

SDF Farm Walk Notes

Tuesday, 31 January 2012

Total Effective Ha: 295ha

Winter Crop Ha: 36ha

Area in Grass Ha: 259ha

ISSUES FOR THE SHORT TERM

1. **Pasture allocation – maintain round at 25 days**
2. **Monitor residuals and reduce supplement if necessary**
3. **Monitor crops**
4. **Check on dry stock**

COW NUMBERS

1. 727 cows on farm – 15 culls - 0 deaths – 13 deaths to date & 48 culls.
2. 696 milked TAD; 24 OAD – 30 in sick mob.
3. 2 dry cows.

MILK PRODUCTION

| | This week | ↑ or ↓ compared to last week | ↑ or ↓ compared to last year |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Per cow (kgMS/cow/day) | 1.48 | ↑0.07 | |
| Per ha (kgMS/ha/day) | 4.29 | ↑0.14 | |
| kgMS/day | 1068 | ↑30 | |
| Month to date % | | | ↑0.5 |
| Season to date % | | | ↑9 |

4. Production is 9% ahead of last season and appears to be lifting slowly.
5. SCC 152k cells/ml.

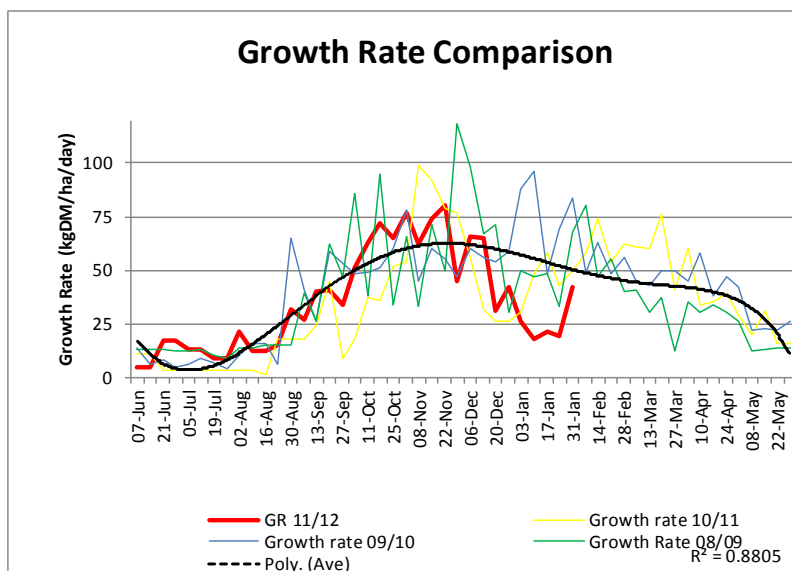
FEEDING LEVELS

6. Cows were offered 140m²/day – 10ha/day – 25 day round.
7. Round was maintained at 25 days by adding 2 kgDM silage plus 3 kg PKE with silage and 1kg PKE in the shed.

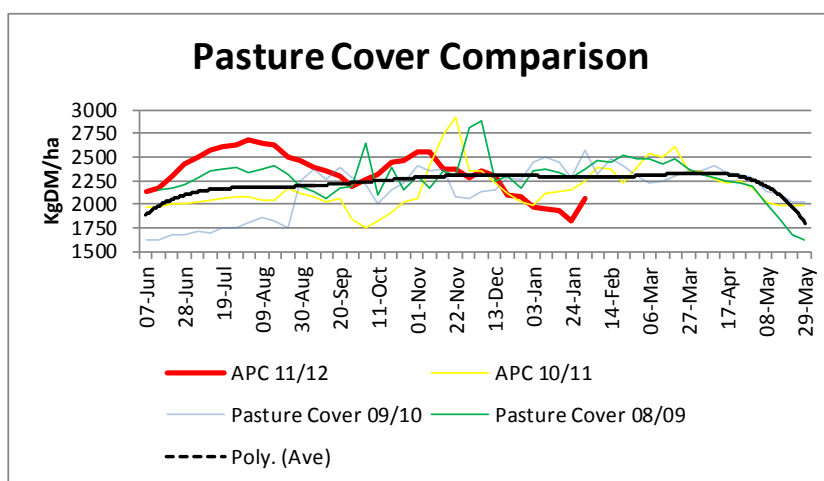
$$\text{Pre-grazing covers} = \text{SR} \times \text{Round length} \times \text{intakes} + \text{residual}$$
8. To maintain current production, pre-grazing covers need to be around $2.8 \times 25 \times 17 + 1600 = 2800\text{kg DM/ha}$.
9. When pre-grazing covers reach these targets, supplements will need to be reduced or residuals will start to increase.
10. Supplement required/day = (Pre-grazing target – Actual pre-grazing) x area offered/day.
(2800kgDM/ha pre-grazing target – 2500 kgDM actual pre-grazing covers) x 10ha = 3000kgDM/day or around 4kg/cow/day required.

PASTURE GROWTH AND AVERAGE PASTURE COVER

1. APC has increased to 2050g DM/ha.
2. Growth rate for this week has improved dramatically to 42kgDM/ha/day and shown in the graph below.



3. Below is a graph comparing the pasture cover for this year compared to the previous two seasons. Still below the long term average.



MANAGING THE SUMMER DRY

- Average pasture cover has started to improve but is still below long term average.
- To reduce demand further another 15 cows were culled.
- Pre-grazing covers are still below target with the deficit currently around 4kgDM/cow/day.
- Pre-grazing covers and residuals will be monitored weekly and level of supplement adjusted accordingly.
- 80kg urea was applied to 106 ha – cows will be followed with urea on the remaining area – the farm still requires more than a 1000 bales of baleage for winter.
- The cows are still on TAD milking.
- The round will be held at 25 days for the next week or two. From 15 February the round length will be pushed out to 30 days, 35 days from 15 March and 40 days from 20th of April.

CROPPING

4. 17 ha has been established to fodder beet – these crops are looking OK but yields are expected to be lower than normal due to the summer dry.
5. 12 ha has been planted to swedes. The wild turnip paddock will be sprayed, re-cultivated and planted to turnips. The other two paddocks will have turnip seeds broadcast over the top before forecasted rain. The rationale was that if 40-50% of the current paddock can yield 10 ton swedes/ha, why replant the whole paddock to achieve 6 ton turnip yield? With broadcasting turnips the paddock should still yield more than a whole replant.
6. 7 ha of kale was planted and has struck very well but is behind where it needs to be.

7. Crops yields potentially 20-30% down – but will be monitored monthly.
8. The expected growth rates (kgDM/ha/day) for the remaining months of this season and corresponding demand are shown below. It is unlikely that a significant amount of supplement will be able to be made on farm during the remainder of this season.

| | Growth rates | Demand | Difference |
|----------|--------------|--------|------------|
| February | 46 | 46 | 0 |
| March | 44 | 44 | 0 |
| April | 35 | 42 | -7 |
| May | 18 | 40 | -22 |

NITROGEN AND FERTILISER USE

9. Cows will be followed with 80 kg urea/ha on remaining area.
10. Urea will be applied to kale paddocks.

ANIMAL HEALTH & BCS

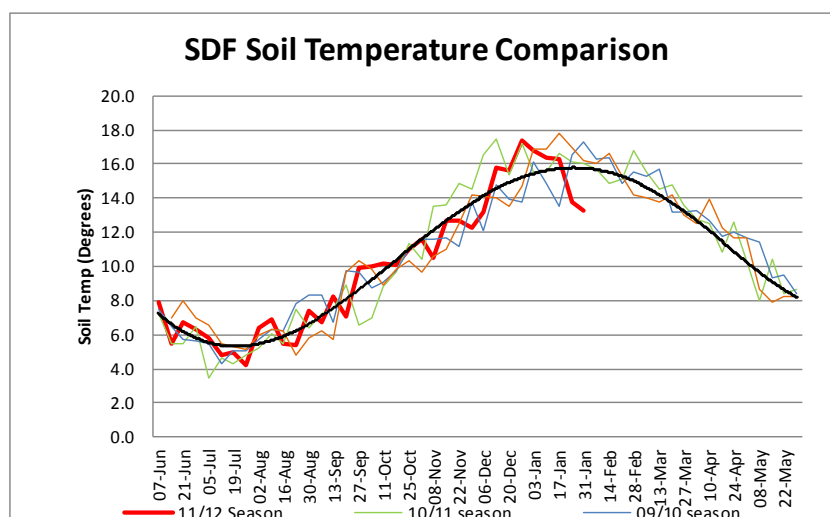
11. 27 cows are being treated for lameness and 3 for mastitis.
12. 15 cows were culled this month on low performance.

MATING

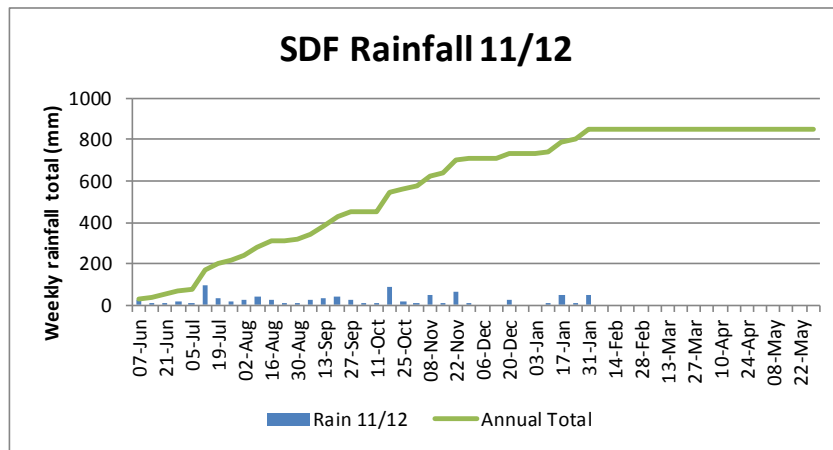
13. 529 (71%) of the 742 were pregnant from the first 7 weeks mating. 213 cows are too early to confirm pregnant.

CLIMATE DATA AND COMPARISONS

14. Soil temperatures at 9 am have averaged 13.3°C – down 0.6°C.
15. The graph below shows how the average weekly 9am (10cm) soil temperature is tracking throughout the season and compares against the last two seasons.



16. The farm had 50mm rain in the past week.
17. The graph below shows the weekly rainfall and accumulated total for the season.



FUTURE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The WEEKLY management meeting will be on **Tuesday, 7 February 2012 @ 11am.**

On behalf of the **Management Group** Barry Bethune (Farm Manager), Sharn Roskam (Farm Supervisor), and Howard de Klerk (Consultant - DairyNZ).