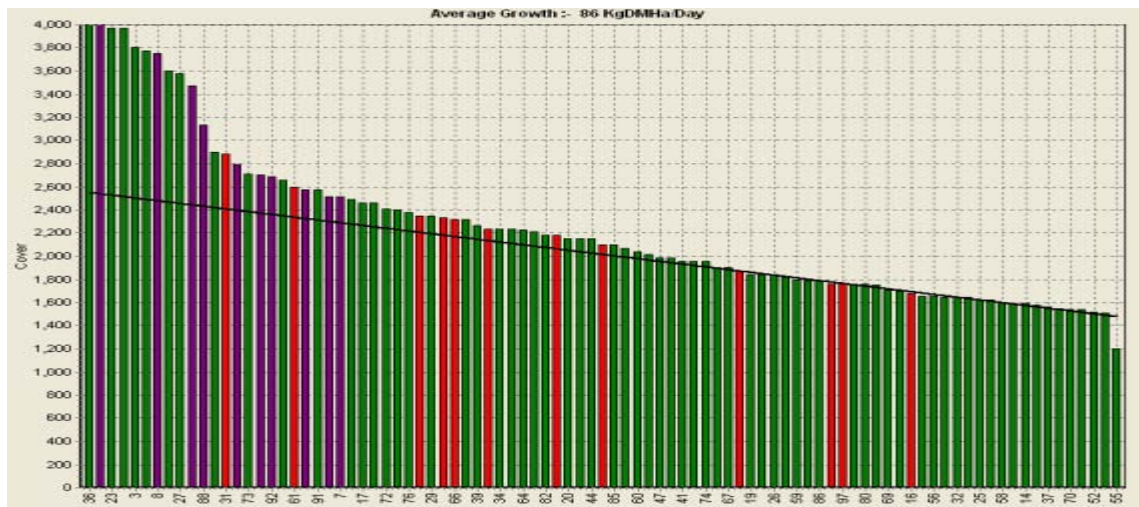




9. Average pasture growth rate was 86 kg/Dm/per/ha/day, up from 47 kg/Dm/ha/day achieved last week. This growth rate is higher than we had budgeted on.
10. The 1<sup>st</sup> October pasture feed wedge for the whole farm (including silage paddocks) is;



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 1<sup>st</sup> October. The wedge shows that we now have a surplus of 67t.
12. We expect to make these paddocks into silage as soon as we possibly can, when we have a few days of warm drying NW winds. The long-range weather forecast indicates favourable weather for most of the next week especially after Sunday.

This Pasture wedge is the grazing part of the farm (the silage paddocks removed)



13. Average cover on the grazing part of the farm is 2071 kg DM/ha and we will continue to speed up the round to 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the available pasture area (excluding surplus pasture paddocks stepped over) a day as long as the cows graze down to target residuals. The key thing to achieve this is for the cows to go into paddocks of maximum 2700 rather than longer. To do this we have now stepped over at least 10 paddocks from the grazing round (30 ha).

14. Post grazing residuals are being achieved except for the few paddocks that have been grazed in bad weather.
15. We have 616 cows being milked into the vat (630 this time last year) and production is 4.25 kg/MS/ha/day and 1.90 kg/MS/cow/day (4.21 kg/ha/day and 1.92 kg/MS/per/cow/day last week).
16. We will continue to apply urea at light rates (50 kg/urea/ha) behind the cows from as soon as soil conditions allow a bulky on the paddocks. No fertiliser N has been applied on the farm since end of August, and some grazed paddocks are showing slight signs of N deficiency.
17. Somatic cell counts are stable around the 200,000 mark. So far this has been kept in check by careful observation by the person cupping on and off. Installation of Milfos Automatic Cup Removers has been completed over the last fortnight, which has been a major hassle for staff. Milking times have had to be compromised to allow time for installation and there have been numerous break downs which have disrupted milkings. Farm staff (and cows) are now adapting to their use.
18. The plan for a 2 PG synchronising of the R2 heifers has been worked through with the vet and grazier. This will be started early enough for the heifer mating to occur at the same time as the mature herd. This will be three days of easy calving AB followed by Jersey bulls. This synchrony program will only work on animals that are well grown and are cycling.
19. Tail painting of the herd will occur this week to give us at least three weeks of pre-mating heats.
20. Bloat oil is now going into the water system.
21. Last winters crop paddocks have been ploughed and are ready for final working up before re-grassing.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday 8th October**.

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

# SDF Farm Walk Notes

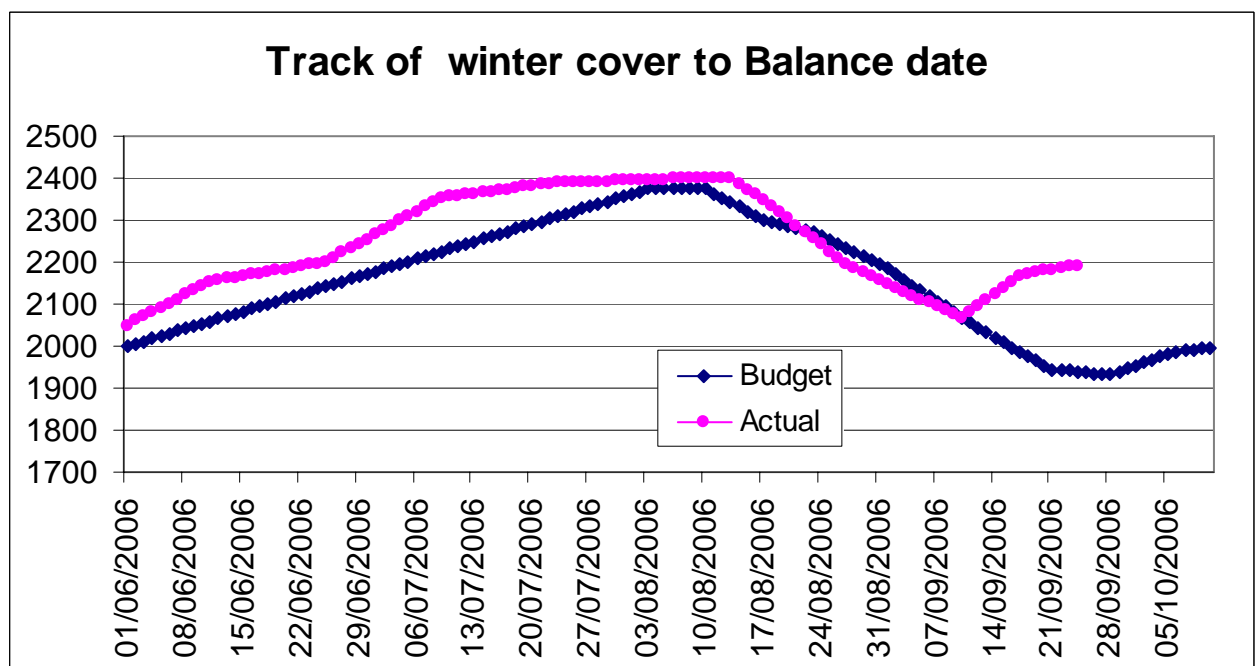
Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## Critical issues for the short term

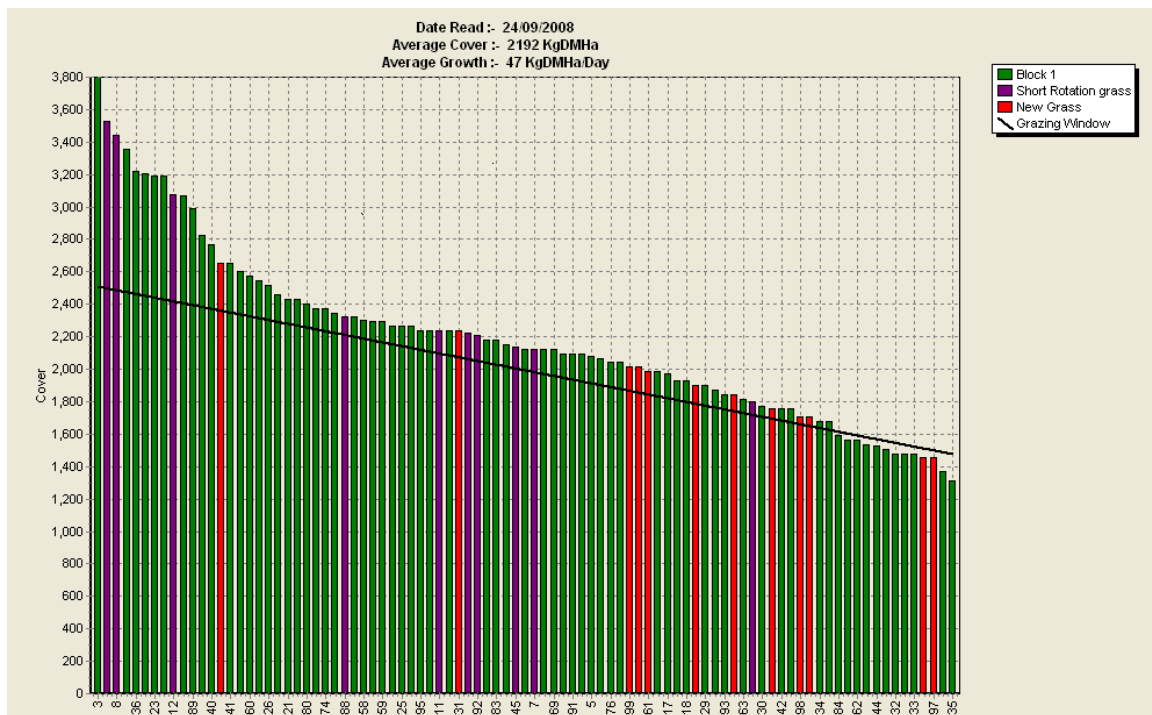
1. **Mg supplementation of all cows – through water supply and causmag.**
2. **Identify surplus grass and remove from grazing round.**
3. **Organise regrassing of winter crop ground and allocate next year's winter crop paddocks.**
4. **Despite strong feed position, will continue to apply urea at light rates - 50 kg per ha, as grazed paddocks showing signs of N deficiency.**

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

5. Soil temperatures at 9 am has been average 10.3 degrees C this week, which is on average 0.6 degrees higher than last week due to fairly settled weather over the last few days.
6. We had 16.8 mm of rain in small amounts throughout the week but then there has been days with northwest winds, the sort of weather that is usual around the equinox.
7. Average pasture cover was 2192 kg DM/ha on the farm walk today up slightly from 2169 kg DM/ha last week. The feed budget predicted that Average Pasture Cover would still be falling.
8. Average pasture growth rate after another drier and mainly warm week was 47kg DM/ha/day, down slightly from 62 kg/DM/ha/day achieved last week. This growth rate is still higher than we had budgeted on.
9. The graph comparing budgeted average pasture cover as predicted by the autumn feed budget with actual is shown below:



## 11. The 24<sup>th</sup> September pasture feed wedge:



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

12. The target line is now based on the budget average cover for 24<sup>th</sup> September. The wedge shows that we have a surplus of 50t.
13. We will continue to speed up the round to 1/25<sup>th</sup> of the farm a day as long as the cows graze down to target residuals. The key thing to achieve this is for the cows to go into paddocks of about 2700 rather than longer. To do this we have removed at least 10 paddocks from the grazing round.
14. We expect to make these paddocks into silage anytime in the next two weeks as soon as we have a few days of warm drying NW winds.
15. We now have 659 cows calved (686 this time last year) and under 100 still to go.
16. We have 601 cows being milked into the vat (630 this time last year) and production is 4.21 kg/MS/ha/day and 1.92 kg MS/cow/day (3.9 kg/ha/day and 1.87 kg/MS/cow/day last week).
17. Production to 20<sup>th</sup> August is 27,060 kg/MS vs. budget of 26,670 kg/MS. Production to this date last year was 26,776 kg/MS. We hope we can make gains on last season in October, as we are aiming to have the cows peaking higher per cow. Management of the first round this year has seen cows fed better than last season, and we hope that this will pay dividends over the next few weeks.
18. We will apply urea at light rates (50 kg urea / ha) behind the cows from this week. No fertiliser N has been applied on the farm since end of August, and some grazed paddocks are showing slight signs of N deficiency.

19. Somatic cell counts are stable around the 200,000 mark. So far this has been kept in check by careful observation by the person cupping on and off. Installation of Milfos Automatic Cup Removers has been completed over the last fortnight, which has been a slight hassle for staff, as milking times have had to work around fixed time periods to allow time for installation. Farm staff (and cows) are now adapting to their use.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**.

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

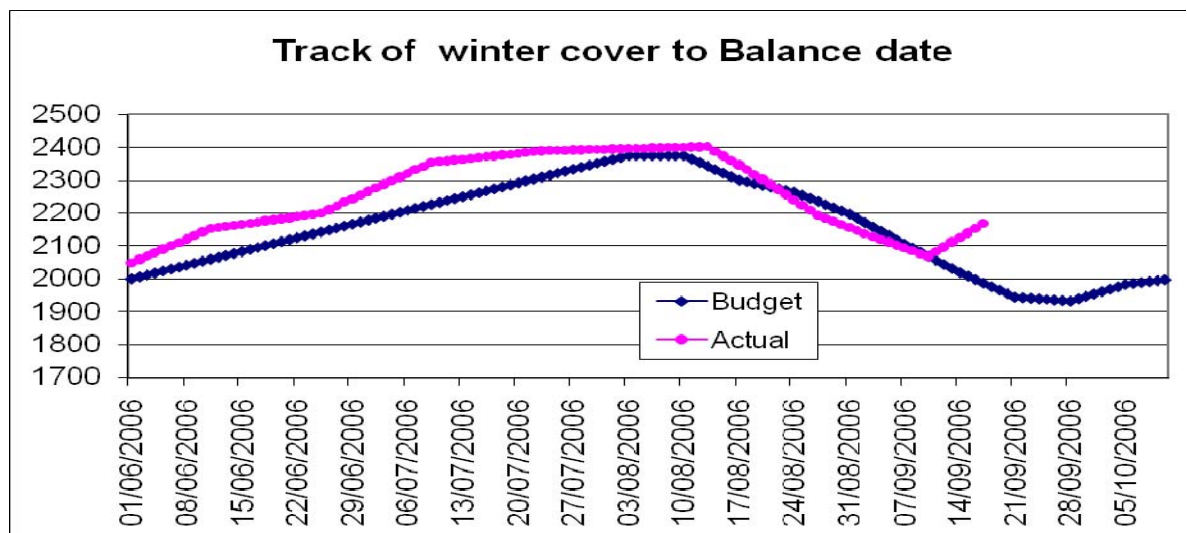
Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## Critical issues for the short term

1. **Mg supplementation of all cows – through water supply and causmag.**
2. **Identify surplus grass and remove from grazing round.**

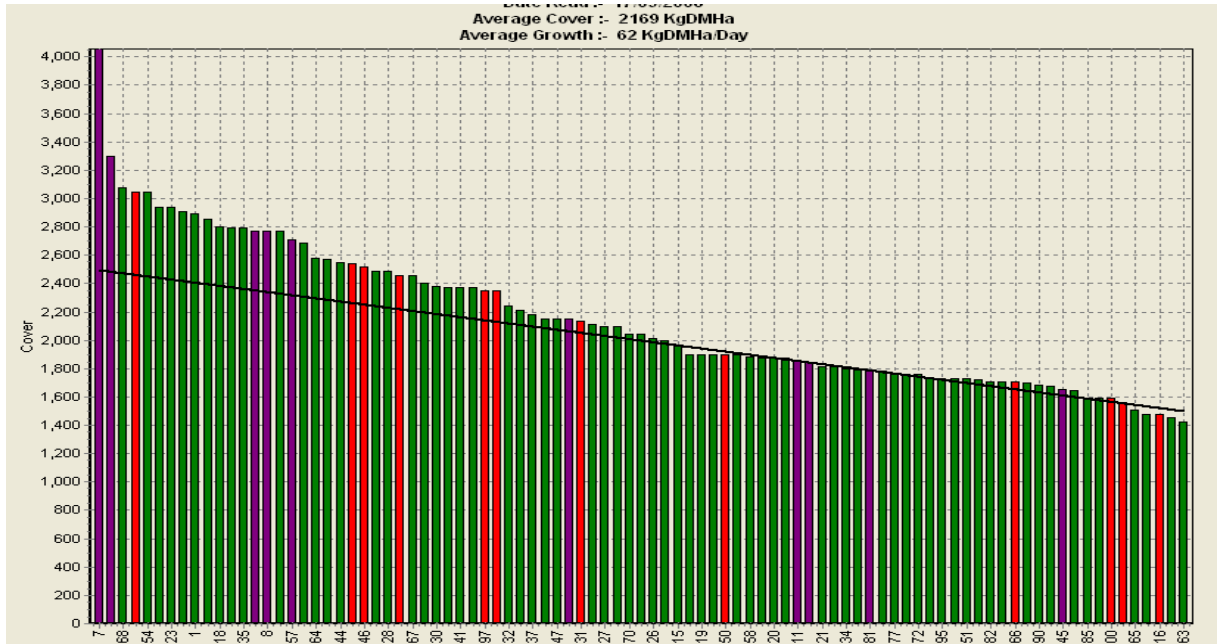
Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance
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3. Soil temperatures at 9 am have been averaging 9.7 degrees C this week, which is on average 4 degrees higher than last week, due to four days of warm northwesterly weather over the last few days.
4. We had 19.5 mm of rain at the start of the week but then it has been warm with a northwest wind and the ground has really dried out.
5. Average pasture cover was 2169 kg DM/ ha on the farm walk today, up from 2069 kg DM / ha last week.
6. Average pasture growth rate after a drier and warm week was 62 kg DM / ha /day, up from 26 kg DM / ha / day achieved last week. This growth rate is much higher than we had budgeted on.
7. The graph comparing budgeted average pasture cover as predicted by the autumn feed budget with actual is shown below:



8. We have had a big change on the pasture position on farm compared with the target cover worked out through our feed budget. We are not feeding out any silage or other supplementary feed and we have all the cows on the farm.

9. The 10<sup>th</sup> September pasture feed wedge:

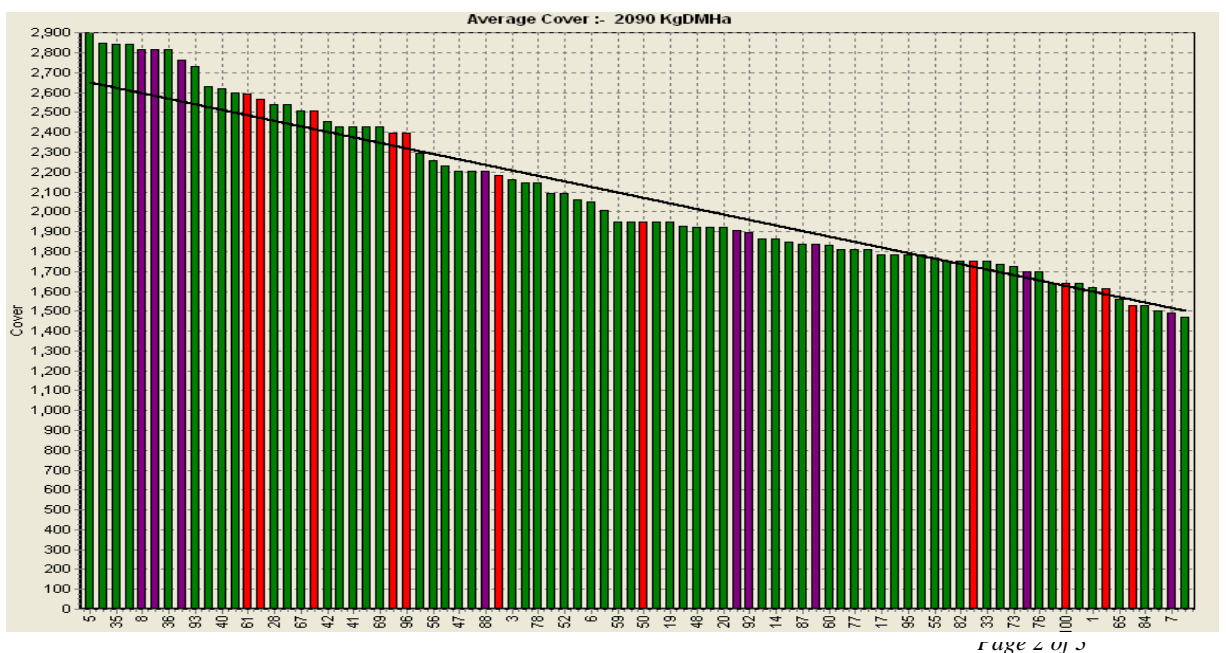


The red bars are new perennial ryegrass pasture  
The purple bars are new short rotation pasture

10. The target line is now based on the budget average cover for 17<sup>th</sup> September. The wedge shows that we have a surplus of 44t.

11. We will continue to speed up the round to 1/25<sup>th</sup> of the farm a day as long as the cows graze down to target residuals. The key thing to achieve this is for the cows to go into paddocks of about 2800 rather than longer. To do this we will need to remove at least 7 paddocks from the grazing round.

12. We will still graze paddock 7 which is already over 4000 and is a very fast growing short rotation ryegrass paddock. This is because the cows will still clean it up because it is a tetraploid pasture, and because it is currently growing over 100 kg DM/day. We would need to make it into silage immediately and the weather conditions are not suitable and the contractor is not available.



13. We have used the Pasture Coach predictor function to generate the feed wedge above. This is what it will look like tomorrow once we have grazed paddock 7 and removed another 7 paddocks (21.5 ha) for silage. We have factored in that we want to be on a 25 day round and so the pre-grazing target is slightly higher at 2650. The predicted average pasture cover is 2090 which is still above our target budget of 1987 kg DM/ha.
14. Pasture growth rate so far in September has averaged 37 kg/DM/day. Last year the average growth rate for the whole of September was 51. This suggests to us that growth rates in the second half of September will be higher than they have been in the first half. Our current pasture demand is 40 kg DM/day. This suggests that we are taking a conservative approach and if this is so we will drop more paddocks out of the grazing round next week, possibly earlier if the warm NW winds return in a few days.
15. We expect to make these paddocks into silage anytime in the next two weeks as soon as we have a few days of warm drying NW winds.
16. We now have 640 cows calved and 118 still to go.
17. We have 561 cows being milked into the vat and production is 3.9 kg MS/ha/day and 1.87 kg MS/cow/day (3.3 kg / ha / day and 1.75 kg ms per cow / day last week). We are happy with this level of per cow production given the high proportion of heifers (due to early synchronised calving) currently in the milking herd. We are budgeting to peak at just over 2 kg ms per cow per day.
18. Somatic cell counts are stable around the 220,000. So far this has been kept in check by careful observation by both the person cupping on and the person cupping off.
19. All the mating plans are being finalised including a synchronised mating for the R2yr heifers.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August**.

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

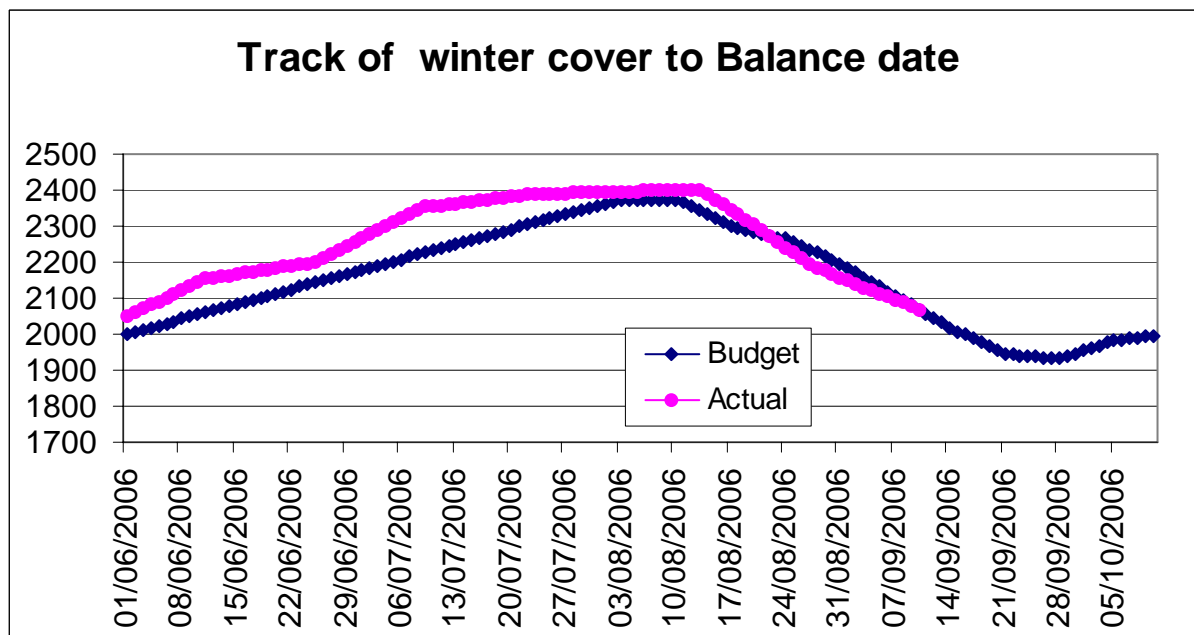
Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## Critical issues for the short term

1. **The First Round is coming to an end – we are aware that we should not speed up too fast too early coming into second round – however current very wet conditions will make this difficult.**
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.**

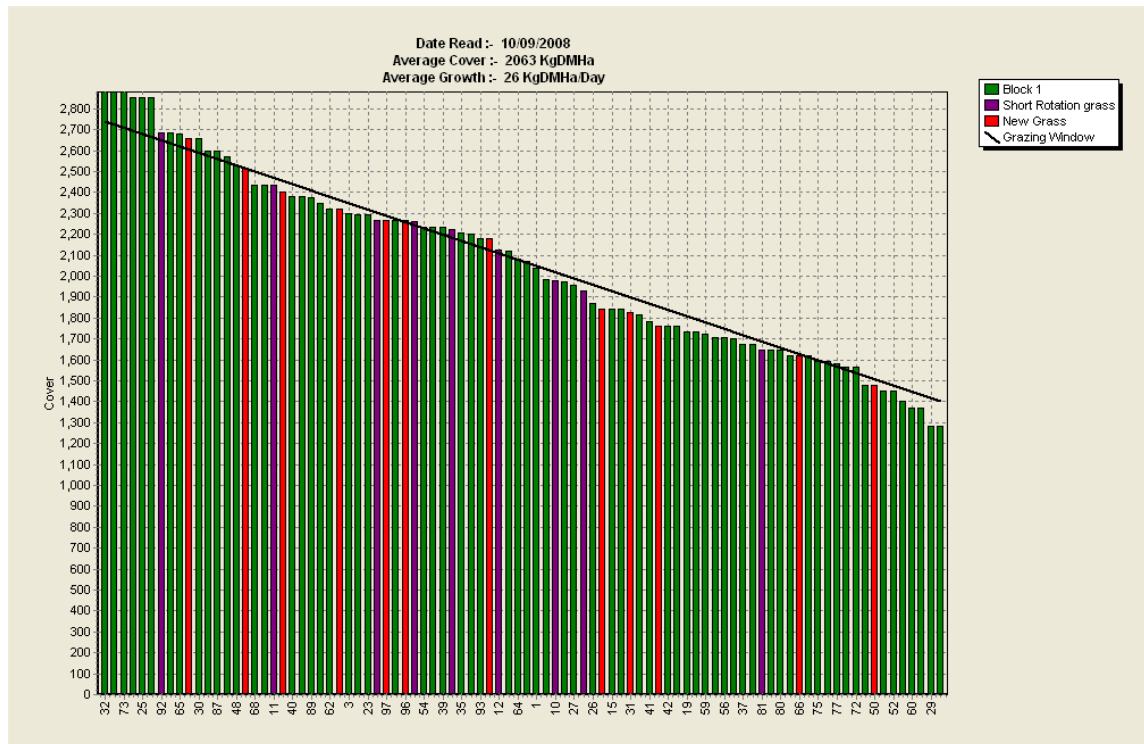
### Summary of Key Factors affecting Grazing Management & Animal Performance

4. Soil temperatures at 9 am have been between 4 and 9 degrees C, average 5.7 degrees C this week, which is on average slightly lower than last week due to three frosts recorded earlier in the week.
5. This week we have recorded 37.8 mm of rain most of which has fallen in last three days, with more forecast over next few days. Soils are now above Field Capacity and the ground is sodden, making grazing without some pasture damage difficult.
6. Average pasture cover was 2063 kg DM/ ha on the farm walk today down from 2129 kg DM / ha last week.
7. Average pasture growth rate for this week was overall 26 kg DM / ha /day, down from 39 kg DM / ha / day achieved last week which was a drier and sunnier week.
8. The graph comparing budgeted average pasture cover as predicted by the autumn feed budget with actual is shown below:



9. We are therefore bang on target (target and actual 2063 kg DM / ha).

10. The 10<sup>th</sup> September 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 10<sup>th</sup> September. The wedge shows that overall supply now equals exactly the budgeted demand.

12. Due to the extremely wet conditions that have come about due to steady, continuous rain since Monday, we are going to have to speed the round up slightly during this wet period and accept lower than acceptable pasture utilisation to minimise pasture damage.

13. We are therefore going to take a slight risk by speeding up round length over the next few days due to the very wet conditions (the rotation length for the next week will be 1/40<sup>th</sup> of the farm a day, slightly faster than originally planned). We always have the option of feeding silage later if necessary to aid slowing down round length, but if wet conditions persist, this won't be ideal – a catch 22 situation.

14. Pasture Coach's Wedge Predictor indicates that our forecast feed wedge in 7 days time should still be comparable to our planned average pasture cover from the feed budget if growth rates are around 30 kg DM / ha / day over the next week. The current wet conditions are forecast to continue until Friday, and then clearing up over the weekend and into next week. Given the better forecast for the latter part of next week, and the fact that we have a good proportion of the farm in new pastures and short rotation ryegrass, and a good amount of fertiliser N in the system, and soil temperatures today are 9 degrees C at 9 am, we are hoping to achieve this growth rate over the next week.

15. We now have 523 cows being milked into the vat, only 37 up on last week due to a slower calving week. Production is 3.3 kg / ha / day and 1.75 kg ms per cow / day. We are happy with this level of per cow production given the high proportion of heifers (due to early synchronised calving) currently in the milking herd. We are budgeting to peak at just over 2 kg ms per cow per day.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August.**

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

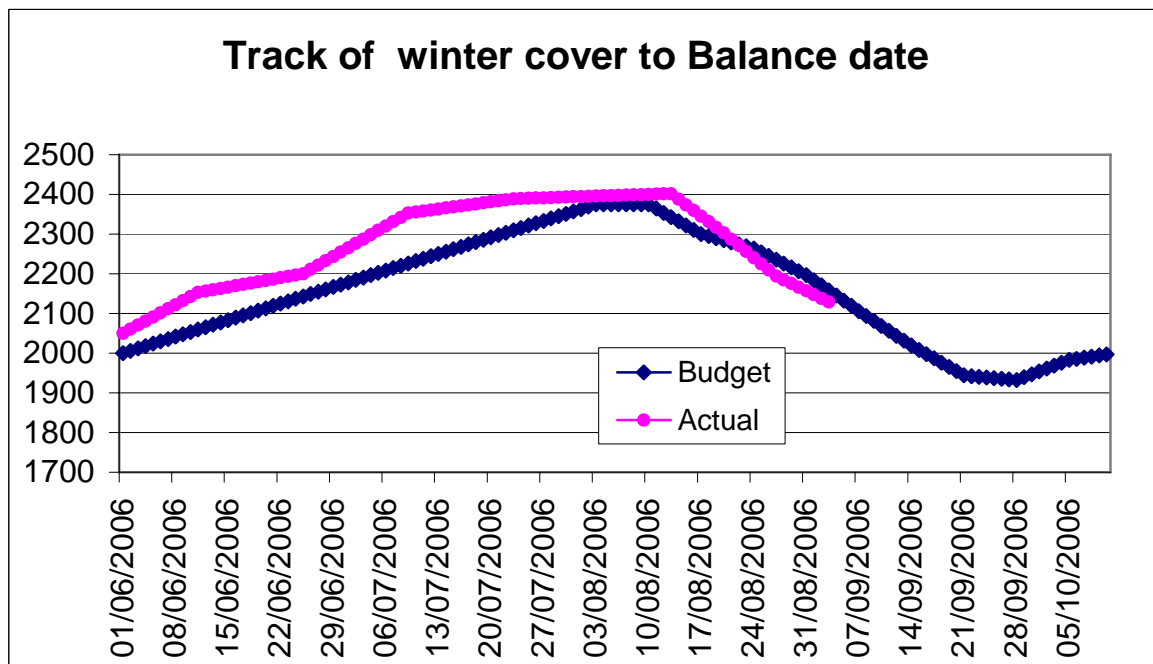
Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008

## Critical issues for the short term

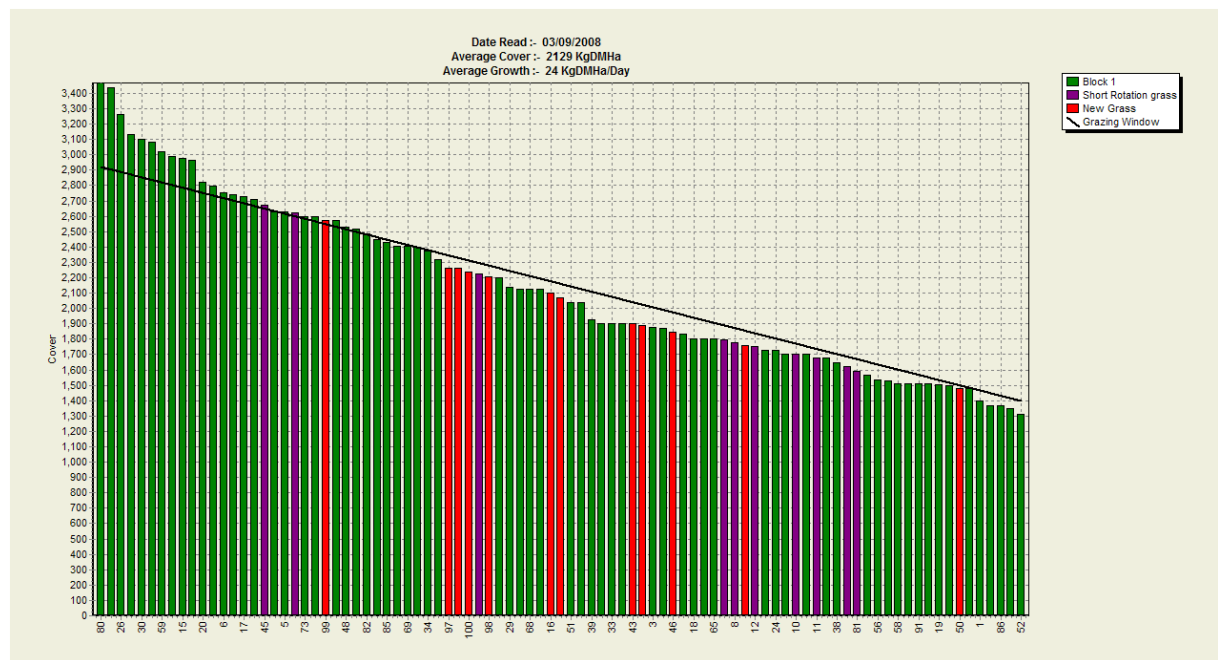
1. **Take advantage of current firm soil conditions to fully utilise high cover paddocks to optimum residuals. Round length has slowed as a result.**
2. **The Ag Contractor is taking advantage of the drier soil conditions, and carrying out an initial work-up of the crop paddocks in preparation for sowing down into new permanent pasture.**
3. **Monitor springer cows and heifers for mastitis and closely monitor as they calve.**
4. **Mg supplementation of all cows – through water supply and causmag.**

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

5. Soil temperatures average 6.2 degrees C this week, which is similar to last week and 1.3 degrees higher than recorded this time last year.
6. This week we recorded only 4.5 mm of rain but for August we received above average monthly rainfall.
7. Average pasture cover was 2129 kg DM/ ha on the farm walk today down from 2194 kg DM / ha last week.
8. Average pasture growth rate for this week was overall 39 kg DM / ha /day which we believe is a direct response to the drier, sunnier weather we have been enjoying over the past 10 days or so.
9. The graph comparing budgeted average pasture cover as predicted by the autumn feed budget with actual is shown below:



10. We are therefore close to target (target 2158 kg DM / ha compared to actual 2129 kg DM / ha). Pasture Coach records a negligible pasture deficit of 6012 kg DM total.
11. We have followed the Spring First Rotation Planner as close as practicable by allocating square metres per cow per day to springers, colostrum cows and milkers. Up until now dry cows (other than springers) have been grazing crop at home or have been grazing off farm. All off-farm grazed cows are now back on farm, and as a result of the crop grazing at home now coming to an end, dry cow grazing will commence on the farm's pasture area this week.
12. We planned for the First grazing round to finish on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, however due to us eating more area than we planned in the very wet conditions during August, our first round has been shortened and will now end slightly earlier than planned around the 15<sup>th</sup> September.
13. The 3<sup>rd</sup> September pasture feed wedge:



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

14. The target line is now based on the budget average cover for 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The wedge shows that overall supply now equals almost exactly the budgeted demand.
15. Due to the drier conditions, we are able to effectively utilise the higher cover paddocks above the target cover line which has enabled us to slow down the rotation over the last week or so. Coupled with the fact that fertiliser N (and superphosphate) was applied to 150 ha of the farm by Spreading Southland last week (prior to the price rise on 1<sup>st</sup> September!), we are comfortable with where we are at with the pasture feed situation currently.

16. We now have 486 cows being milked into the vat. Production is 2.6 kg/ha/day and 1.62 kg ms per cow/day. Total cows calved is 561 head, which is as expected, from our calving report. This is similar to number of cows calved at this time last year, although last year 102 induced cows had calved by now. This year we are planning to induce only 20 cows, and they received their first shot on Friday.
17. Milk production for August has totalled 8,289 kg ms compared to budget of 8,170 kg ms. August production last season was 8,496 kg MS.
18. We continue to spread Causmag at 100gm /cow/day on the pasture and supplements being fed to our cows.
19. We are following the 'Poukawa System' for calf rearing this year, feeding 3 litres colostrum to calves once per day with access to water, straw and ad-lib meal. At this stage calves are looking healthy and growing according to plan. We do not expect to take any whole milk out of the vat for calf rearing. We will carry out an analysis on how this system has gone at the conclusion of calf rearing.
20. Calves are being DNA-tested at the same time as dehorning by the contractor that we utilise, which is a very helpful service at this busy time of the year.

The next WEEKLY farm walk is on **Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September**.

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