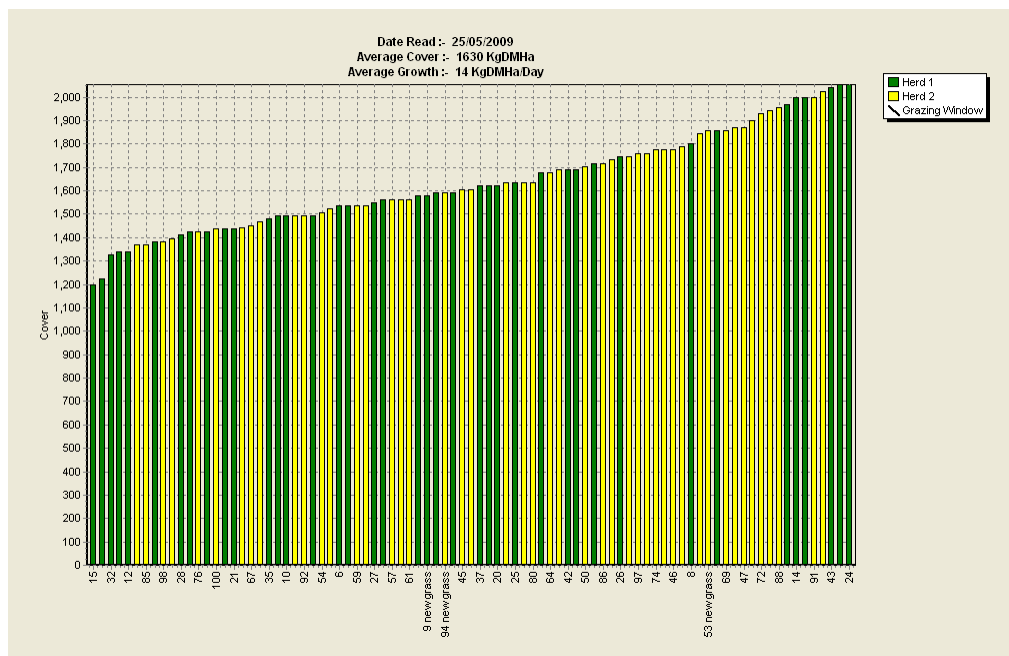
Total Effective Ha: 295ha
Winter Crop Ha: 28ha
Area in Grass Ha: 255ha
Area out Direct Drilled Short Rotation: 12 ha
Cows in Milk: 0 cows

Critical issues for the short term

1. **Wintering cows**
2. **Farm Maintenance**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

3. Soil temperatures at 9 am have averaged 8.3C this week, which is the same as last week.
4. Pasture growth this week was 14 kg DM/ha/day, consistent with last week's 14kgDM/ha/day.
5. Average pasture cover is 1630 kg DM/ha, down 43kgDM/ha from 1673 kg DM/ha last week.
6. The 26th May 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 has been taken off as we no longer have cows on pasture.

8. The silage stack is now closed.
9. We continued offering 14.5kgDM to the milking herd as this is a more realistic feeding level based on our pre and post grazing measurements. Now cows are dry and on crop, allocation is 14kgDM/cow/day made up of 10kg of crop and 4 kg baleage offered.
10. We have sent 180 cows to grazing near Belfour and will be sending 20 more later this week.
11. The round last week was 1/43th of the farm grazed per day.
12. No more urea is being applied this season.
13. 80 ha has had an autumn application of eco-n.
14. PGG Wrightson's did dry matter assessments and weighed our winter crops on Monday 4th May. The samples are back and the average tDM/ha for the crops is below what was expected at 13.8tDM/ha. This is due to paddock 17 being sown late and only having a yield of 8.3tDM/ha.

Paddock No	Crop	Cultivar	Dry Matter %		Yield (tDM/ha)		
			Leaf	Bulb	Leaf	Bulb	Total
70	Swede	Keystone	14	11	2.7	9.1	11.8
17	Swede/Kale		12	9	3.8	4.4	8.3
5	Swede	Aparima	11	11	4.8	9.0	13.7
58	Swede	Aparima	13	10	4.0	9.9	13.9
82	Swede	Aparima	14	11	4.3	12.0	16.3
89	Swede	Aparima	12	10	4.7	10.0	14.7
78	Swede	Keystone	13	10	3.0	10.2	13.2
77	Fodder Beet	Colosse	12	20	5.4	13.1	18.6
51	Kale	Regal	11				11.8
93	Kale	Soverign	13				13.8
55	Kale	Soverign	15				14.9

Paddock		DM%	CP%	CP%
93 Kale		13.2	16.9	16.9
51 Kale		9.7	21.8	21.8
58 Swede	Leaf	10.4	25.6	25.6
	Bulb	10	7.6	7.6
78 Swede	Leaf	12.2	21.2	21.2
	Bulb	10.0	8.2	8.2
77 Fodder Beet	Leaf	11.5	16.9	16.9
	Bulb	18.6	7.0	7.0

15. We have our pasture samples back and our ME is an average of 12.1MJME Ravensdown have sampled our baleage so will have an update shortly.

Paddock	DM	ME	Digestibility	CP	NDF
79 (new grass)	16.7	12.1	83.7	22.8	43.5
20	16.9	12.3	84.0	26.3	45.4
8	16.9	11.8	79.8	20.3	48.8
AVERAGE	16.8	12.1	82.5	23.1	45.9

16. Production was 1.88 kg MS/ha/day and per cow to 0.79 kg MS/cow/day. The herd was dried off on 25 May.

17. Mastitis detection and control has still been a big focus under the new management. The SCC has ranged between 350-380,000 this week.

18. 32 further culls have been dried off this week. To date we have culled 116 cows the first 41 cows were culled on Thursday 26th March. Then 43 were culled on 22nd April. 20 on the 20th May and lastly 12 culled on the 26th May.

Future Management Planning

1. Set up crop paddocks
2. Updating procedures manuals etc
3. Analysis of our reproductive intervention – CIDR's and induction, how have these cows performed reproductively?
4. Winter farm maintenance – gravel around troughs, power,

The WEEKLY farm walk will be on **Wednesday 3rd June 2009.**

On behalf of the **Management Group** Chris Herud (Farm Supervisor), Barry Bethune (Farm Manager), Sharn Edwards, Desiree Moseley (COs DairyNZ).

SDF Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday, 20th May 2009

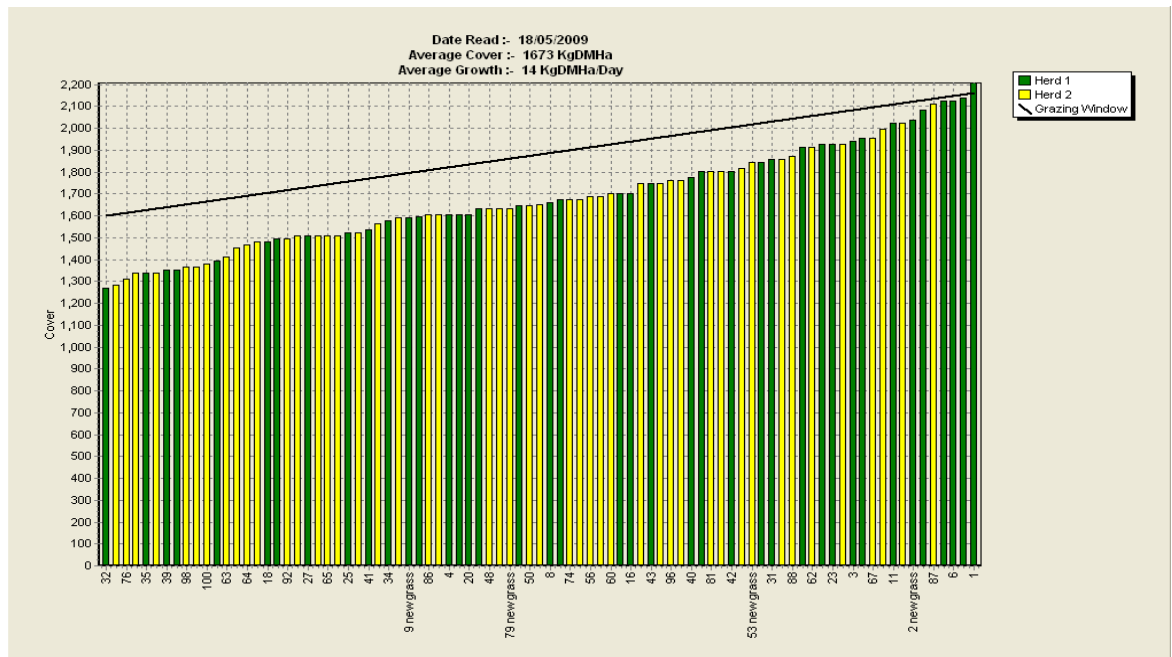
Total Effective Ha: 295ha
Winter Crop Ha: 28ha
Area in Grass Ha: 255ha
Area out Direct Drilled Short Rotation: 12 ha
Cows in Milk: 583 cows

Critical issues for the short term

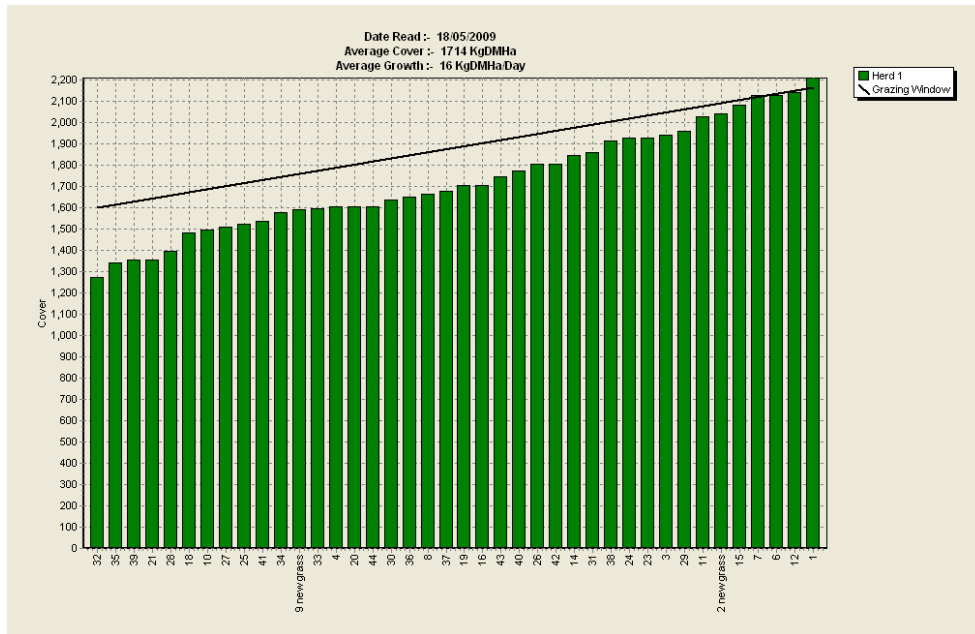
1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1600 kg DM /ha**
2. **Setting up for late Autumn early Winter – hold the round, identify core herd for next season, feed budget and condition score increase**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

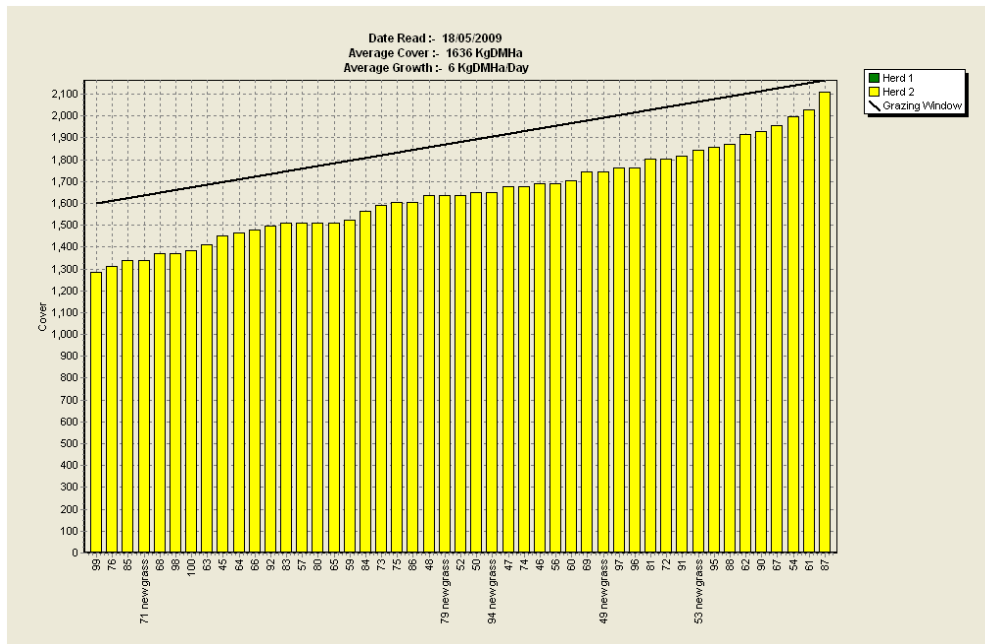
3. Soil temperatures at 9 am have averaged 8.3C this week, an increase of 0.4 degrees over the last week.
4. Pasture growth this week was 14kgDM/ha/day, very consistent with last week's 13kgDM/ha/day.
5. Average pasture cover is 1673 kg DM/ha, down 193kgDM/ha from 1866kgDM/ha last week. Due to the bad weather that occurred while plating the farm we feel that we have a slightly higher cover ahead of the cows than that indicated by the wedge.
6. The 18th May 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 255 ha in pasture (12 ha has been taken out of the round, sprayed, and drilled in short rotation ryegrass on 17th March). The stocking rate is 2.29 cows per pasture ha and we are now working on cow intakes of 6.5 kg DM of pasture (14.7kgDM total), using the x140+500 rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover for this week is $(2.29 \times 35.2 \text{ day rotation} \times 6.5) + 1600 = 2163 \text{ kg DM /ha}$.
8. Below are the feed wedge's for the two herds, the 1st is Herd 1



This graph is for herd 2



9. The pasture allocation has been dropped to 8.5kgDM/cow per day and a total allowance of 14.5kgDM/cow per day.

10. The round last week was 1/35th of the farm grazed per day.

11. No more urea is being applied this season.

12. 80ha will have an autumn application of eco-n applied in the next week.

13. PGG Wrightson's did dry matter assessments and weighed our winter crops on Monday 4th May. The samples are back and the average tDM/ha for the crops is below what was expected at 13.8tDM/ha. This is due to paddock 17 being sown late and only having a yield of 8.3tDM/ha.

Paddock No	Crop	Cultivar	Dry Matter %		Yield (tDM/ha)		
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58	Swede	Aparima	13	10	4.0	9.9	13.9
82	Swede	Aparima	14	11	4.3	12.0	16.3
89	Swede	Aparima	12	10	4.7	10.0	14.7
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77 Fodder Beet	Leaf	11.5	16.9	16.9
	Bulb	18.6	7.0	7.0

14. We have our pasture samples back and our ME is an average of 12.1MJME. Ravensdown have sampled our baleage so will have an update shortly.

Paddock	DM	ME	Digestibility	CP	NDF
79 (new grass)	16.7	12.1	83.7	22.8	43.5
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AVERAGE	16.8	12.1	82.5	23.1	45.9

15. Production is 2.26 kg MS/ha/day and up per cow to 0.96 kg MS/cow/day. The herd went on once a day last Friday. There were three main contributing factors to this decision, increasing lameness of the herd with this wet weather and the declining average pasture covers as well as maintaining condition score.

16. Mastitis detection and control has still been a big focus under the new management. The SCC has ranged between 234-254,000 this week.
17. No further culls have been dried off this week. To date we have culled 84 cows the first 41 cows were culled on Thursday 26th March. The remaining 43 were culled on 22nd April.
18. No cows have been dried off this week. Total dry cows still sits at 41. These cows are cleaning up behind the milkers where necessary.

Future Management Planning

1. Hold round length going into Winter
2. Culling and drying off decisions
3. Updating procedures manuals etc
4. Analysis of our reproductive intervention – CIDR's and induction, how have these cows performed reproductively?

The WEEKLY farm walk will be on **Wednesday 27th May 2009**.

On behalf of the **Management Group** Chris Herud (Farm Supervisor), Barry Bethune (Farm Manager), Sharn Edwards, Desiree Moseley (COs DairyNZ).

SDF Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday, 13th May 2009

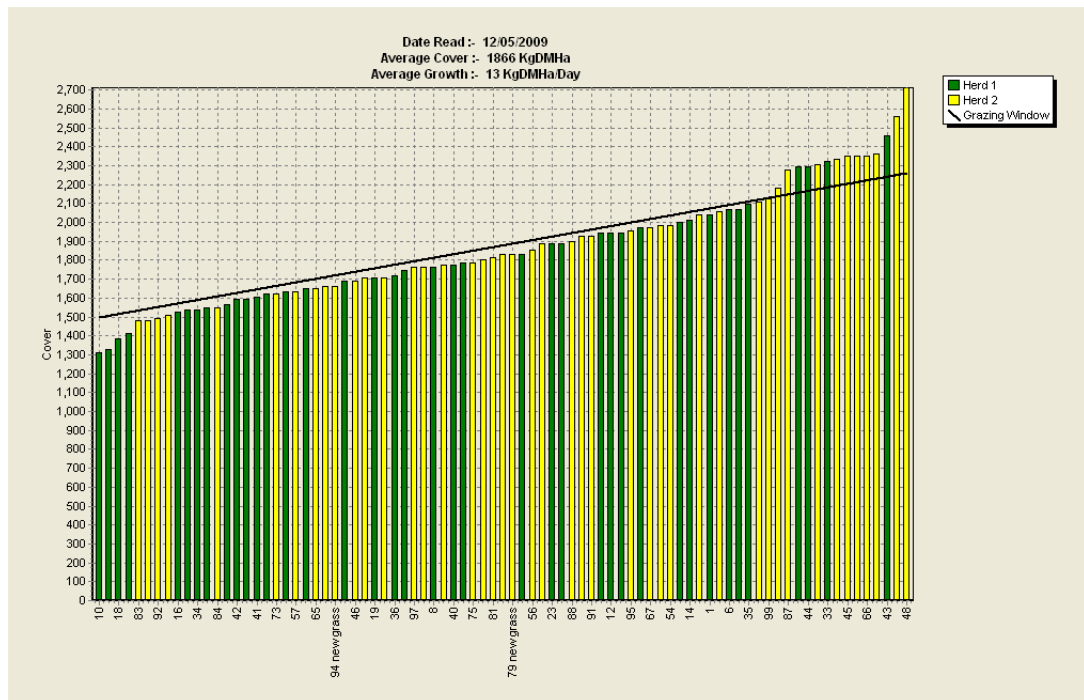
Total Effective Ha: 295ha
Winter Crop Ha: 28ha
Area in Grass Ha: 255ha
Area out Direct Drilled Short Rotation: 12 ha
Cows in Milk: 585 cows

Critical issues for the short term

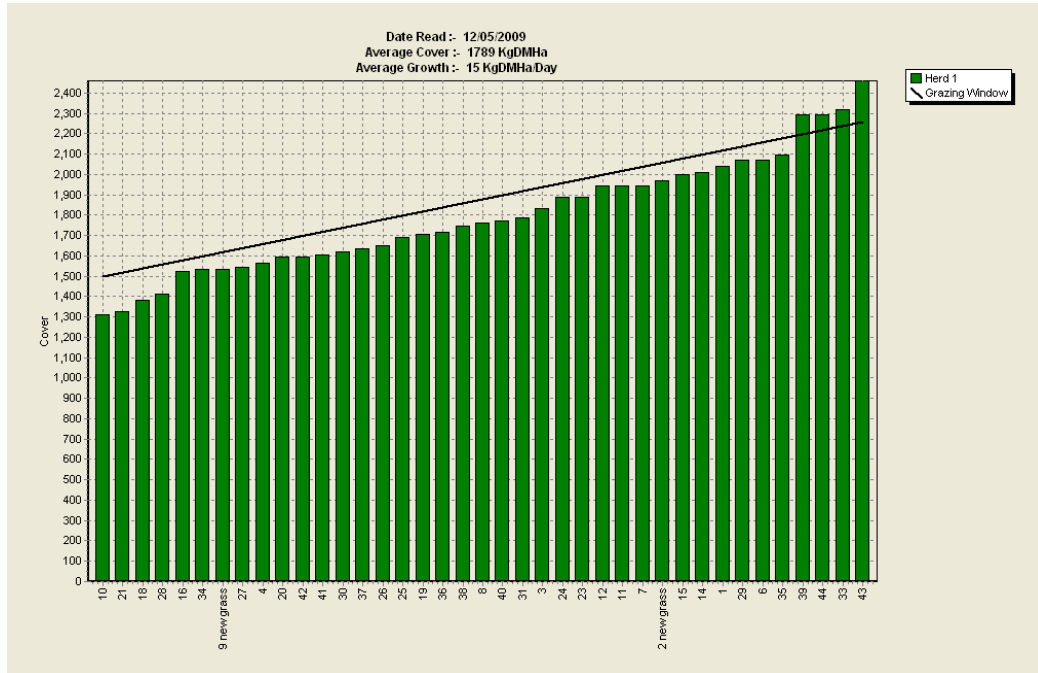
1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1600 kg DM /ha**
2. **Setting up for late Autumn early Winter – hold the round, identify core herd for next season, feed budget and condition score increase**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

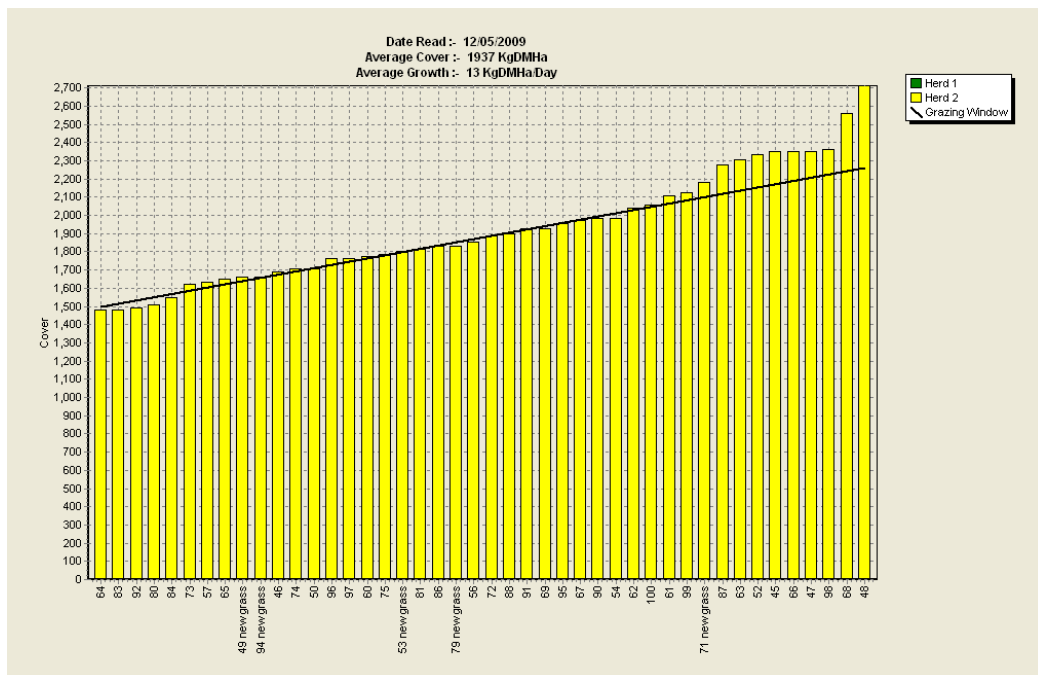
3. Soil temperatures at 9 am have averaged 7.9 C this week, a decrease of 0.8 degrees over last week.
4. Pasture growth this week was 13 kg DM/ha/day, very consistent with last week's 12kgDM/ha/day. This is still much lower than last year's 19kgDM/ha/day average for May.
5. Average pasture cover is 1866 kg DM/ha, down 146kgDM/ha from 2012 kg DM/ha last week.
6. The 11th May pasture feed wedge is below. The green bars are paddocks grazed by herd 1; the yellow bars are grazed by herd 2.



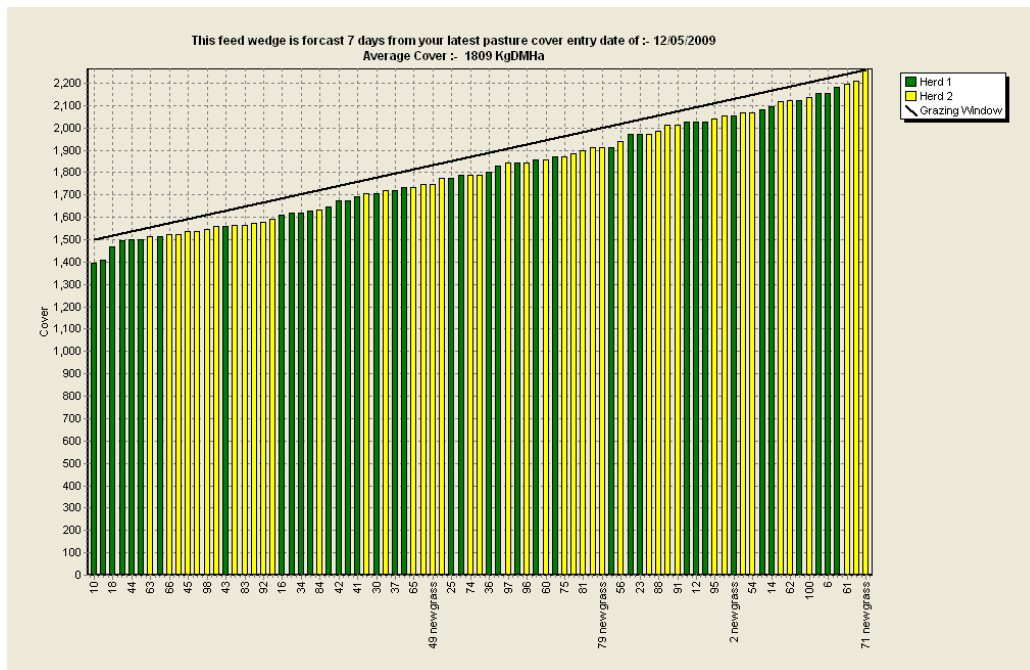
7. The target line is based on an area of 255 ha in pasture (12 ha has been taken out of the round, sprayed, and drilled in short rotation ryegrass on 17th March). The stocking rate is 2.46 cows per pasture ha and we are now working on cow intakes of 9 kg DM of pasture (15kgDM total), using the x140+500 rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover for this week is $(2.46 \times 34.55 \text{ day rotation} \times 9) + 1500 = 2265 \text{ kg DM /ha}$.
8. Below are the feed wedges for the two herds, the 1st is Herd 1. The average pasture cover is 1789kgDM/ha with a growth rate 15kgDM/ha/day.



This graph is for herd 2. It shows an average pasture cover of 1937kgDM/ha and a growth rate of 13kgDM/ha/day.



9. Below is what the wedge is expected to look like for the farm in 7 days given a growth rate of 12kgDM/ha/day and leaving 1500kgDM/ha. It predicts that the cover will drop to 1806kgDM/ha on the 19th May. This is causing us to re-evaluate our feed budget and assess our milking frequency going forward to protect both pasture cover and cow condition.



10. We have just started feeding out stack silage. Feeding levels will be increased over time as required based on residuals and pre-grazing cover. Currently we are feeding out four loads comprising of 1200kgDM per load (4800kgDM total) or 6kgDM/cow/day.
11. Feed allocation is currently 15kgDM/cow/day made up of 9kgDM pasture and 6kgDM pasture silage.
12. We are using the dry cows to manage our residuals in our pastures in order to have them nice and clean in a good growing state for next spring.
13. The round last week was 1/35th of the farm grazed per day.
14. We have applied 50kg/ha of Urea to the whole farm. The first half of the farm was done on the April 1st and the remaining half was applied on the 23rd April. Both applications went on with the autumn fertiliser. The effluent area did not receive any fertiliser but did get a dressing of urea.
15. No more urea is being applied this season.
16. 80ha will have an autumn application of eco-n applied in the next week.
17. PGG Wrightson's did dry matter assessments and weighed our winter crops on Monday 4th May. The results confirm we have 15tDM/ha crops on average. This ranges from late sown Swedes at 8tDM/ha through to 18tDM/ha fodder beet crops. It

was fascinating that there was on average only 7 fodder beet bulbs per square metre, approximately 257gDM/bulb.

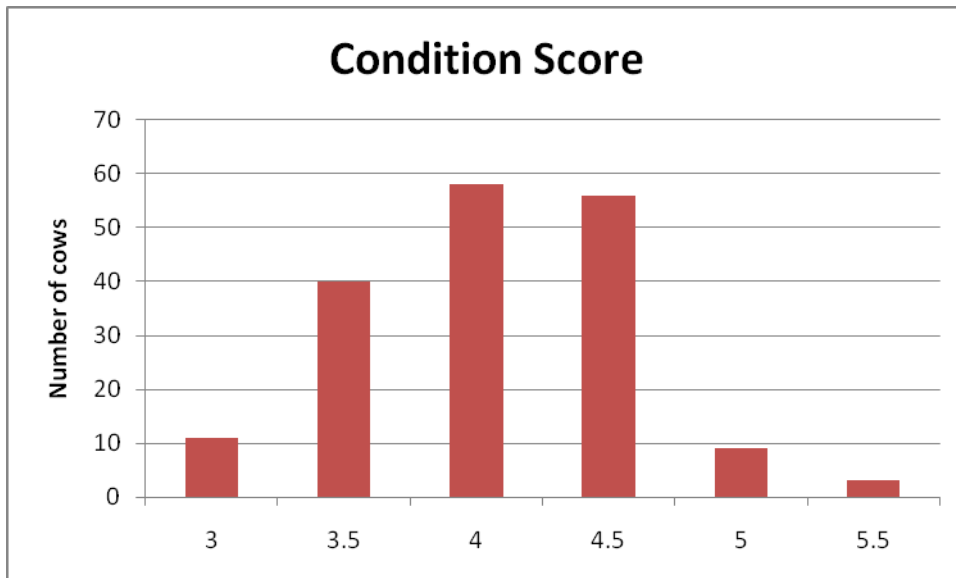
18. We have our pasture samples back and our ME is an average of 12.1MJMERavensdown have sampled our baleage so will have an update shortly.

Paddock	DM	ME	Digestibility	CP	NDF
79 (new grass)	16.7	12.1	83.7	22.8	43.5
20	16.9	12.3	84.0	26.3	45.4
8	16.9	11.8	79.8	20.3	48.8
AVERAGE	16.8	12.1	82.5	23.1	45.9

19. We also have back our stack silage and balage (set out in crops) results back they are:

Crop Paddock	DM	ME	Digestibility	CP	NDF
70	26.7	12	81.9	22.2	39.2
55	54.4	11.7	80	17.8	45.5
89	45.8	11.1	75.7	17.4	42.2
77	42.6	11.7	80.2	18.8	41.5
Average	42.2	11.6	79.45	19.05	42.1
Stack Silage	29.9	9.8	61.2	13.5	53.3

20. Production is 2.62 kg MS/ha/day and down per cow to 1.15 kg MS/cow/day.
21. Mastitis detection and control has still been a big focus under the new management. The SCC has dropped again down to 208,000 this week.
22. Lameness in the herd has also been attended to with the OAD mob being comprised mainly of lame cows.
23. We had our last herd test for the year on the 12th and 13th March. From this test we have made culling and drying off decisions.
24. No further culls have been dried off this week. To date we have culled 84cows the first 41cows were culled on Thursday 26th March. The remaining 43 were culled on 22nd April.
25. No cows have been dried off this week. Total dry cows still sits at 41. These cows are cleaning up behind the milkers where necessary.
26. Below is a graph showing the range condition score and the number of cows in each score. 177 cows in total were scored across the two herds by two different people at the same time. The average of the herd is 4.06.



The table below shows the breakdown of the herd condition score.

Condition score	3	3.5	4	4.5	5	5.5
Number of cows	11	40	58	56	9	3
Percentage of sample group	6.2%%	22.6%	32.8%	31.6%	5.1%	1.7%

Future Management Planning

1. Hold round length going into autumn
2. Culling and drying off decisions
3. Updating procedures manuals etc
4. Analysis of our reproductive intervention – CIDR's and induction, how have these cows performed reproductively?

The WEEKLY farm walk will be on **Wednesday 20th May 2009**.

On behalf of the **Management Group** Chris Herud (Farm Supervisor), Barry Bethune (Farm Manager), Sharn Edwards (CO DairyNZ).

SDF Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday, 6th May 2009

Total Effective Ha: 295ha

Winter Crop Ha: 28ha

Area in Grass Ha: 255ha

Area out Direct Drilled Short Rotation: 12 ha

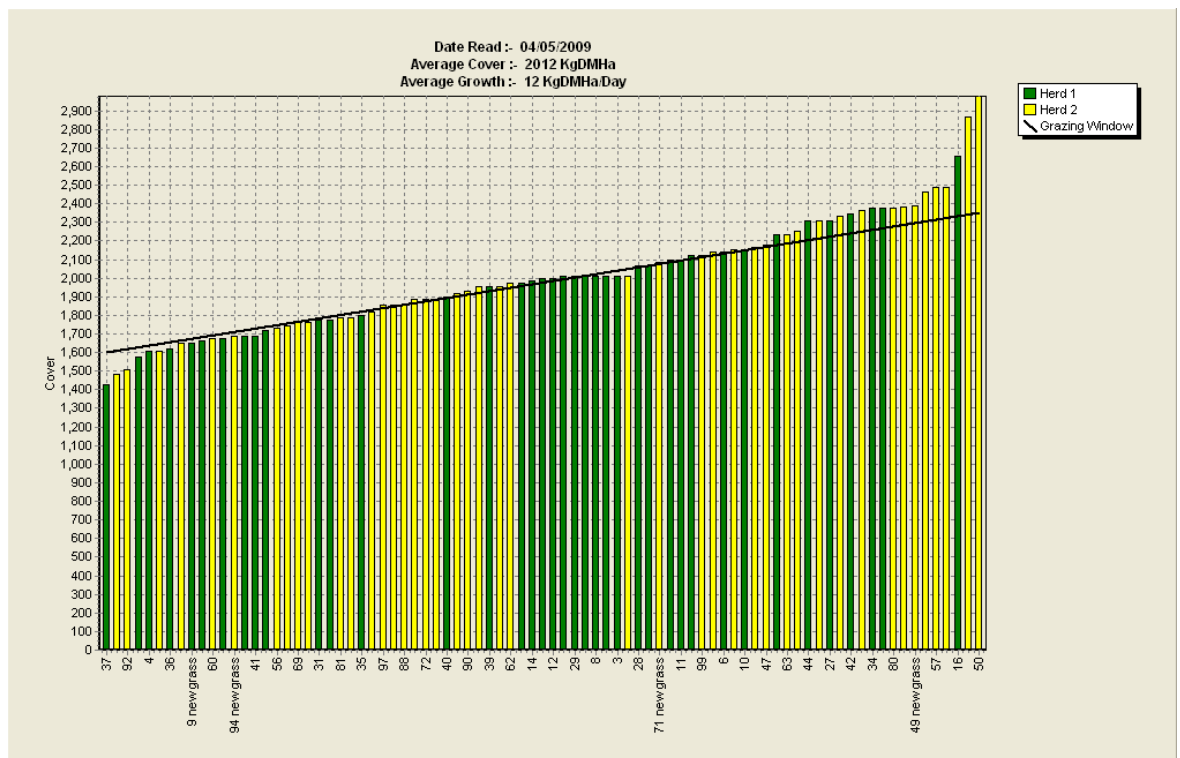
Cows in Milk: 585 cows

Critical issues for the short term

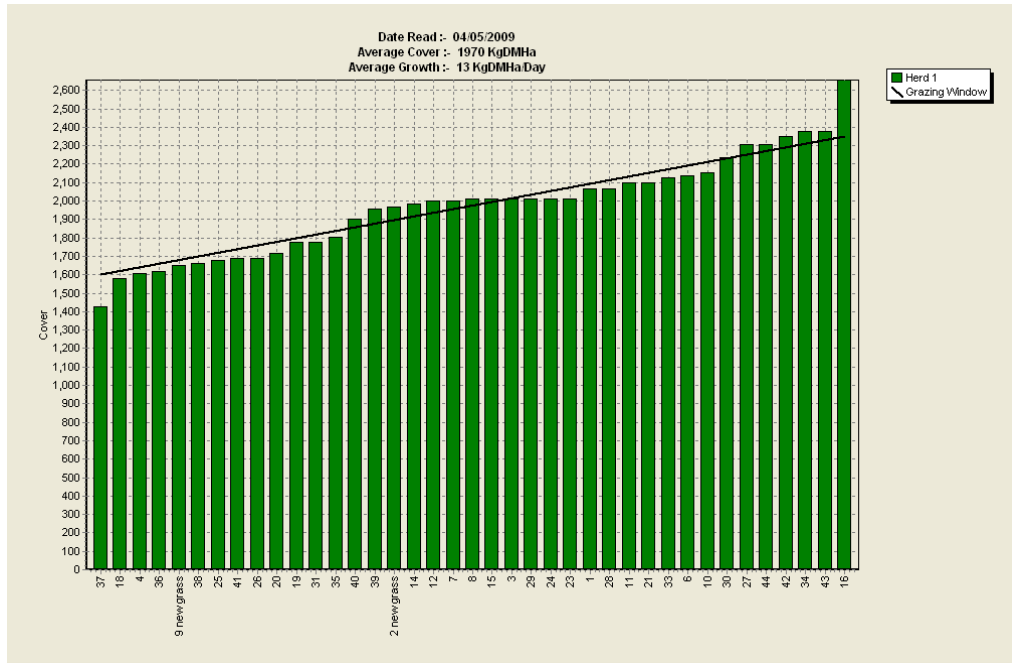
1. **Maintain pasture residuals at 1600 kg DM /ha.**
2. **Setting up for late Autumn early Winter – hold the round, identify core herd for next season, feed budget and condition score increase.**

Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

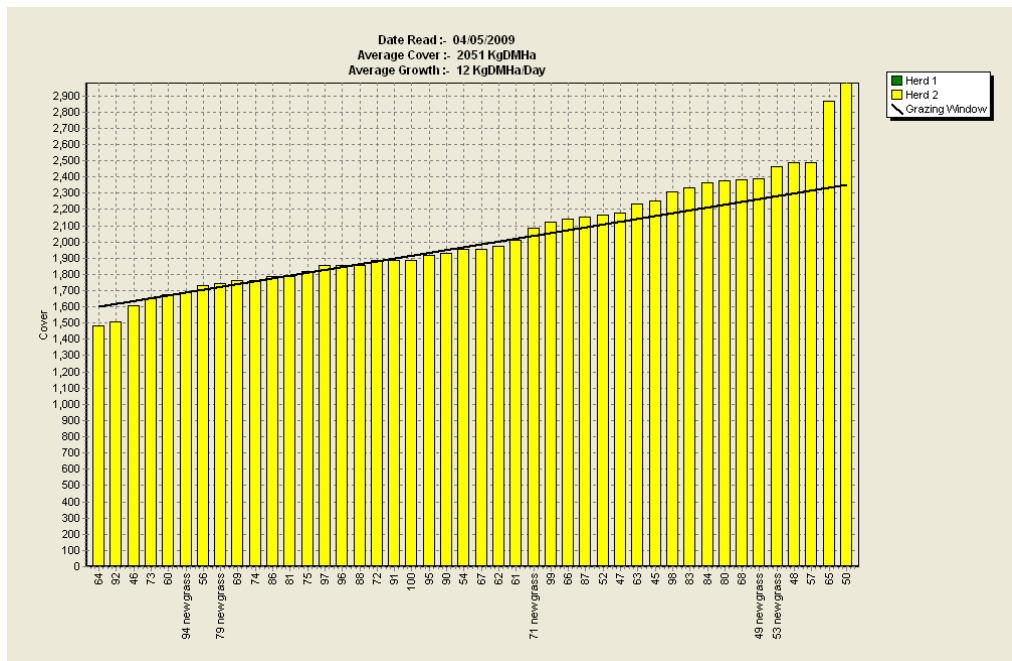
3. Soil temperatures at 9.00 am have averaged 8.7°C this week, a decrease of 3 degrees over the last week.
4. Pasture growth this week was 12 kg DM/ha/day, a drop of 14kgDM/ha/day since last week's 26kgDM/ha/day. The drop can be attributed to the drop in soil temperature.
5. Average pasture cover is 2012 kg DM/ha, down from 2182 kg DM/ha last week.
6. The 4th May pasture feed wedge is below. The green bars are paddocks grazed by herd 1; the yellow bars are grazed by herd 2.



- The target line is based on an area of 255 ha in pasture (12 ha has been taken out of the round, sprayed, and drilled in short rotation ryegrass on 17th March). The stocking rate is 2.46 cows per pasture ha and we are now working on cow intakes of 8.5 kg DM of pasture (14.5kgDM total), using the x140+500 rising plate meter equation. The pre-grazing target cover for this week is $(2.46 \times 36 \text{ day rotation} \times 8.5) + 1600 = 2352 \text{ kg DM /ha}$.
- Below are the feed wedge's for the two herds, the 1st is Herd 1



This graph is for herd 2



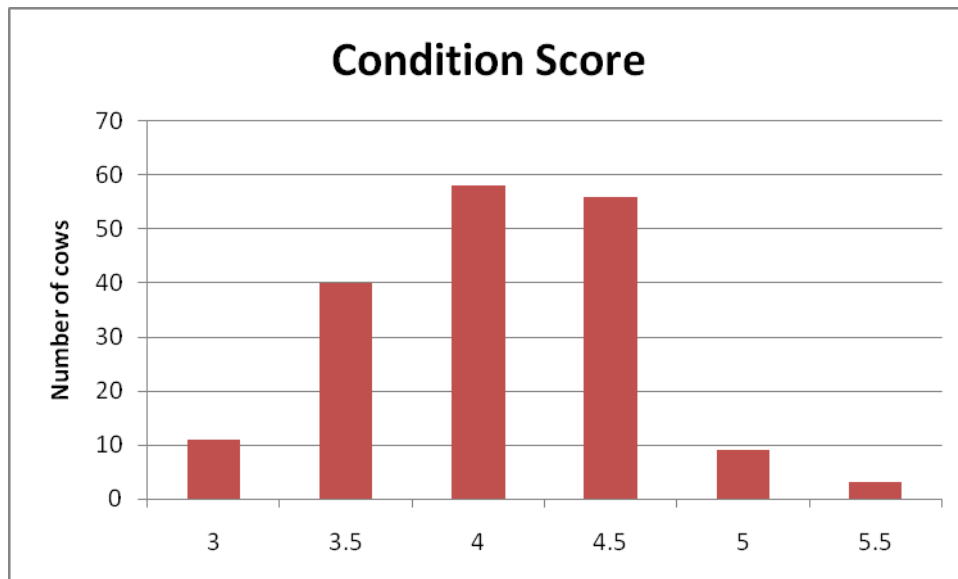
- Herd 1 has a lower cover of 1970kg DM/ha which is due to the large lame cow mob grazing herd 1 paddocks. As a result herd 1 is being fed more silage to compensate for the lower cover.

10. Herd 2 has a bit of a surplus on the wedge so more cows are in this herd and less silage is being fed out to them.
11. We have just started feeding out stack silage. Feeding levels will be increased over time as required based on residuals and pre-grazing cover.
12. We have dropped feed allocation from 16 kgDM down to 14.5 kgDM as this is a more realistic feeding level based on our pre and post grazing measurements. In some paddocks we are using the dry cows to clean up the poor quality residuals.
13. We are using the dry cows to manage our residuals in our pastures in order to have them nice and clean in a good growing state for next spring.
14. The pasture allocation has been dropped to 8.5kgDM/cow per day and a total allowance of 14.5kgDM/cow per day.
15. The round last week was 1/36th of the farm grazed per day.
16. We have applied 50kg/ha of Urea to the whole farm. The first half of the farm was done on the 1st April, and the remaining half was applied on the 23rd April. Both applications went on with the autumn fertiliser. The effluent area did not receive any fertiliser but did get a dressing of urea.
17. No more urea is being applied this season.
18. 80ha will have an autumn application of eco-n applied in the next week.
19. PGG Wrightson's did dry matter assessments and weighed our winter crops on Monday 4th May. At this point we don't have the results but they are confident that the crops are in excess of 15t DM/ha.
20. We have our pasture samples back and our ME is an average of 12.1 MJ/ME. Ravensdown have sampled our baleage so will have an update shortly.

Paddock	DM	ME	Digestibility	CP	NDF
79 (new grass)	16.7	12.1	83.7	22.8	43.5
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21. Production is 2.7 kg MS/ha/day and up per cow to 1.2 kg MS/cow/day.
22. Mastitis detection and control has still been a big focus under the new management. The SCC has ranged between 234-254,000 this week.
23. Lameness in the herd has also been attended to with the OAD mob being comprised mainly of lame cows. An extra 17 cows have been added to this herd for lameness.
24. We had our last herd test for the year on the 12th and 13th March. From this test we have made culling and drying off decisions.

25. No further culls have been dried off this week. To date we have culled 84 cows, the first 41 cows were culled on Thursday 26th March. The remaining 43 were culled on 22nd April.
26. No cows have been dried off this week. Total dry cows still sits at 41. These cows are cleaning up behind the milkers where necessary.
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