

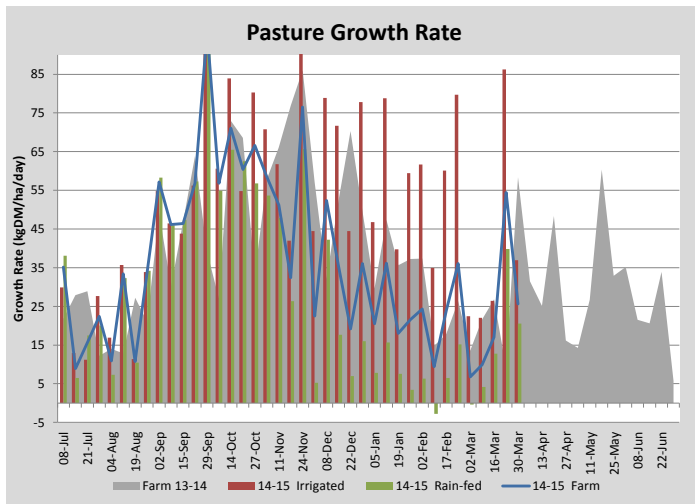
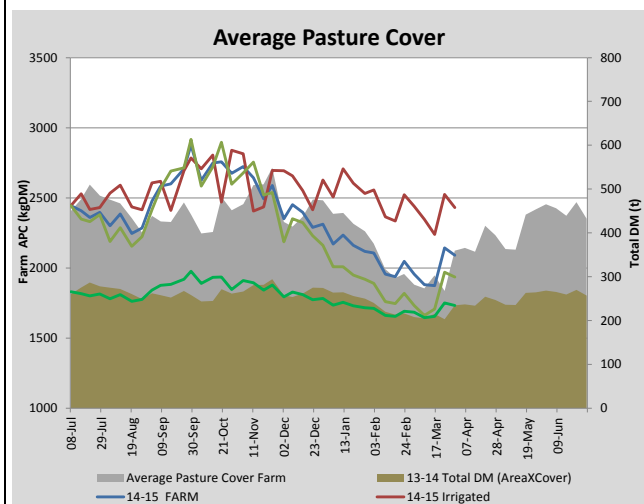
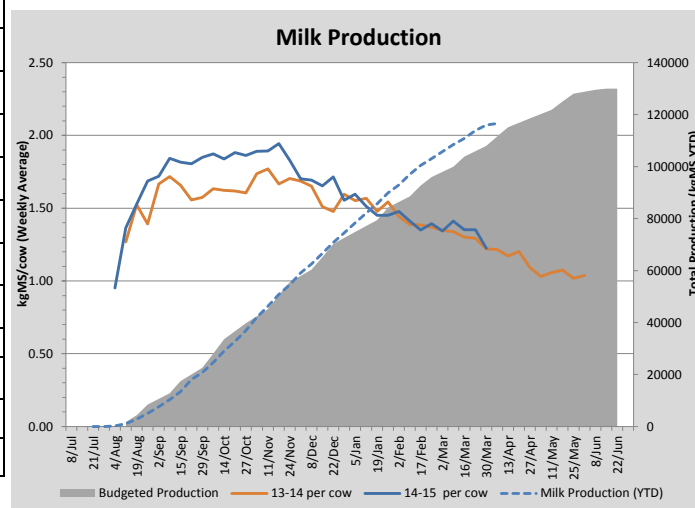
Key Summary Points

- Cow production has decreased this week and feed budgeting has shown it is timely to reduce cow numbers further in order to look after next season's milking herd.
- Pasture growth and average pasture cover did decrease, as expected, from last weeks high figures, once again emphasising the importance of looking at the trend and not relying entirely on a single weeks figures.
- The spreading of capital and maintenance fertiliser began during this week, rates have been calculated from nutrient budgeting and results from annual soil tests.

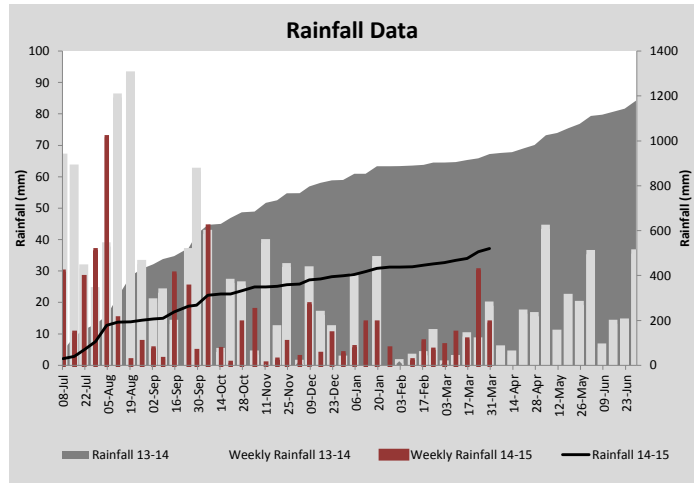
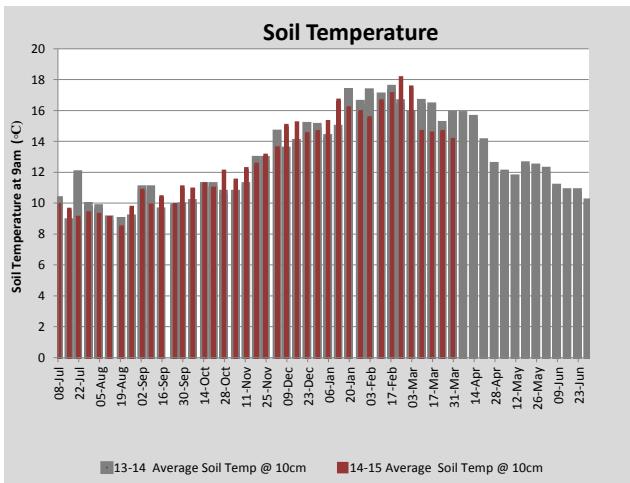
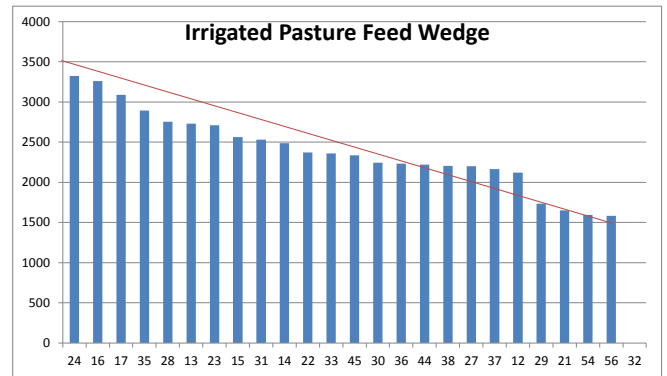
PASTURE INFORMATION	Farm			Irrigated			Rain-fed		
	Last Week	This Week	Variation	Last Week	This Week	Variation	Last Week	This Week	Variation
Grazed milking area (ha)	111.9	111.9	0.0	40.5	35.1	-5.4	71.4	76.8	5
Rotation Length (days)	47	51	4	35	32	-3	55	70	15
Grazing allocation per day (ha)	2.4	2.2	-0.2	1.0	1.1	0.1	1.4	1.1	-0.3
Average time since last grazed (days)	63	62	-1	36	32	-4	75	76	1
Leaf appearance rate (days per leaf)	19	17	-1	12	12	0	22	20	-2
Average Pasture Cover (kgDM/ha)	2143	2091	-52	2523	2431	-92	1969	1935	-34
Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	54	26	-29	86	37	-49	40	21	-19
Post Grazing Biomass (kgDM/ha)	1500	1450	-50						
Nitrogen applied YTD (kgN/ha)	137	143	6	0	18	18	0	0	0

*Please note all pasture calculations detailed above are based on the current Grazed Milking Area

MILK PRODUCTION	Last Week	This Week	Variation
Average No. cows in milk (vat)	282	281	-1
Litres per cow	16.3	14.3	-2.0
% Fat	4.73	5.01	0.28
% Protein	3.57	3.57	0.00
MS/cow/day	1.35	1.22	-0.13
MS/ha/day	3.38	3.05	-0.33
BMCC	140	158	19
Average Liveweight (kg)	533	529	-4
	Budget	To Date	Variation
Total Milk Production (kgMS)	107,960	115,982	107%
MS/ha YTD	964	1079	115



Last 7 days					
Milkers Diet	kg DM	MJ ME	CP (%)	NDF (%)	\$/cow
Pasture Intake	9.1	13.1	22.2	46.3	0.0
Concentrates	5.0	12.0	16.0	16.5	0.0
Silage	3.0	11.0	15.0	49.0	0.0
Grazed forage	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other feeds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	17	211	19.1	38.0	0
Target		191	16-18	>33	0



Analysis			
Expected growth rate next 7 days (kgDM/ha/day)	29	Target Leaf Grazing Stage	2.5-3.0
Total Demand from Pasture (kgDM/ha/day)	21	Predicted APC 7 days time	2142
APC balance (kgDM/ha/day)	7	Predicted APC Change	51.3

Discussion

While pasture covers are increasing and growth rates have climbed (albeit from a very low base) feed budgeting indicates that even with expected average growth rates of 30 kg DM/day (perhaps slightly optimistic) cow numbers must be reduced to a more manageable level. The 15 empty cows will be sold and strategic culling of cows not wanted for next season will commence. We would like to reduce the milking herd from 280 cows to a more manageable 230-240 cows over the next few weeks. Spreading of maintenance and capital fertiliser has commenced. This year we are applying 0:7:11:9 (NPKS) at 4 rates: 0 (for paddocks that are high in potassium, these will receive phosphorus later in the season), 300, 400 or 500 kg/ha depending upon the soil test data and location (as part of the nutrient budgeting process).

30 March 2015

