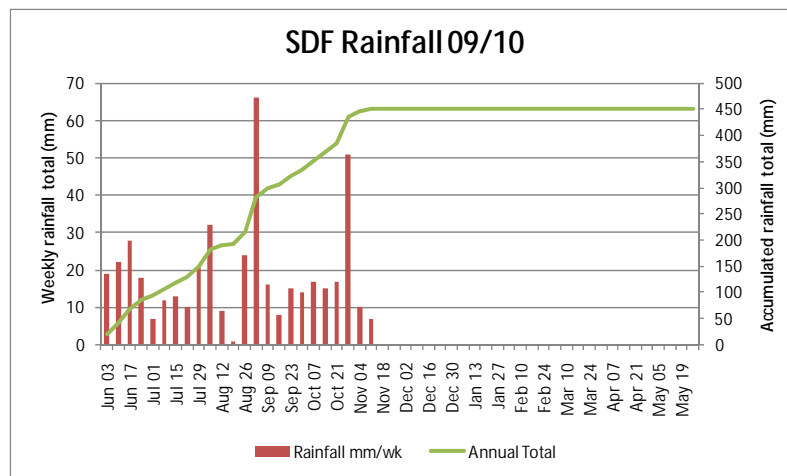
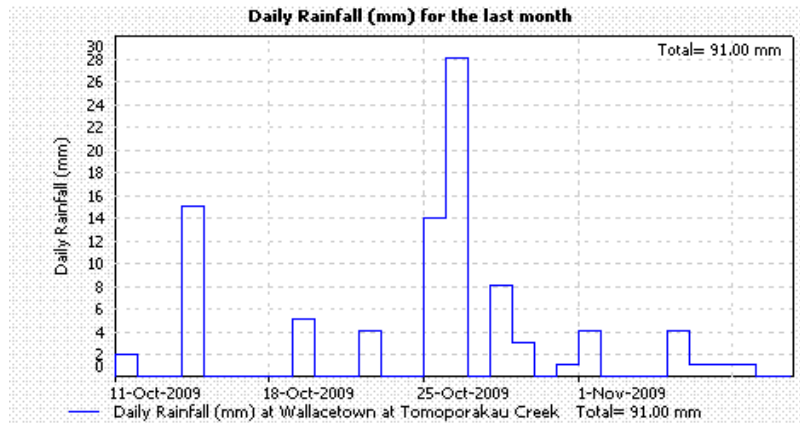


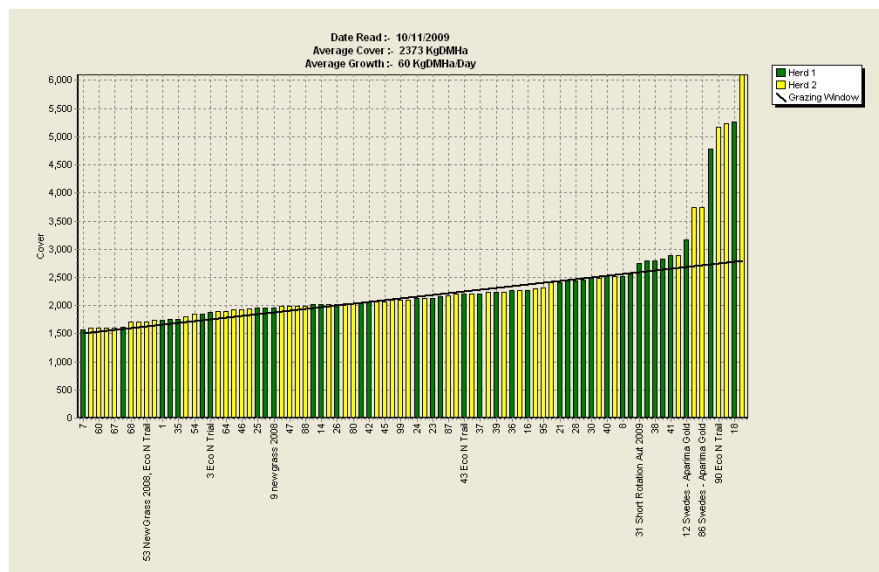


12. The farm had a total of 7mm rain last week. The graph below shows the rainfall distribution over the last month.



13. Above is a graph showing weekly rainfall and accumulated total for the season. The date represents total the week ending.

14. The 3rd November pasture feed wedge is below. The average pasture cover is 2373 kg DM/ha. With silage paddocks excluded it is 2100 kgDM/ha.



15. The target line is based on an area of 232 ha being grazed (excludes area shut for baleage/crop/new grass). The pre-grazing target cover for this week is 2750kg DM /ha. This is based on a 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the farm being grazed, offering 18kgDM/cow/day. We have 750 cows on the platform, the targets for this week are calculated as follows:

$$(3.2\text{cows/ha} \times 18\text{kgDM/cow/day} \times 20\text{day rotation}) + 1600\text{kgDM/ha} = 2750\text{kgDM/ha pre grazing}$$

$(3.2\text{cows/ha} \times 18\text{kgDM/cow/day} \times 20\text{day rotation})/2 + 1600\text{kgDM/ha} = 2176\text{kgDM/ha APC target}$

16. Over the last week the cows have grazed off 4 of 11 the paddocks shut up for silage. This equated to 12.29ha being grazed off. The remaining 7 paddocks or 22.46ha is being cut tomorrow (Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November). The situation on farm has improved a lot in the last few days of good weather.
17. Fodder beet plants are up out of the ground and have had their first herbicide application. A further application is planned for two weeks time. The area of crop put in is budgeted to winter 700 of the 810cows at 10kg/cow/day of crop and 4kgDM/cow/day of baleage (based on an 85 day winter). The total area is 36ha. This is made up in the following areas:

a. Fodder beet	9.42ha	(1 <sup>st</sup> crop)	Budgeted yield	21tDM/ha
b. Swedes	11.7ha	(1 <sup>st</sup> crop)		15tDM/ha
c. Kale	14.96	(2 <sup>nd</sup> crop)		15tDM/ha

The winter crop area is slightly higher than the original 33ha planned but with a lower than target cow numbers more area was able to be taken out and will lower wintering costs next year (original plan was to winter only 600 cows on farm).

18. The planned nitrogen use for the farm till the end of the season is as follows:

For the two weeks following 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-	168ha x 65kg urea/ha =	10.9t urea
For the week ending 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	-	30ha x 100kg urea/ha =	3.0t urea
	-	62ha x 50kg urea/ha =	3.1t urea
	-	Total	= <b>17t urea</b>

The early higher rate (65kg) is pre-empting a shortfall in December. It is being applied to the area grazed and paddocks cut for baleage. The second lot (100kg) is to target a specific area (30ha) to make stack silage from. The remaining area is to ensure pasture growth rates hit budget.

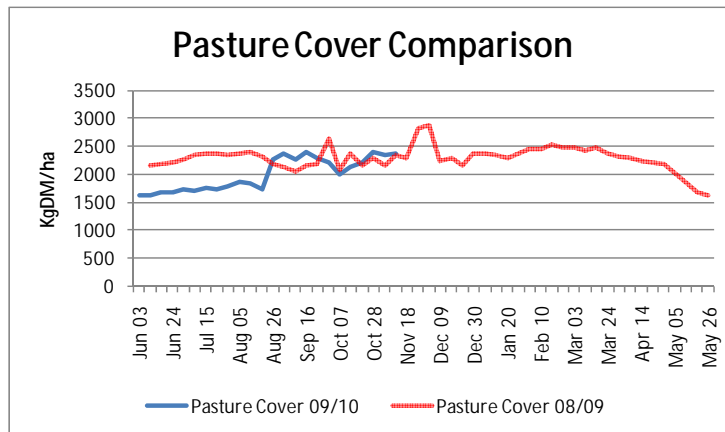
Total nitrogen usage up to Christmas given this plan is 90kgN/ha.

19. We are budgeting on growing and harvesting all supplements on the farm this season. The targets including what is already on hand are as follows:

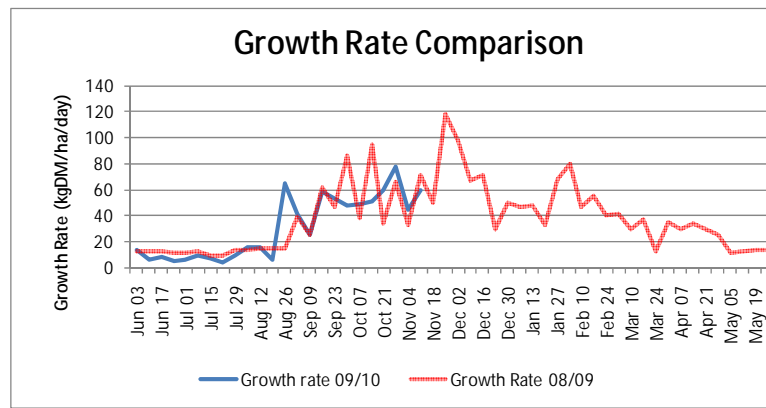
Winter baleage	-	1200bales
Silage for extending lactation in the autumn and allowance for spring.	-	260,000 kgDM

Of this 160,000kgDM silage is on hand (left over from last year) 575 bales of baleage has been made/left over from last year.

20. Below is a graph comparing the pasture cover for this year compared to last season's.



21. Pasture growth this week was 60kg DM/ha/day. Below is a graph with a comparison of growth rate for this season compared to last season.



22. SCC last week ranged from 129,000-199,000cells/ml. 43 cows are in the treatment mob having been treated for mastitis. Staph aureus has been detected from milk samples taken and the infected quarters treated accordingly. The plan for these high SCC sub-clinical cows is to draft them out and milk them at the end of each milking so as not to infect other cows. This also enables us to send milk while managing SCC levels.
23. Now that we are getting closer to the end of calving we can see that the most likely result for peak cows milked will be well down on that expected (770). At this point our peak cows milked used for calculations on the data sheet is 730 cows. This increase back up to 730 is due to unknown cows (EID tag failure) not being read by protrack. We had assumed some missing cows had died. We have resurrected 6 cows that are in fact still here leaving our dead cow tally at 34.
24. Currently production is up 1000kgMS compared to last year. October however was very disappointing being 6098kgMS behind target. Some but not all of the reasons for this are a fire in the switch board causing cooling issues resulting in milk not being collected (fed to calves). This amounted to approximately 1530KgMS. In addition to this the SCC went over 400,000scc/ml so 64cows were taken out of the herd and treated for mastitis. As mentioned above 43 of these are still out. This does not allow for all of the short fall as the cows were only producing 1.91kg average for the month.

Blood tests are going to be done to see if there are any underlying issues.

In addition, the management team and feed committee have been looking very hard at the grazing management. Residuals are plating much higher than the policy of 1450-1550kgDM/ha, however, it is agreed that they appear to be very even and consistent with little left available to eat. A possible reason is the Couch and other non-ryegrass species within the pastures causing the problem. The quality of the pasture being offered is excellent and the feed committee is confident that we will be able to limit a monthly production drop off from peak to less than 4%.

25. The target this year was to milk 770 cows and produce 310,000kgMS. Although the farm is only going to milk 730 cows, with confidence in pasture quality and with a drop off of 4% per month from peak 300,000kgMS is still achievable. To reach 310,000kgMS, as planned, the farm is actively trying to source extra cows.
26. Below is a table of the pasture sample taken on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

	Paddock 69	Paddock 74	Normal Range
DM%	16.9	17.2	9-35
Crude Protein %	27.3	27.4	10-25
ADF %	24.4	23.4	15-25
NDF %	45.8	41.6	45-55
ME	12.5	12.1	10-11

Updated pasture quality data will be available next week.

27. Eight bulls were put out with the heifers (214) on the 24<sup>th</sup> October. This is a 1:27 bull to heifer ratio.

28. AB started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. To date 305 cows have been put up for AB. Our target is 31-32 cows per day. Currently we have averaged just over 30.5 cows per day. At this rate the farm is on track for a 88% submission rate with no intervention.
29. At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 weeks any cows that have not been put up for AB will be put in a mob with any known culls and run with bulls. When identified on heat they will be mated to AB and returned to the main herd. The bulls used will be a beef marker breed for easy calf identification. With 6 weeks of AB this should ensure we have enough replacement calves next year.
30. At the end of 6 weeks of AB, 19 bulls will be on farm to run with the cows – 1:38 or given a 70% non-return rate a ratio of 1:15
31. Prior to mating the farm staff had two mating training days. LIC conducted an in-depth session which included heat detection, staff responsibilities, and how the information gathered can be put into Protrack and utilized.

Future Management Planning
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1. Updating financial budget and cash flow for 2009/2010 season
  - a. Number of bulls needed and delivery timing.
  - b. Feed budget monitored and surpluses identified.
2. Updating procedures manuals etc
3. Planning the placement of baleage in crop paddocks for when the baleage becomes available.

The WEEKLY management meeting will be on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009.**

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

# SDF Farm Walk Notes

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009

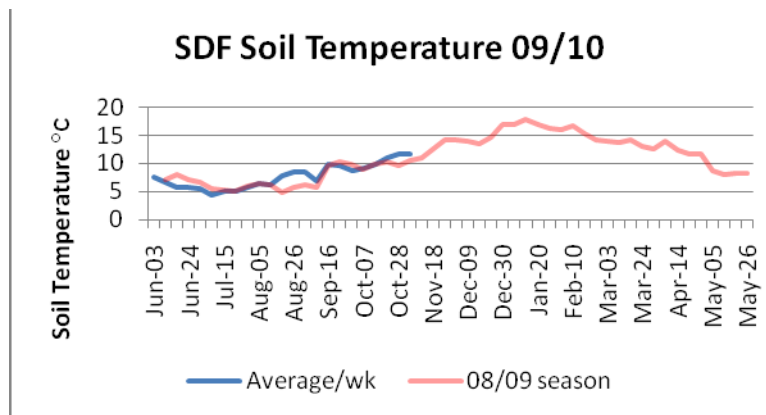
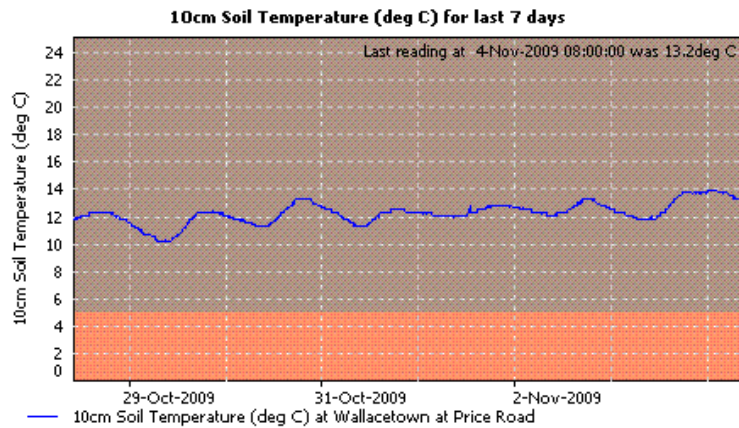
Total Effective Ha: 295ha  
Winter Crop Ha: 24ha and 15.93 in New Grass  
Area in Grass Ha: 255ha  
Cows in Milk:

## Critical issues for the short term

1. **Surplus feed management**
2. **Constantly monitoring financial budget and cash flow**
3. **Winter cropping for 2010**
4. **Mating management and observation**
5. **Staff training for mating**
6. **Continued monitoring of post grazing residuals and cow intakes**

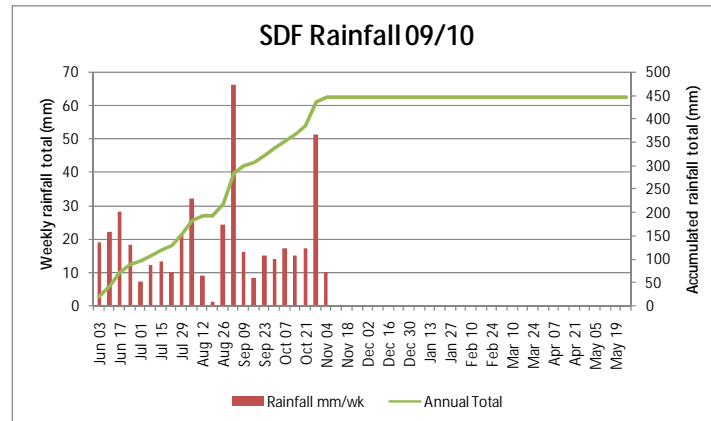
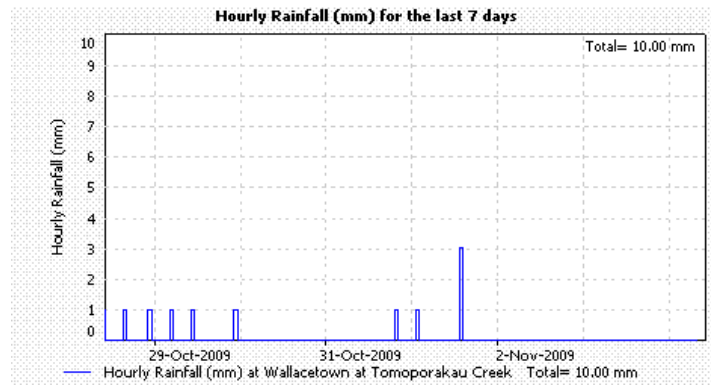
### Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

7. The round last week was 1/21<sup>st</sup> of the farm grazed per day.
8. Production is 4.8kg MS/ha/day.
9. Soil temperatures at 9.00 am have averaged 11.58°C this week, the same as last week. The graph below shows how the soil temperature has been tracking for the last week.



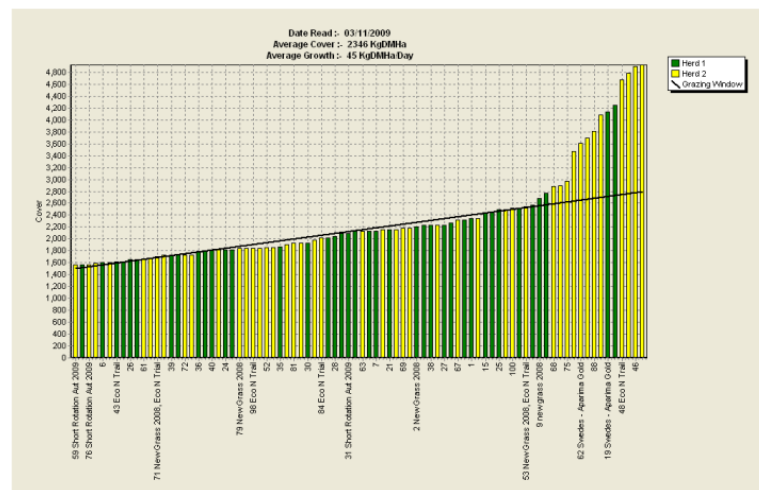
10. The graph above shows how the average weekly 9.00 am (10cm) soil temperature is tracking throughout the season, compared with last season.

11. The farm had a total of 10mm rain last week. The graph below shows the distribution.



12. Above is a graph showing weekly rainfall and accumulated total for the season. The date represents the week ending total.

13. The 3<sup>rd</sup> November pasture feed wedge is below. The average pasture cover is 2346 kg DM/ha.



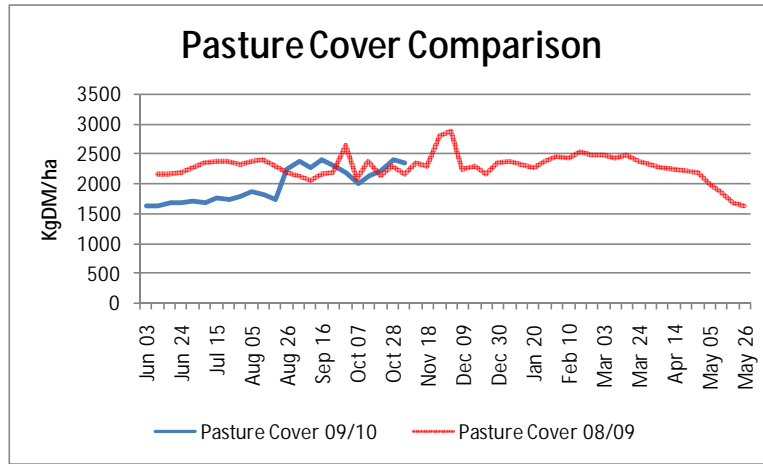
14. The target line is based on an area of 255 ha in pasture. The pre-grazing target cover for this week is 2800kg DM/ha. This is based on a 1/21<sup>st</sup> of the farm being grazed, offering 20kgDM/cow/day.

15. The wedge above shows another surplus situation. We have ear-marked 11 paddocks to come out of the round. These will be made up of paddocks from the top of the wedge and also those going into Swedes.

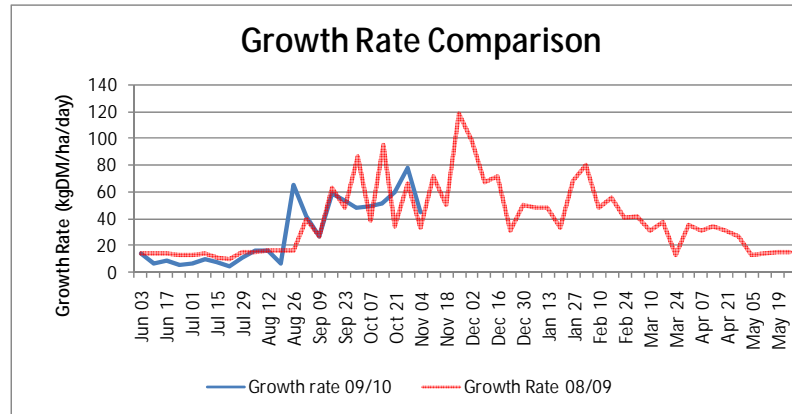
16. Fodder beet paddocks have all now been planted and plants are up out of the ground.

17. No urea has been applied this week.

18. Below is a graph comparing the pasture cover for this year compared with last year.



19. Pasture growth this week was 45kg DM/ha/day. Below is a graph with a comparison of growth rate for this season compared to last season.



20. SCC last week ranged from 125,000-201,000cells/ml. Some cows have been put back into the milkers, however 27 cows have been retreated for mastitis based on RMT test.

21. Now that we are getting closer to the end of calving we can see that the most likely result for peak cows milked will be well down on that expected (770). At this point peak cows milked used for calculations on the data sheet is 720 cows.

22. All the crop paddocks are back in grass. The varieties used were:

- a. Commando 4.29Ha
- b. Halo 3.23Ha
- c. Extreme AR1 2.88Ha
- d. Expo 2.77Ha
- e. The final paddock (2.77Ha) had three varieties sown in strips long ways down the paddock. The varieties are Extreme Low Endophyte, Extreme AR1 and Extreme AR37.

23. Below is a table of the pasture sample taken on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

	Paddock 69	Paddock 74	Normal Range
DM%	16.9	17.2	9-35
Crude Protein %	27.3	27.4	10-25
ADF %	24.4	23.4	15-25
NDF %	45.8	41.6	45-55
ME	12.5	12.1	10-11

24. Eight bulls were put out with the heifers (214) on the 24<sup>th</sup> October. This is a 1:27 bull to heifer ratio.
25. AB started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. To date 109 cows have been put up for AB. Our target is 34-35 cows per day. Currently we have averaged just over 27 cows per day. The reason for the low average is only 8 cows went up on the 1<sup>st</sup> day. Since then 41, 34, and 36 cows have gone up each day.
26. Prior to mating the farm staff had two mating training days. LIC provided information on heat detection and the use of Protrack over this time.

Future Management Planning
----------------------------

1. Updating financial budget and cash flow for 2009/2010 season
  - a. Number of bulls needed and delivery timing.
  - b. Feed budget monitored and surpluses identified.
2. Updating procedures manuals etc
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