

DairyNZ WTARS Research farm Hawera Taranaki – Farm Walk Notes

13 July 2009

Growth Rate: 13 kgDM/ha/day (last 2 weeks)

Average Pasture Cover: 2310 kg DM/ha

Rainfall: 48 mls to date for July

10 cm Soil temperature: 6.6 average for July
6 degrees the last week

Current Situation

- Pasture growth rates were average for early July
- Soil temperatures have dropped in the past week after 3 frosts
- Pasture allowance of 5 – 5.5 kg DM/cow/day (25 sqm/cow/day)
- Supplement as silage = 3.5 kg DM/cow/day.
- Rotation length in the past 2 weeks = 120 days
- Heifers have started calving
- Overall feed situation tight – need average to above average growth over August, September
- Cow liveweight = 496 kg, Condition score = 4.6 (8 July). Cows have put on 0.6 CS since drying off late April.