

## DairyNZ Super P Farmlet, Scott Farm, Newstead - Farm Walk Notes

For 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**Target:** 1750 kg MS per total ha used. 200,000 MJME harvested per ha  
All feed grown within the farm area, 8ha, 28 cows. 3.5 cows per ha.  
Herd \$BW 170 (from July 5).

**MS Production to date:** Production to October 31st is 717kg MS per ha, which is 205kg per cow from 106 lactation days per cow. MS per ha is 3.0% less than last year to date and 6.3% below target.

Current production is 1.78 kg MS per cow and 6.23 kg MS per ha. This is 14% below our target level and 4.6% below the same date last season.

### Current Situation

- Average pasture cover has increased to 2400 kg DM per ha. (excluding crop area)
- Pasture growth for last week was 81 kg DM per ha per day, above the feed demand of 79 kg DM per ha per day.
- The farm continues to operate with surplus grass. This has allowed preparation of 1.5 ha for maize silage sown 14<sup>th</sup> October, and 0.5 ha of chicory sown on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.
- A small amount of grass silage (17kg DM per cow) has also been conserved, with another 0.5ha of pasture temporarily removed from the rotation.
- Average body condition score has remained at 4.1 (same date last year 4.1).
- Average cow liveweight is 476 kg, (472 kg same date last year). The herd is holding weight.
- The herd is being offered 3300 m<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours which is a 17 day rotation.
- This allows for an estimated intake of 19.5 kg DM /cow of pasture and a grazing residual of 1500 kg DM per ha.
- It's difficult to keep post-grazing residuals at 1500 kg DM per ha, with the herd being asked to remain in several paddocks longer than anticipated in order to complete the task.
- October rainfall was 150 mm. (Oct average is 85mm)
- Soil temperature has reached 15.5° C

### Current management Issues:

- Current daily production is 4.5% below last year so has yet to make up for lower production during October.
- Pre and Post grazing height data (measured by RPM) for September and October is shown in the following Table. Grazing residuals have slowly moved upwards during October.

	Mean pre-grazing height	Mean post-grazing height
September	19.1	7.9
October	19.2	8.6

- Pasture NIR data for September (mean of 15 samples in table below) do not show any unusual features for pasture quality

ADF %	22.4
NDF %	41.86
ME MJ/kg DM	12.80
Crude Protein %	20.27
Soluble sugar	12.91
OMD%	87.5

- Currently 69% of the farm area is included in the rotation, with the ability to bring this up to 75% depending on the time surplus grass persists.
- The Chicory crop sown 23<sup>rd</sup> October has germinated quickly.
- Nitrogen fertiliser applications are temporarily suspended as 143 kg N per ha has already been applied. This allows room for two more N applications before end of May (upper limit is 200 kg N applied per ha).

### **Mating:**

After 21 days of mating 24/28 cows had been mated (86% SR). In addition replacement heifers were synchronised and mated to AB. 7 anoestrous cows (25%) checked and treated with CIDRS 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 1 additional cow treated with a CIDR mid October

6 weeks AB now completed. 100% of cows mated. NRR 75%

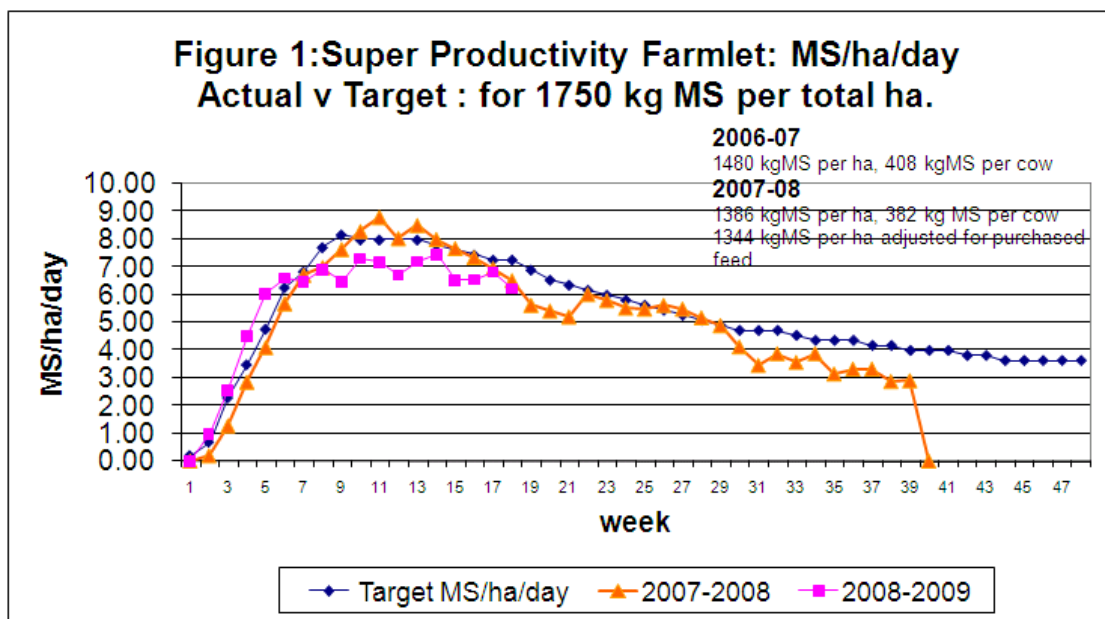
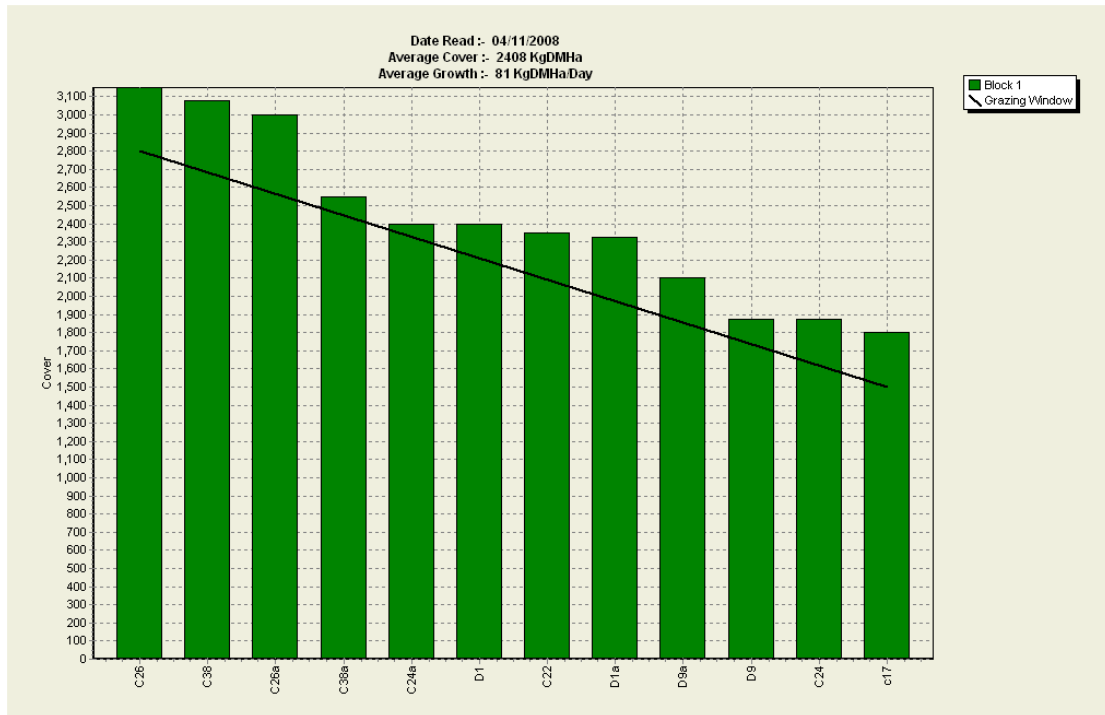
Scan in December to determine 6 week in calf rate.

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Current Feed Wedge (Nov 4th), below



Summary	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
cows per ha	3.6	3.6	3.5
<b>Kg MS per ha</b> (only home grown feed )	1480	1344	
kg ms per cow	408	382	
<b>KgMS/kgLwt</b>	0.83	0.81	
<b>N applied kg/ha</b>	200	184	
<b>Days in Milk</b>	252	228	
<b>Ms/cow/day for season</b>	1.62	1.68	
<b>% herd calved in 28 days</b>	30%	76%	93%