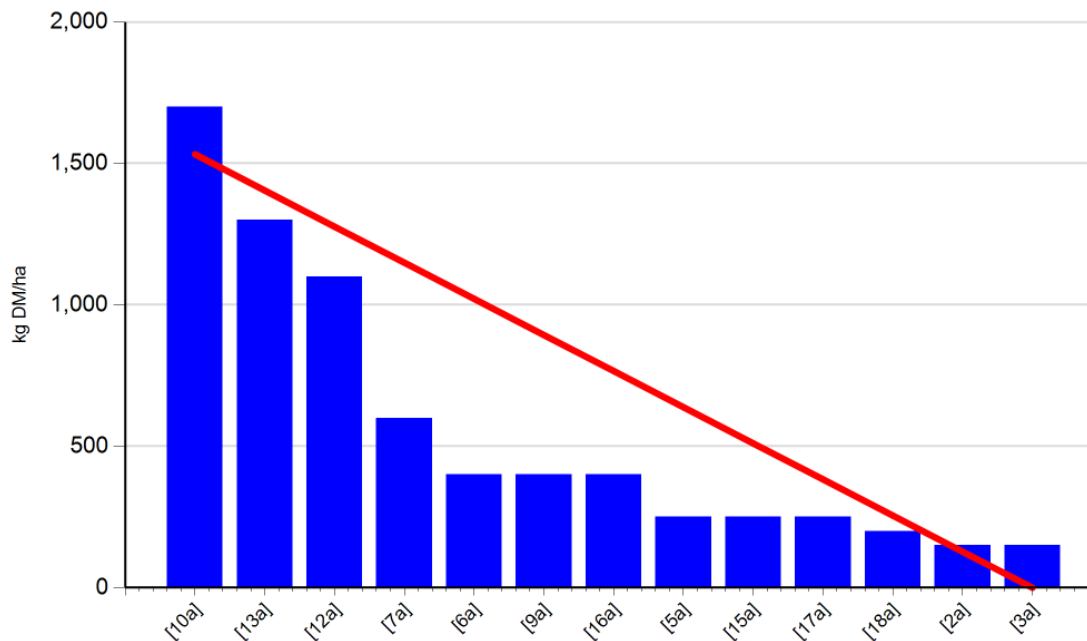


## Farm Walk Notes 17/06/13

### High SR (3.28 cows/ha)

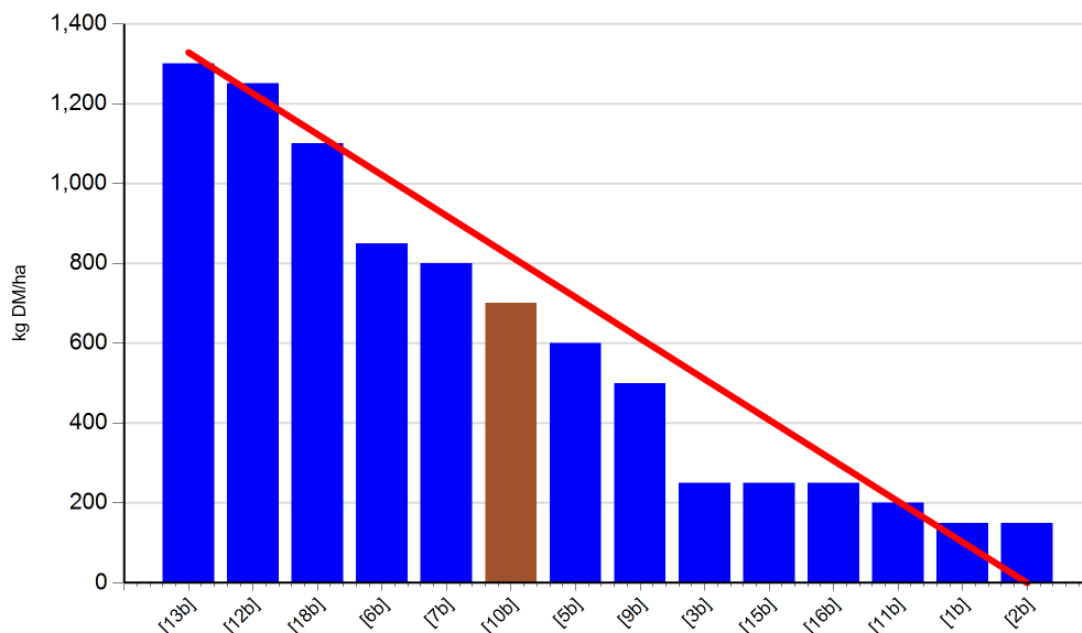
- Grass growth – 48 kg DM/ha/day
- Farm cover – 545 kg DM/ha (120 kg DM/LU)
- Rotation length - 21 days



- We were disappointed with grass growth (at 48kg DM/ha/day) and sward quality this week. All 1<sup>st</sup> cut silage ground has now returned to the grazing rotation and is a contributing factor to the low growth rates recorded.
- Cows are struggling to achieve the target post grazing residual of 3.5 cm. We have decided to accept a low farm cover and let the cows into lower pregrazing herbage masses to maximise herbage quality and grass utilisation.
- The high SR herd have a daily grass allocation of 16 kg with 0.2 kg concentrate. Grass allocation is on a 24 hour basis.
- We are following the grazing herd with 20 units of sulphha-CAN.
- The SR and daily grass demand has decreased as the silage ground has returned to the grazing platform. SR reduced by almost 2 cows/ha and daily grass demand has decreased to 73 kg from 104 kg last week. This will allow us to skip poorer quality paddocks to correct quality by harvesting bale silage over the next month.

## Medium SR (2.94 cows/ha)

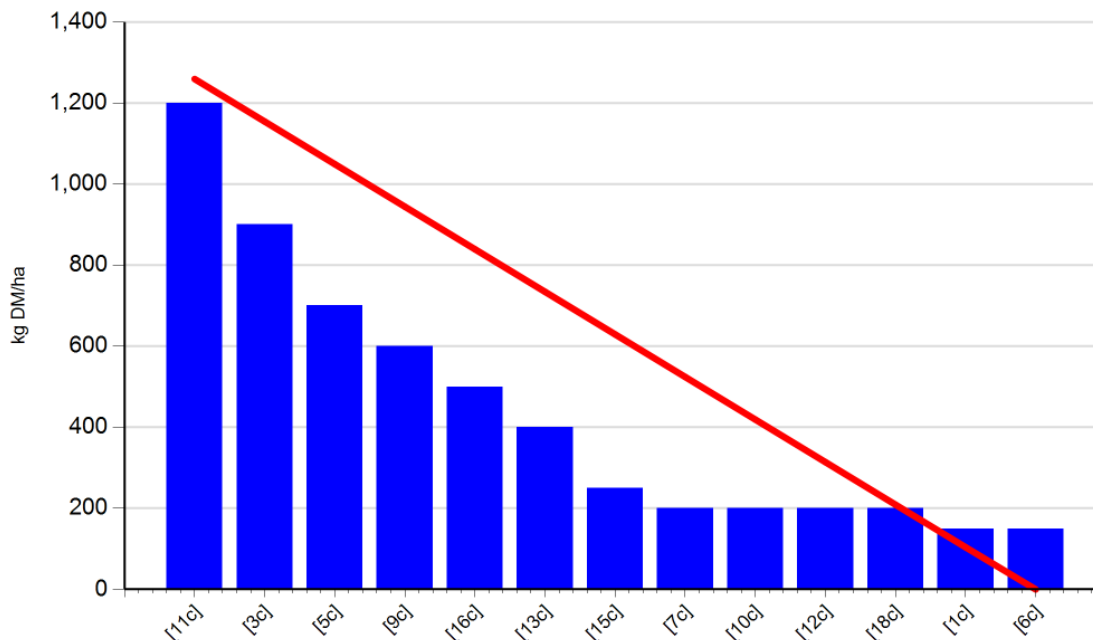
- Grass growth – 55 kg DM/ha/day
- Farm cover – 591 kg DM/ha (159 kg DM/LU)
- Rotation length – 21 days



- We were disappointed with grass growth at 55kg DM/ha/day this week although the medium SR recorded the best growth this week. Moisture deficit is no longer restricting growth.  
All 1<sup>st</sup> cut silage ground has returned into the grazing rotation this week and is a contributing factor to the low growth rates recorded.
- One paddock was taken out of rotation this week as we feel it was gone too strong for grazing. In order to achieve target residual of 4 cm we have decided to let the cows into lower covers (Pre-grazing herbage mass), aiming to maximise herbage quality and grass utilisation.
- The medium SR herd have a daily grass allocation of 17 kg with 0.2 kg concentrate. Grass allocation is on a 24 hour basis.
- We are following the grazing herd with 20 units of sulphha-CAN.
- The SR and daily grass demand has decreased as the silage ground has returned to the grazing platform. SR reduced by 1.5 cows/ha and daily grass demand has decreased to 89 kg from 63 kg last week.

## Low SR (2.52 cows/ha)

- Grass growth – 33 kg DM/ha/day
- Farm cover – 442 kg DM/ha (133 kg DM/LU)
- Rotation length – 21 days



- We were disappointed with grass growth at 33kg DM/ha/day this week. Moisture deficit is no longer restricting growth.  
All 1<sup>st</sup> cut silage ground has returned into the grazing rotation this week and is a contributing factor to the low growth rates recorded.
- One paddock was taken out of rotation this week as we feel it was gone too strong for grazing. We have decided to let the cows into lower covers (Pre-grazing herbage mass), aiming to maximise herbage quality and grass utilisation.
- The low SR cows are achieving target residual of 4.5 cm.
- The low SR herd have a daily grass allocation of 18 kg with 0.2 kg concentrate. Grass allocation is on a 24 hour basis.
- We are following the grazing herd with 20 units of sulphur-CAN.
- The SR and daily grass demand has decreased as the silage ground has returned to the grazing platform. SR reduced by 1 cow/ha and daily grass demand has decreased to 60 kg from 79 kg last week.

## **Overall farm situation**

- Grass DM was recorded at 16% on the farm walk on Monday morning.
- We are applying Mg and minerals using the doseatron and concentrate supplementation is at 0.2 kg per cow per day.
- Milk yield is on average 21 kg per day at 4.53% fat, 3.54% protein and 4.78% lactose. SCC is at 118,000 and TBC is at 12.