



Penwith
Landscape
Partnership

Managing a Late Spring

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SPRING Management

Introduction

1. Grazing Management – Aims
2. Review of current feed supply/demand
3. Next 2-3 weeks

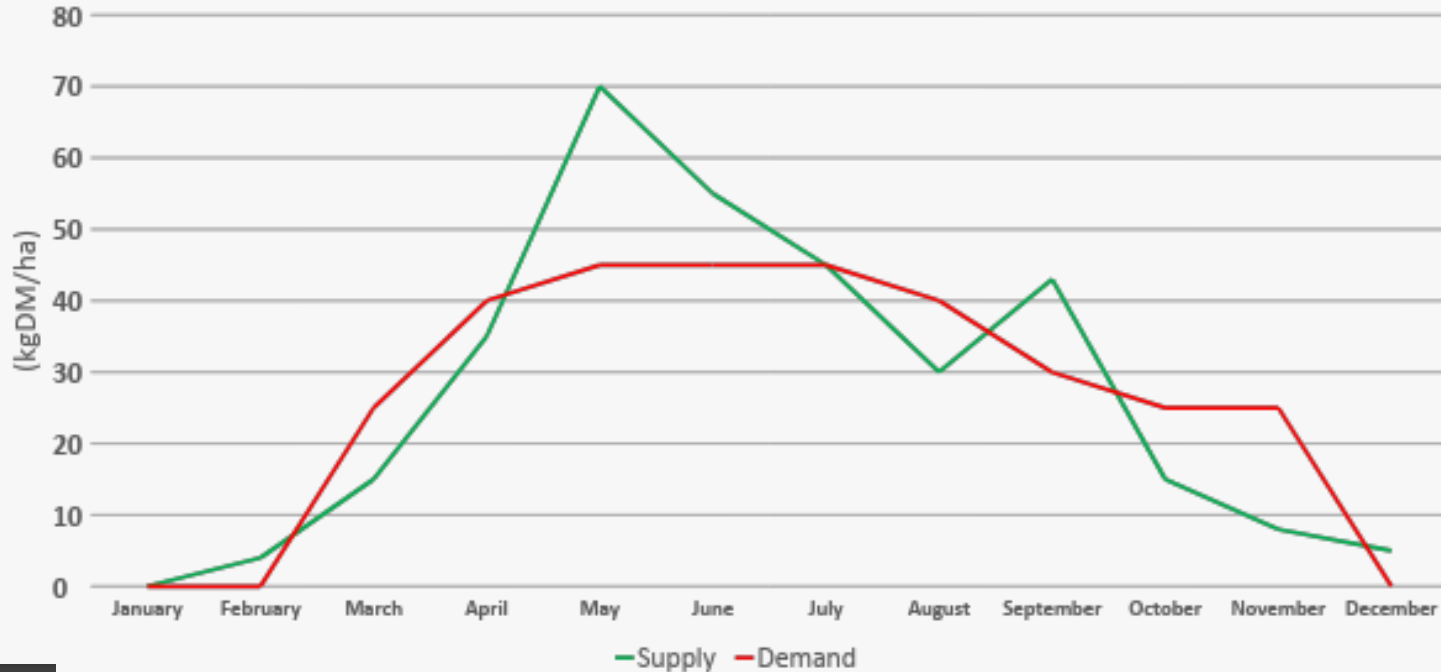
ROLE OF FARM MANAGER

Supply the right Quantity and Quality of feed to animals at the right time.

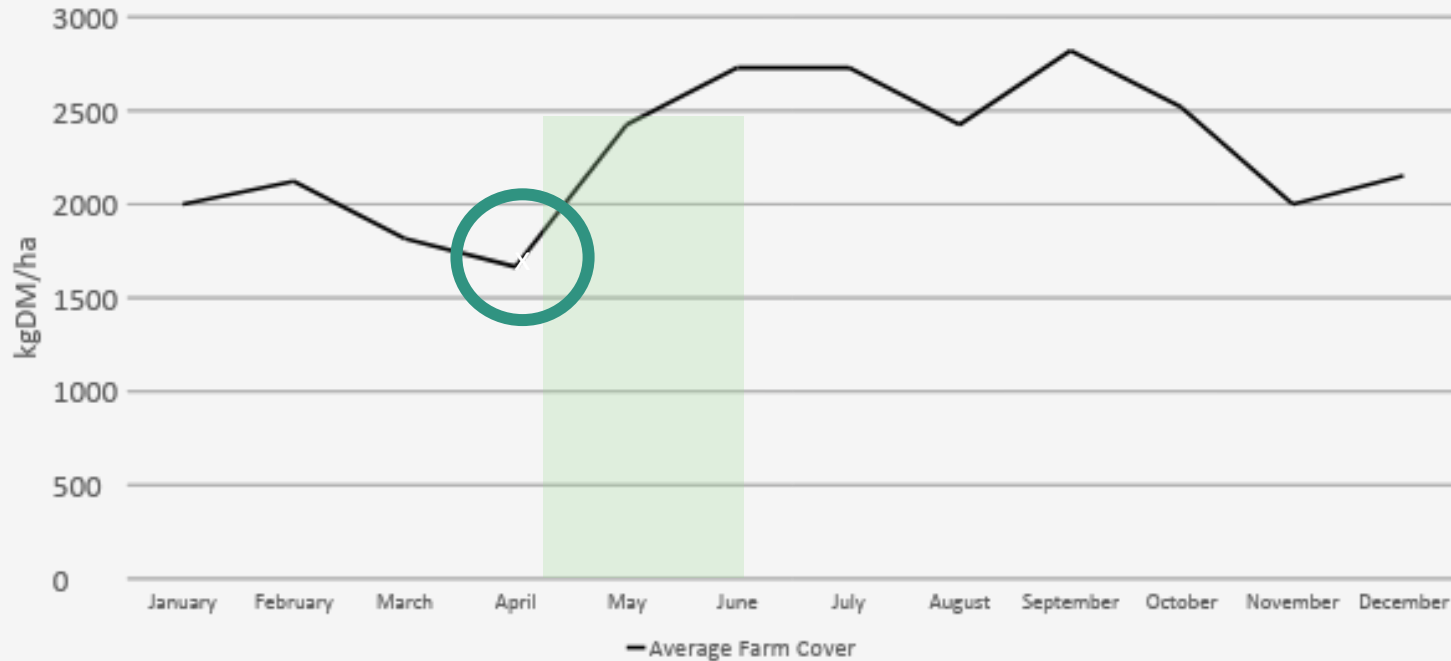


How?

By Knowing and Managing **Feed Supply** and **Animal Demand**



Monitoring Pasture Covers



Grazing Management – April/May

SPRING AIMS

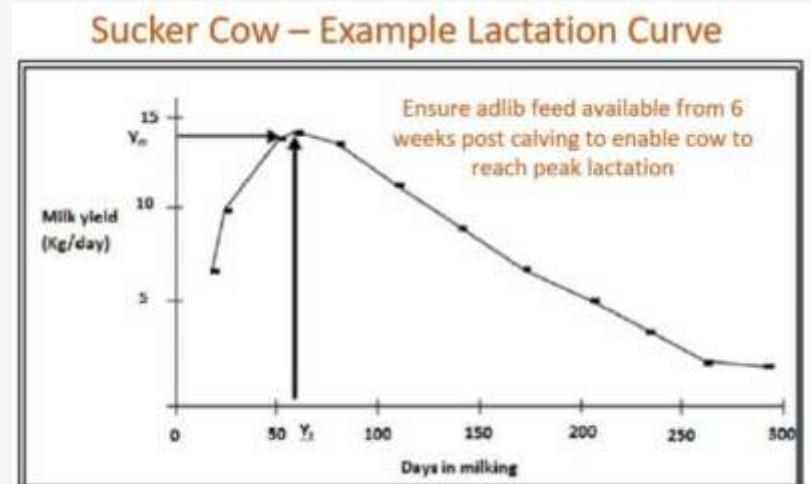
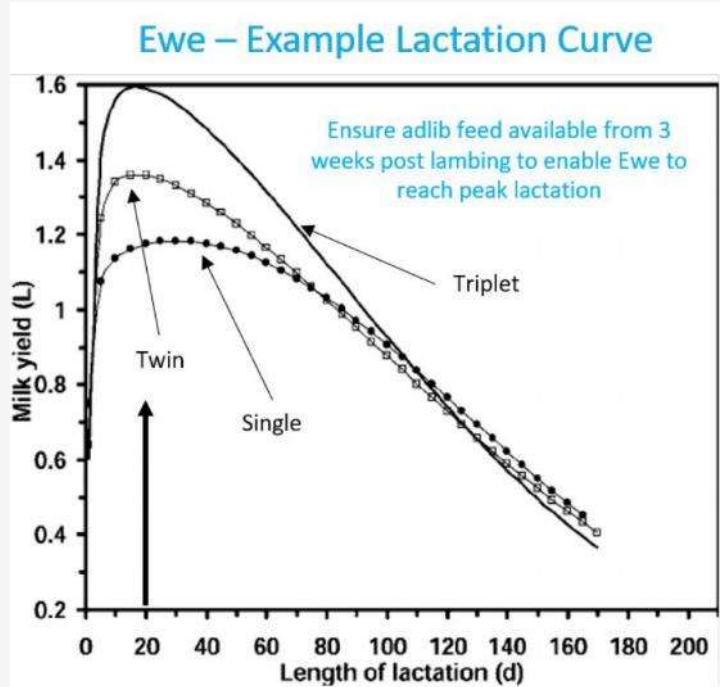
Feed stock to ensure peak lactation

- Increase lamb/calve weaning weights

Improve BCS of ewes/cows at weaning

- Increase mating %





Current Position

Current Position

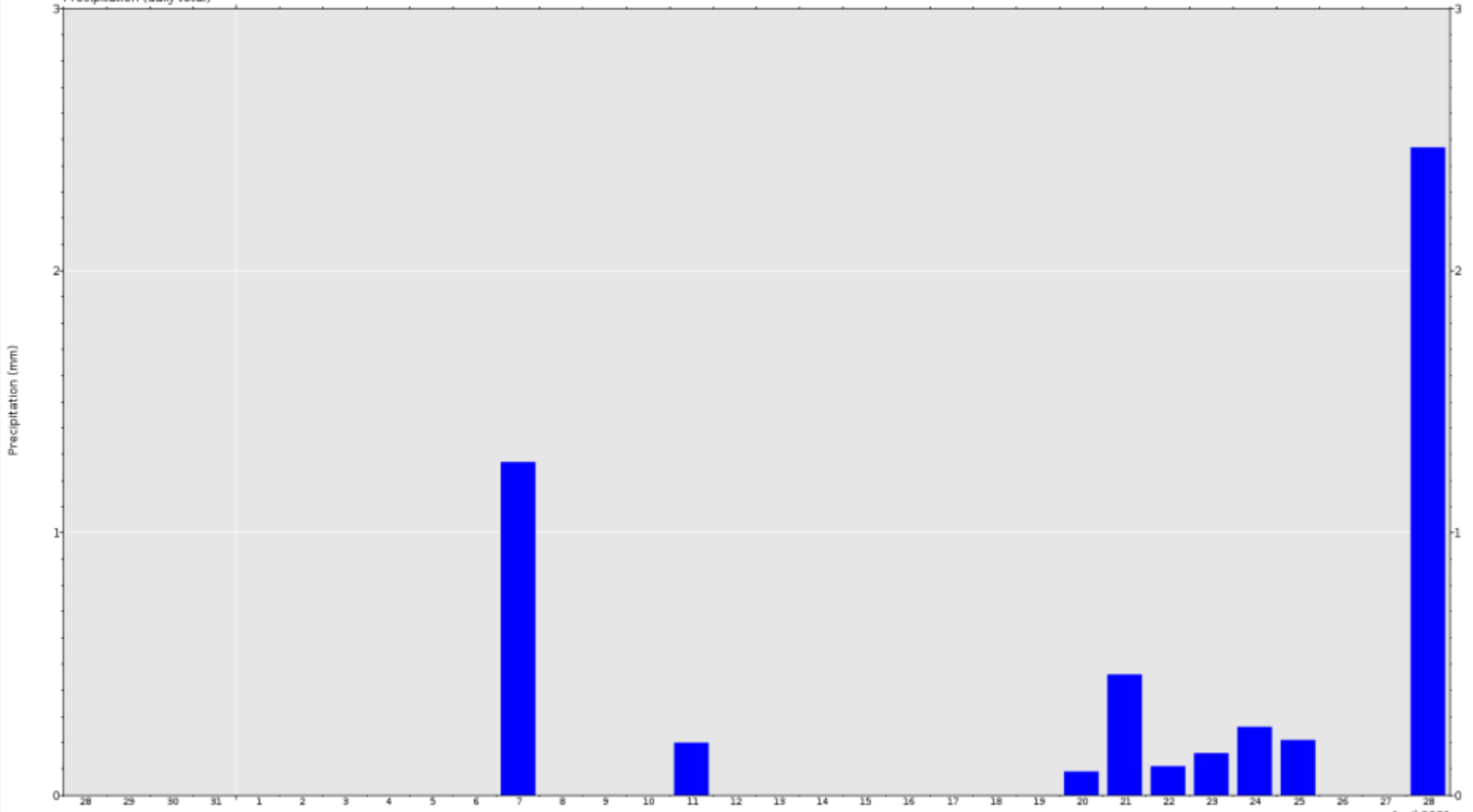
Colder than average for April

Soil Temperature currently
limiting pasture growth:

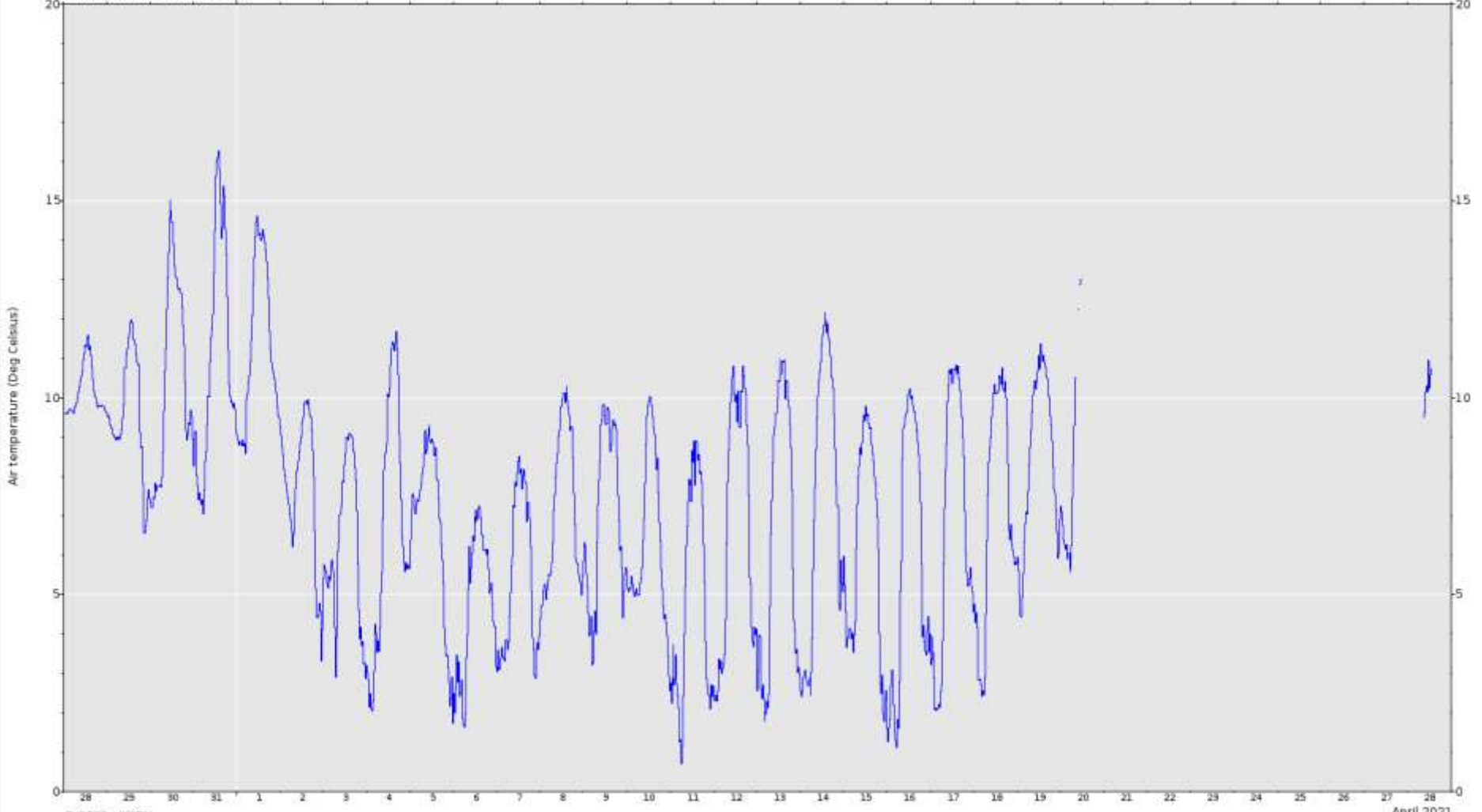
- Grass grows above 5 Degrees
- Clover grows above 8 Degrees

winter
fool's spring
second winter
spring of deception
third winter
mud season
actual spring
summer

The Lizard
Precipitation (daily total)

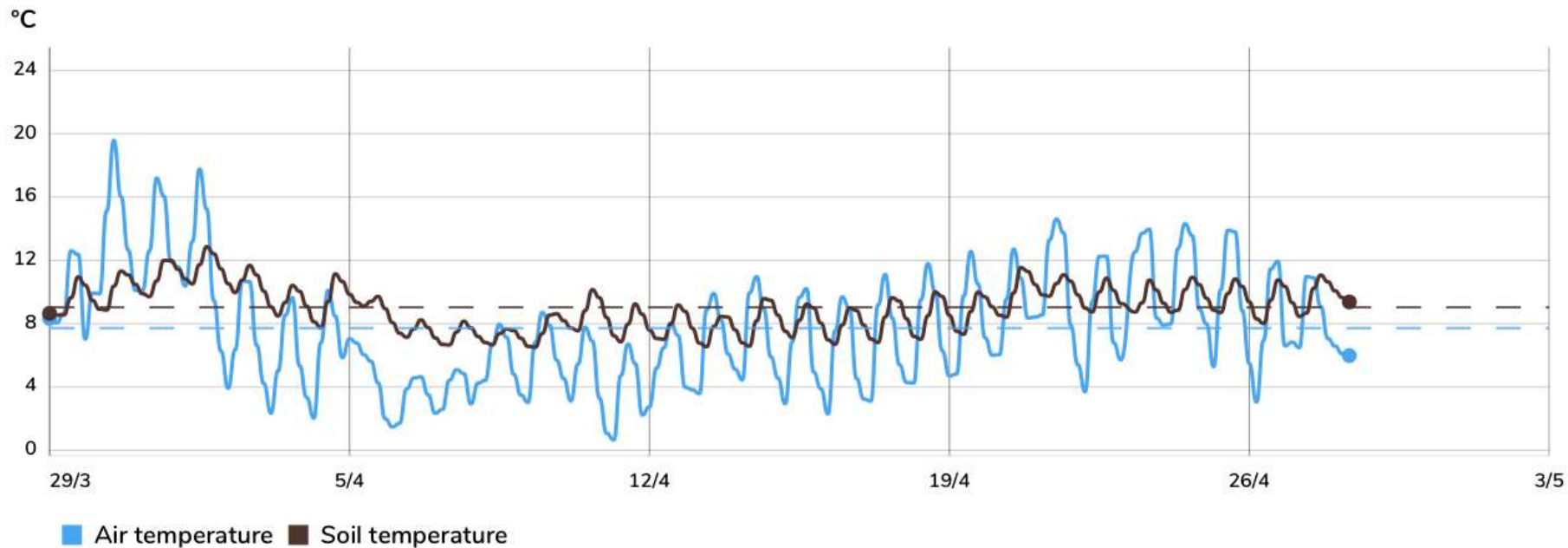


The Lizard
Air temperature (mean, 30 min)



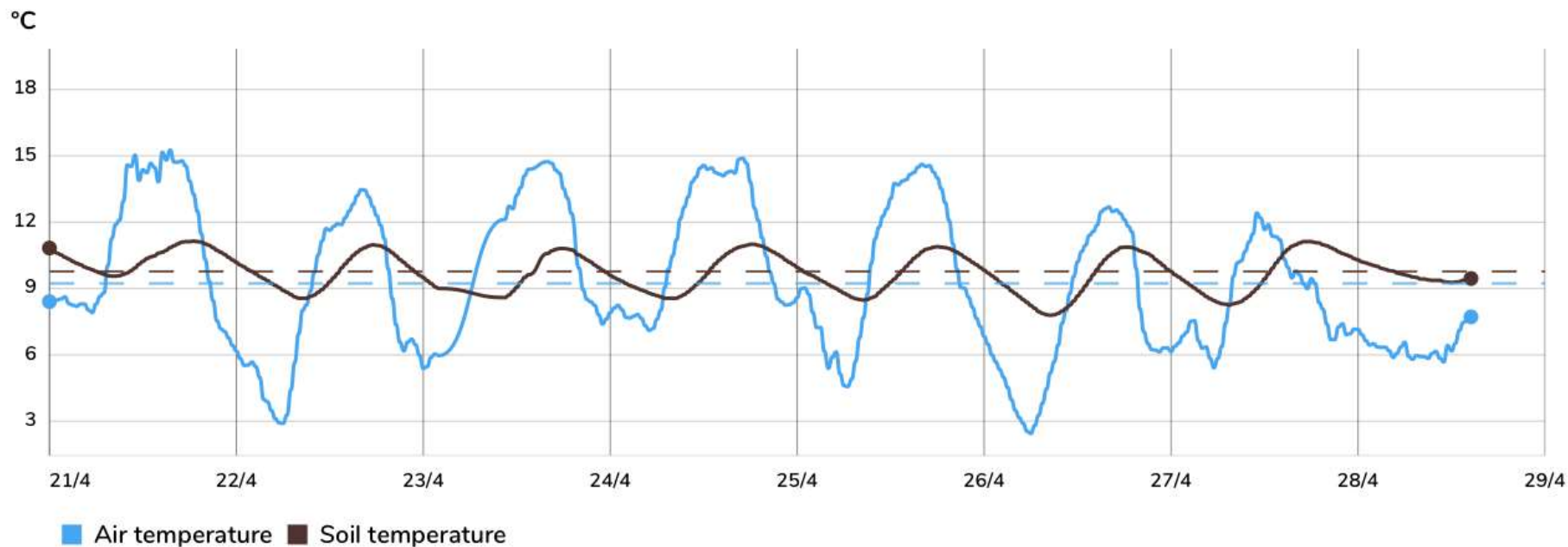


Air and Soil Temperature





Air and Soil Temperature



Management

ANIMAL DEMAND

LSU/ha	Demand (kg DM/ha)	Ewes/ha	Ewes/acre	Cows/ha	Cows /acre	Growing cattle/ha	Growing cattle/acre
0.2	4	2	1	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.2
0.4	8	4	1	0.5	0.2	1.2	0.5
0.6	12	5	2	0.8	0.3	1.8	0.7
0.8	16	7	3	1.1	0.4	2.4	1.0
1	20	9	4	1.3	0.5	2.9	1.2
1.2	24	11	4	1.6	0.6	3.5	1.4
1.4	28	13	5	1.9	0.8	4.1	1.7
1.6	32	15	6	2.1	0.9	4.7	1.9
1.8	36	16	7	2.4	1.0	5.3	2.1
2	40	18	7	2.7	1.1	5.9	2.4
2.2	44	20	8	2.9	1.2	6.5	2.6
2.4	48	22	9	3.2	1.3	7.1	2.9
2.6	52	24	10	3.5	1.4	7.6	3.1

Suckler Cattle

Supplement

Bale of Silage = 650kgFW @ 40%DM
= 250kgDM

Supplement

Bale of Silage = 650kgFW

40%DM = 250kgDM

Suckler Cows & Calves

Demand = 42kgDM/ha

Growth = 25kgDM/ha

Difference = 17kgDM/ha

Supplement

Bale of Silage = 650kgFW
40%DM = 250kgDM

Suckler Cows & Calves
Demand = 42kgDM/ha
Growth = 25kgDM/ha
Difference = 17kgDM/ha

Grazing Area = 20.6ha
Deficit = 20.6ha x 17kgDM/ha
= 350kgDM
= 1.5 bales /day
= 7kgDM/cow

Ewes and Lambs

Lambs



- LAMBS EAT PASTURE FROM AROUND TWO WEEKS OLD
- The lamb's rumen is fully capable of digesting pasture by three weeks of age.
- LAMB GROWTH RATES USUALLY DECLINE DURING LACTATION
- Lamb growth peaks somewhere between day 20 and 40 of lactation (at an average of 250-350g/ head/day).
- Lambs can partially compensate for lower milk availability by consuming more pasture but only if quality is high (>11MJME/kgDM e.g. leafy green grass, legumes)

Supplement

Ewes & Lambs

Demand = 40kgDM/ha

Growth = 25kgDM/ha

Difference = 15kgDM/ha

Supplement

Ewes and Lambs

Demand = 40kgDM/ha

Growth = 25kgDM/ha

Difference = 15kgDM/ha

Grazing Area = 21ha

Deficit = 21ha x 15kgDM/ha

= 315kgDM

= 0.9kgDM/Ewe

~1kg Concentrate/ewe/day

~4.5kg Fodder beet/ewe/day

lambs >4 weeks old - option to feed creep?

Cover Heights

Pasture Cover Heights for High Performance

		(kgDM/ha)		
	Average Weight (kg)	Min	Optimum	Max
Dairy Cow	500	2200	2600	3000
Suckler Cow	650	2000	3000	3500
Growing Cattle	350	1800	2400	2800
Ewe (Twins)	70	1600	2200	2600
Weaned Lamb	32	1600	2000	2500

Dairy

Grass Wedge

Data View

Date Measured 26/04/2021
Selected Mob All Mobs ⓘ
Daily Growth 38.7 (over 7 days)
 (36.6) ⓘ
Farm Cover 1967
Total Area 84.68
Total LU 301
LU / Ha 3.55
Demand / Day 2408
Demand / Ha 28.4
N Kg / Ha 47.3 ⓘ
N % Area 38.6
Weather 0mm, 15°
Cover / LU 131.55
Litre / Cow / Day 11.87 (05/08)
kgMS / Cow 1.04
Milk Quality F4.7% / P3.8%
KgMs/Ha YTD 0 (81.76 Ha)
Short Term Silage 0 (0Ha) [Reset](#)
Long Term Silage 0 (0Ha) [Reset](#)
Area Unmeasured 5.88 Ha

	No.	Actual Grass	Meal	Silage	Target Grass
Spring Milkers	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Autumn Milkers	<input type="text" value="301"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="2.55"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Dry Cows	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
0-1 Year Old	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
1-2 Year Old	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
2+ Year Old	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Cow Intakes

 Target Pre-Graze Cover ⓘ

Rotation Length

Rotation Last Week: 32.1

Post Grazing Cover

Project wedge in

Days, Using Growth Rate

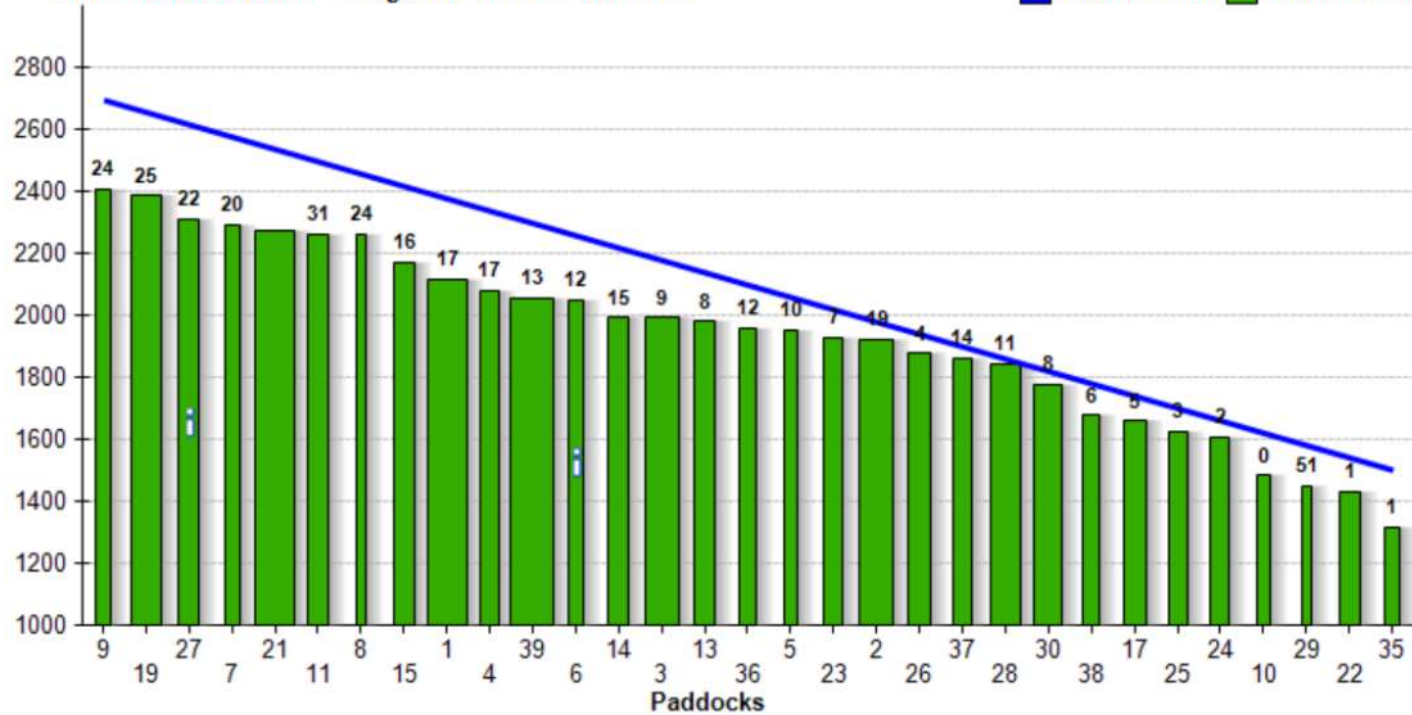
Update/Save

Send To Twitter

Graph Type Cover

Cover **Deficit: -14296** Target Pre-Graze Cover: 2694

■ Demand Line ■ Actual Cover



Update/Save

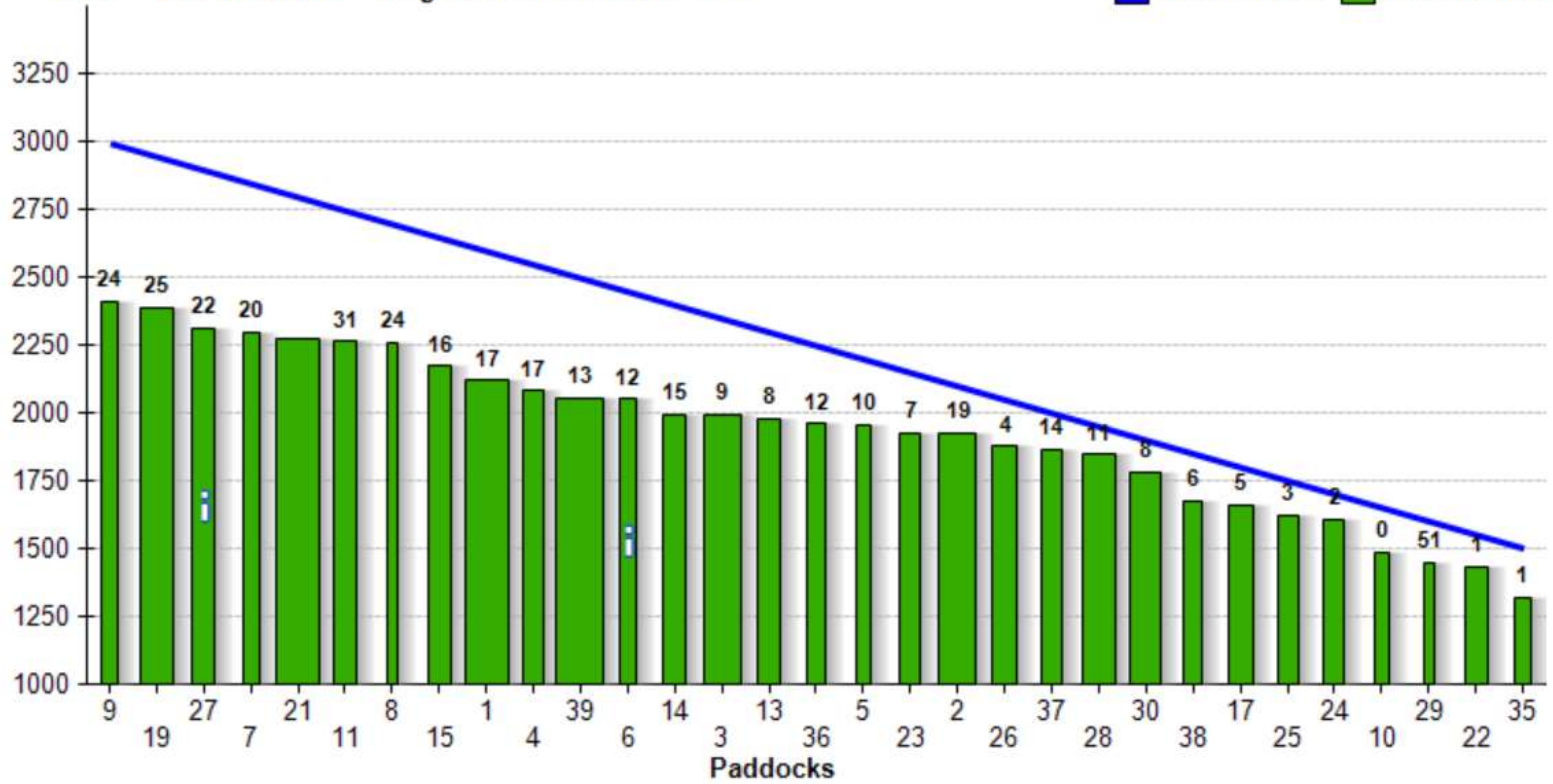
Wedge Before Changes

Send To Twitter

Graph Type Cover ▾

Cover **Deficit: -27729** Target Pre-Graze Cover: 2992

■ Demand Line ■ Actual Cover



- Dairy
 - Buffer Feeding
 - Types
 - Timing
 - Bedding

Next 2-3 Weeks

LOOKING AHEAD

Moisture may become limiting

- Maintain AFC above 1800 kgDM/ha (1950 kgDM/ha dairy).
- Want to “see” 20 days ahead.
- Monitor pasture covers weekly.



LOOKING AHEAD

- Continue to feed supplement to reduce demand (most economic option).
- Review weather forecast – what is growth likely to be over the next 10-14 days?
- If farm covers are lower than target consider preparing to use nitrogen fertiliser.



Nitrogen Fertiliser

Nitrogen fertiliser only effective IF Soil Temperature
& Soil Moisture are NOT limiting!

- Monitor soil temperature closely – measuring at mid-day will provide the average temperature
- At a soil temp of 10 degrees:
- Urea needs >10mm rain within 3 days of spreading to avoid high losses.
- Ammonia Nitrate more stable and normally needs ~4mm to dissolve
 - ◆ Apply 20-30kg N/ha only. (20-30 Units/Acre)
 - ◆ Limit N used if you have medium to low stock rate as it has a prolonged effect (50-60 days) and so could cause unwanted surplus in May/June.