

FOCUS FARM UPDATE

Adolph, Mary-Ann and Colin Mathis, Tokoroa

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Period 16th-31st July 2008

Current Situation Summary

Key Indicators	Expected	Actual
Stock on hand ce/ha as at 31 st July	3.24	3.20
Rainfall mm	72	176
10cm Soil Temperature °C (av.)	n/a	10.0
Pasture Cover kgDM/ha	2,080	2,050
Pasture Growth kgDM/ha/day	15	13
Grazing Rotation days (av.)	100	100
Supplement in diet %	42%	47%
Cow intake kgDM/cow/day	10.0	10.2
Nitrogen applied to date kgN/ha	12	12
Supplement on hand at 31 July kgDM	75,000	72,800

n/a = not available

- This period was characterized by consistent unwanted rainfall on top of a previous wet period. This was making it difficult to achieve desired cow intake and avoid soil damage. Colin (manager) had managed this very well by standing off the cows during the very wet periods.
- The soil temperatures were a significant improvement over the last period resulting in improved pasture growth. However this was slightly down on expectation which was largely attributed to the wastage of pasture due to treading.
- The grazing rotation (days) had reduced from 150 to now be around 100 days. The aim is to follow the rotation planner (below) between now and the 20th September.
- The dries had been sorted into two mobs of springers and dries. To 31 July 10% of the herd had calved which was less than the ideal target of 14% (see calving graph below). Planned start of calving was 1st August.
- Cow condition for the springers and dries was 4.8 and 4.9 respectively. This was similar to the last period except the springers had lost 0.1 cs. A sample of dries were weighed on 17th July averaging 599 kg. Assuming the weight of calf and fluids of 90kg their empty weight was estimated at 510 kg.
- Pregraze covers were around the 2,800-3,300 kgDM/ha as expected. They had received 47% of their daily diet as supplement including: 2.2 kgDM/cow maize silage; and 3.0 kgDM/cow threshed rye.
- A herbage test indicated the pre-graze pasture was of high quality (12.7ME) however was very low in cobalt, boron, copper, calcium and high in potassium (3.2%). This indicated a potent pasture mainly in terms of the interference of magnesium and calcium uptake from the pasture. It has been recommended by Biologics NZ Ltd. to not apply any potassium until such time the potassium level in the herbage drops back below 3%.

Management for the next period to 15th August.

- The main aim for the next period will be to: feed the cows to target; and carefully follow the grazing rotation planner (below).
- The target daily diet for each of the mobs will be:

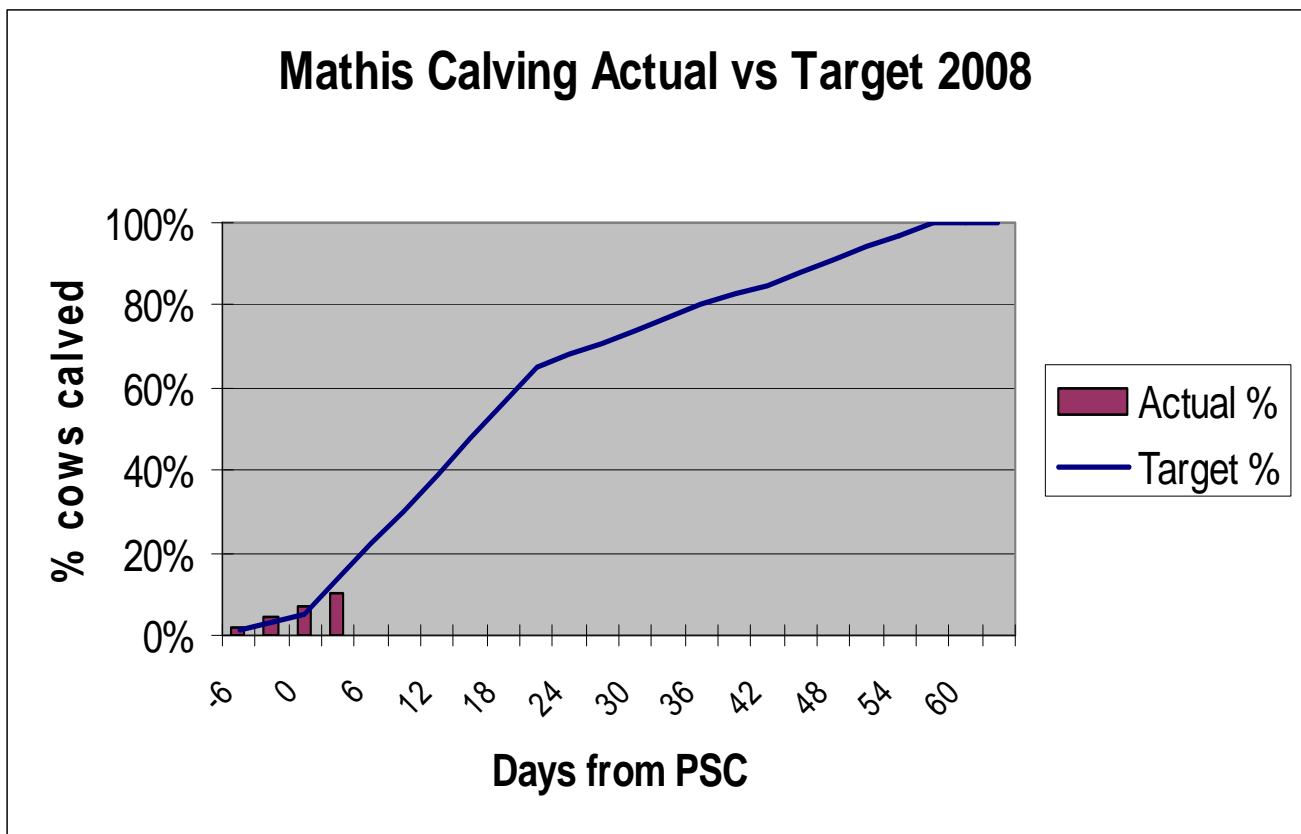
Milkers: 17 kgDM/cow all grass, until a mob size of 50 is reached, after which they will receive 3 kgDM maize silage and 2 kgDM palm kernel .

Springers: 10 kgDM/cow including 3.2 kgDM maize silage

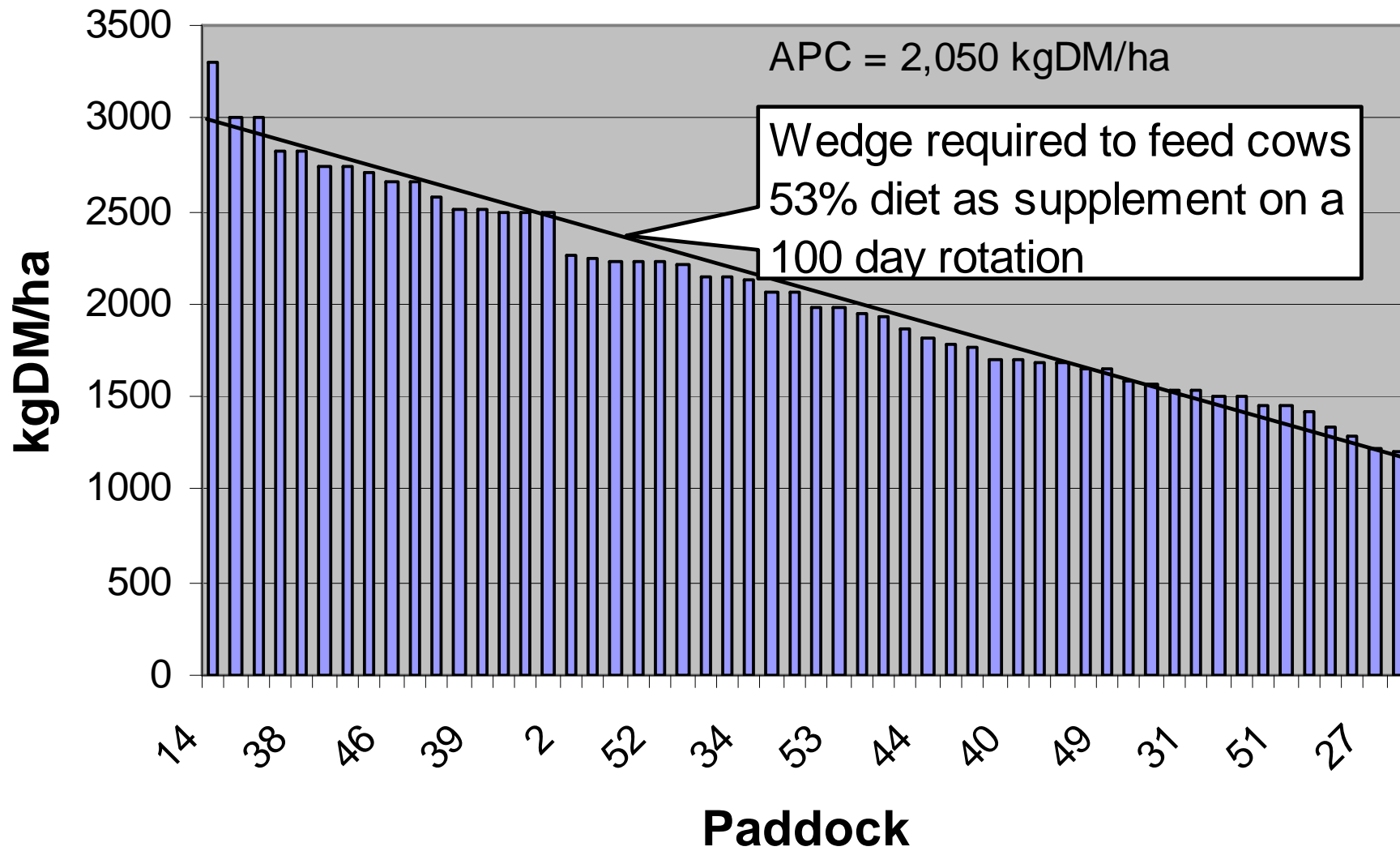
Drys: 10 kgDM/cow including 3 kgDM maize silage

- The predicted minimum spring cover has slipped slightly to 1,970 kgDM/ha which is still an acceptable level to ensure adequate feeding of milkers. The aim is for the milkers to peak at 21-22 kgDM/cow/day intake in early October.
- Further herbage tests on pre-graze pasture are planned in mid August and early September to assist with better balancing the milker diet.
- The calving will be closely analysed mainly in terms of the calving rate for heifers, 2nd calvers and MA cows (see graph below).
- Target milk production is 127,000 kg milksolids from 310 cows (410 kgMS/cow). The previous best for the farm was 119,559 kgMS in the 2006/07 season.

Mathis Calving Rate to 31st July 2008



Mathis Pasture Wedge 31-7-08



Mathis Spring Rotation Planner 2008

