

Farm walk notes:
21st December 2009

WAIMATE WEST DEMONSTRATION FARM

Current issues

- Only 6mm of rain fell this week, which is ok as long as we don't have to wait too long for the next decent lot.
- The growth lifted slightly again to 74 kgDM/ha/day this week, which is getting us close to a surplus again for both herds.
- The both herds are now on a 30 day round – (25 days for the cropping herd with 5 cropping paddocks out, and 28 days for the control).
- The production per cow has held for both herds to 1.22 and 1.28 respectively.
- The crops are all “steaming away” now.
- We are expecting to get our 1st grazing from the chicory earlyish in the New Year.
- There was a small block of triticale left to see what it would produce. It has been measured and will be harvested today. Will have the results In the New Year.
- The Barley that we replaced the triticale with is not as good as we hoped. The plant population is down, but best is in the tyre tracks, so it would seem that rolling is important even after direct drilling. Also it is quite weedy and the weather didn't allow spraying on time so we have decided spraying late may cause as many problems as we fix.

Production and management summary

Cropping

Control

| | | | |
|------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Date | Week ending | 21/12/09 | 21/12/09 |
|------|-------------|----------|----------|

Weather and pasture growth

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|------|------|
| Rainfall mm | week | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| | month to date | 61.0 | 61.0 |
| | monthly average | 86 | 86 |
| Pasture growth | week | 76 | 70 |
| Kg DM/ha/day | monthly average (no N) | 65 | 65 |

Stock

| | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|
| Cows milking | 106 | 34 |
| Cows dry | | |
| Cows/ha | 4.10 | 3.95 |
| Weight (19/11/09) | 373 | 372 |
| Condition score (22/10/09) | 4.41 | 4.51 |

Milk production

| | | |
|---------------|------|------|
| kg ms/cow/day | 1.22 | 1.28 |
|---------------|------|------|

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|------|------|
| kg ms/ha/day | | 5.01 | 5.08 |
| cell count (000) | | 167 | 173 |
| Days/cow | | | |
| kg ms/cow to date | | 182 | 173 |
| kg ms/ha to date | | 763 | 686 |

Feeding

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|------|
| Average pasture cover | kg DM/ha | 2978 | 2965 |
| Pre grazing | kg DM/ha | 3670 | 3775 |
| Post grazing | kg DM/ha | 2200 | 2200 |
| Pasture intake est. | kg DM/cow | 12.0 | 13.3 |
| Hay/silage/crop | kg DM/cow | 0.0 | |

Management

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------|-----|
| Rotation length (% of farm grazed/day) | | 3.3 | 4.0 |
| Rotation length (days interval if all paddocks in) | | 30.0 | 30 |
| Rotation length (days interval with paddocks out) | | 25 | 28 |
| Supplements fed to date | kg DM/cow from June 1 st | 291 | 159 |
| Nitrogen applied to date | kg N/ha | 140 | 144 |
| % of farm shut | | 0 | 0 |
| % of farm in crop | | 17.0 | 0 |
| Supplements made to date | kg DM/cow | 167 | 520 |