MilkMaP
Milk Management and Profitability
0800 MMCONSULT (662 667)

MilkMap Consulting Ltd

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Pasture Quality Trend (Feb-Mar 2018)

The rain that we had in late January, as well as Gita, quickly dropped our air and soil temperature, but we see soil temperature recovering rapidly as the rain stops and the weather clears up. Over the last 5 days, soil temperature has averaged 17.5^{O}C, so there is still plenty of warmth there, and lots of potential for growth and a good autumn flush of growth. Care needs to be taken when irrigating from now on, as we can see that large dumps of moisture will drop soil temperature, and as the weather cools, the rebound in soil temperature will be slow. Remember, bore water is a lot cooler than the rain we have had, so while not as much will be applied, the effects will be similar.

Dry Matter (DM) (%)

DM% continues to drop with the wet weather we have been getting. Several things are happening here, temperatures are cooler, so pasture is less stressed and jumps back into its vegetative growth from the extended period of stress related reproductive growth. Vegetative production with plenty of moisture in the soil, and heavier dews mean that the pasture is wetter for longer and DM% does not get a chance to climb. It would be worthwhile keeping some drier supplement in the diet, such as PK or silage, to help dry out the ration and extend round length into the Autumn.

Crude Protein (CP) (%)

CP% and availability has increased with the vegetative growth. This is evident in the pasture tests which is confirming what we are seeing on farm. Manure has loosened up and is, in most cases, very good at present. Milk Urea's have increased around Canterbury, and NZ. This is a result of higher protein levels, but also higher NPNs in the pasture. There is no need for concern if MU's are below 40, but if you are approaching 50, then it would be worthwhile looking into mitigating any further increases. On the farms where fodder beet has been introduced to extend the round we have seen the MU's drop quickly. The extra sugar from the beet allows the rumen microbes to better utilise the rapidly available N from the pasture, as well as beet pushing out the total pasture that is being consumed to dilute the total N consumed.

Neutral Detergent Fibre (NDF) (%)

NDF is still at similar levels to the summer grass we have tested. This is helping keep the rumen passage rates slow enough to well utilise the feed going through and as a result manure is looking good. As NDF drops, passage rate will increase, and nutrient utilisation will decrease accordingly, it would be wise, especially if you have beet in the diet, to offer clean, fresh straw in the lane way.

Metabolisable Energy (MJME/kg DM)

ME has still not recovered. The pasture looks of very good quality, but the testing is telling us something different. If your cows are a little light after the pinch through the hot period, it would be wise to review the current diet to ensure that you have enough energy in the diet to compensate for some addition BCS gain through late lactation. We know that cows that are 5.0 BCS at calving have much better production, reproduction and less animal health issues for the coming season. Most farms will not be able to put more than 0.5 BCS over winter, even on beet, and it is much more economical to put that weight on during milking to avoid large calves causing difficulty at calving.

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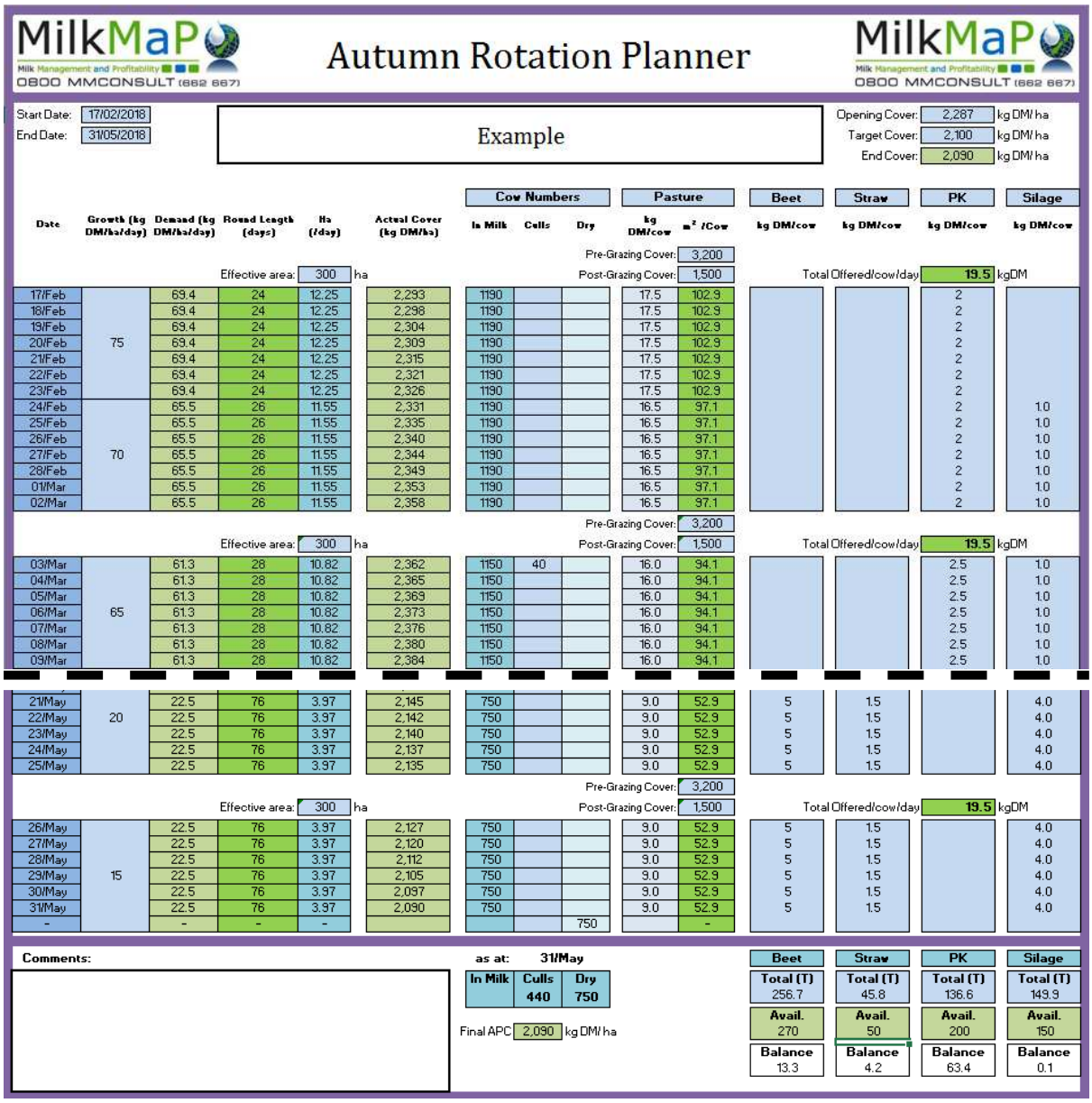
Autumn Rotation Planner & Short-Term Feed Budget

By now, you should have a good idea of what steps you will be taking this autumn as pasture production drops and dry off approaches. Do you dry empty cows off, or is it more profitable to continuing milking them and increase the supplement use? Where will covers end up at the end of each month, and what would an increase, or decrease in projected growth rates mean for your property? MilkMap Consulting has an accurate and comprehensive rotation planner/ short-term feed budget that is personalised for your farm to answer these questions. It is a daily planner that staff can easily follow and is designed to be updated through the autumn to reflect actual performance so that decisions can be reviewed in advance as new information comes to light.

This service would involve a single information gathering and decision-making visit to the farm followed up with on going correspondence as the autumn unfolds and any adjustments to the forecast need to be made. This can be a stand-alone service, or part of a more comprehensive farm advisory package. The cost of the Autumn Rotation Planner service is $750.00 + GST

To book a meeting, call Cameron on 027 445 3803



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Start Date: 17/02/2018 | End Date: 31/05/2018 | Example

Opening Cover: 2,287 kg DM/ha | Target Cover: 2,100 kg DM/ha | End Cover: 2,090 kg DM/ha

Date	Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	Demand (kg DM/ha/day)	Round Length (days)	Ha (/day)	Actual Cover (kg DM/ha)	Cow Numbers: In Milk	Cows	Dry	Pasture: kg DM/cow	Pasture: m² /Cow	Beet kg DM/cow	Straw kg DM/cow	PK kg DM/cow	Silage kg DM/cow
									Pre-Grazing Cover:	3,200				
		Effective area:	300	ha					Post-Grazing Cover:	1,500		Total Offered/cow/day	19.5	kgDM
17/Feb		69.4	24	12.25	2,293	1190			17.5	102.9			2	
18/Feb		69.4	24	12.25	2,298	1190			17.5	102.9			2	
19/Feb		69.4	24	12.25	2,304	1190			17.5	102.9			2	
20/Feb	75	69.4	24	12.25	2,309	1190			17.5	102.9			2	
21/Feb		69.4	24	12.25	2,315	1190			17.5	102.9			2	
22/Feb		69.4	24	12.25	2,321	1190			17.5	102.9			2	
23/Feb		69.4	24	12.25	2,326	1190			17.5	102.9			2	
24/Feb		65.5	26	11.55	2,331	1190			16.5	97.1			2	1.0
25/Feb		65.5	26	11.55	2,335	1190			16.5	97.1			2	1.0
26/Feb		65.5	26	11.55	2,340	1190			16.5	97.1			2	1.0
27/Feb	70	65.5	26	11.55	2,344	1190			16.5	97.1			2	1.0
28/Feb		65.5	26	11.55	2,349	1190			16.5	97.1			2	1.0
01/Mar		65.5	26	11.55	2,353	1190			16.5	97.1			2	1.0
02/Mar		65.5	26	11.55	2,358	1190			16.5	97.1			2	1.0
									Pre-Grazing Cover:	3,200				
		Effective area:	300	ha					Post-Grazing Cover:	1,500		Total Offered/cow/day	19.5	kgDM
03/Mar		61.3	28	10.82	2,362	1150	40		16.0	94.1			2.5	1.0
04/Mar		61.3	28	10.82	2,365	1150			16.0	94.1			2.5	1.0
05/Mar		61.3	28	10.82	2,369	1150			16.0	94.1			2.5	1.0
06/Mar	65	61.3	28	10.82	2,373	1150			16.0	94.1			2.5	1.0
07/Mar		61.3	28	10.82	2,376	1150			16.0	94.1			2.5	1.0
08/Mar		61.3	28	10.82	2,380	1150			16.0	94.1			2.5	1.0
09/Mar		61.3	28	10.82	2,384	1150			16.0	94.1			2.5	1.0
21/May		22.5	76	3.97	2,145	750			9.0	52.9	5	1.5		4.0
22/May	20	22.5	76	3.97	2,142	750			9.0	52.9	5	1.5		4.0
23/May		22.5	76	3.97	2,140	750			9.0	52.9	5	1.5		4.0
24/May		22.5	76	3.97	2,137	750			9.0	52.9	5	1.5		4.0
25/May		22.5	76	3.97	2,135	750			9.0	52.9	5	1.5		4.0
									Pre-Grazing Cover:	3,200				
		Effective area:	300	ha					Post-Grazing Cover:	1,500		Total Offered/cow/day	19.5	kgDM
26/May		22.5	76	3.97	2,127	750			9.0	52.9	5	1.5		4.0
27/May		22.5	76	3.97	2,120	750			9.0	52.9	5	1.5		4.0
28/May		22.5	76	3.97	2,112	750			9.0	52.9	5	1.5		4.0
29/May	15	22.5	76	3.97	2,105	750			9.0	52.9	5	1.5		4.0
30/May		22.5	76	3.97	2,097	750			9.0	52.9	5	1.5		4.0
31/May		22.5	76	3.97	2,090	750			9.0	52.9	5	1.5		4.0
-		-	-	-				750		-				

Comments:

as at: 31/May

In Milk	Culls	Dry
	440	750

Final APC 2,090 kg DM/ha

Beet	Straw	PK	Silage
Total (T) 256.7	Total (T) 45.8	Total (T) 136.6	Total (T) 149.9
Avail. 270	Avail. 50	Avail. 200	Avail. 150
Balance 13.3	Balance 4.2	Balance 63.4	Balance 0.1

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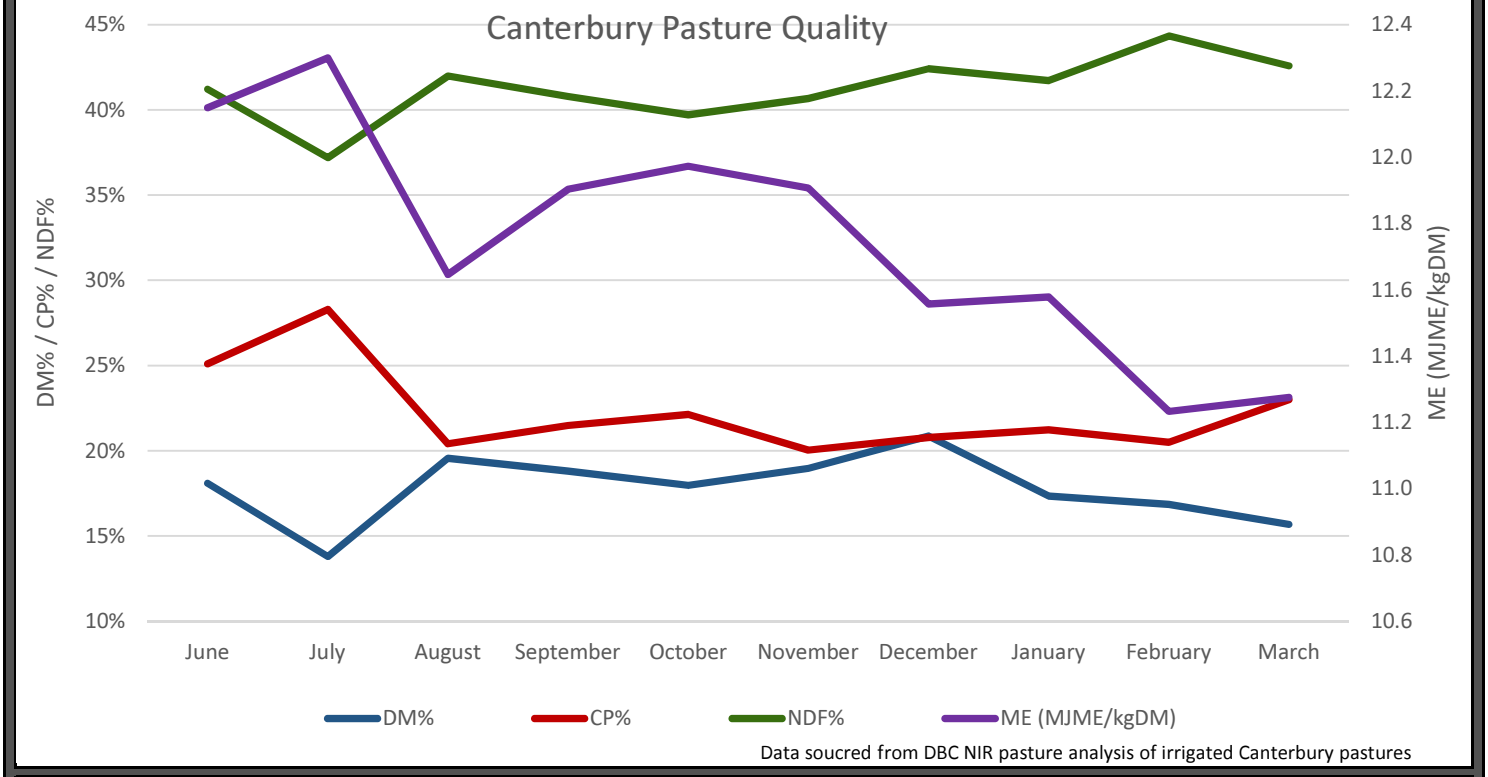
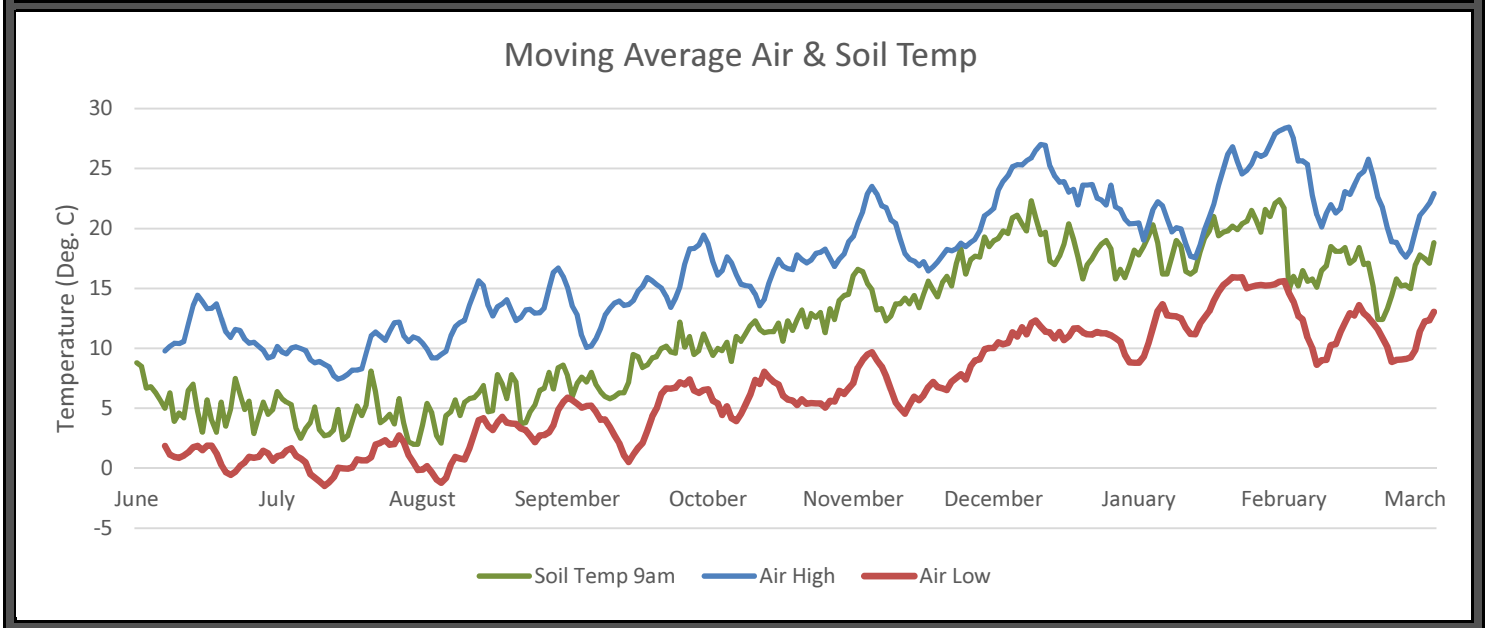
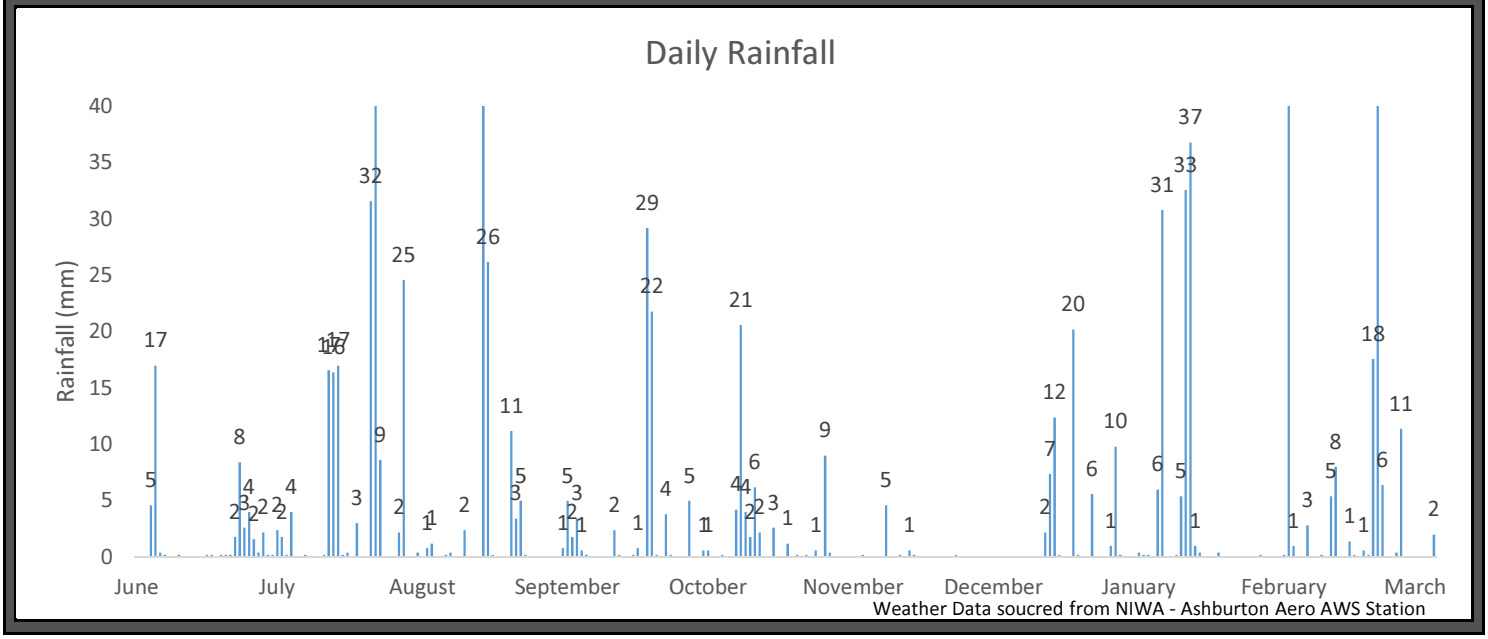
Monthly Pasture Report



Data soucred from DBC NIR pasture analysis of irrigated Canterbury pastures





Weather Data soucred from NIWA - Ashburton Aero AWS Station