



WTARS - Hawera Taranaki

Farm Walk Notes

14 December 2009

Growth Rate:	91 kg DM/ha/day
Average Pasture Cover:	2550 kg DM/ha (with silage pdks out)
Rainfall:	29.9 mls last 7 days 67.3 mls December to date
10 cm Soil temperature:	16 degrees C average last 7 days 15.2 average for Dec

Current Situation

- Soil temperatures rose on average 1.5 degrees C over the past 7 days.
- Nice weekend rain
- The 'spike' in pasture growth rates continue
- 39 ha total out for silage / hay (35% of total area), of which 6.5 has been cut and 20.5 ha about to be cut
- With silage paddocks out cows grazing 71 ha = 4.4 cows/ha. Demand = 80 kg DM/ha/day.
- Some topping still needed to get residuals to an acceptable level.
- Cows been offered 120 sq m/cow/day. Rotation length = 17 days
- Milk production continues to decline. Currently = 16.7 litres and 1.43 kg MS/cow/day, 4.5 kg MS/ha/day.
- Urea applications will cease at this stage with the high pasture growth rates after plentiful moisture and good soil temperatures. The aim of continuing urea through Nov/ Dec was to generate extra supplement which has been achieved.