

Spring Rotation Planner - Explanation

Adhering to the Spring Rotation Planner is fundamental to having a successful season in a pasture grazing system. Its fundamental purpose is to make sure that the farm arrives at “balance date” (when cow demand = pasture growth) with the correct pasture cover and at the correct rotation length to properly feed the cows and maximise pasture quantity and quality leading to mating.

Ideally the farm is at its target cover of 2400 at Planned Start of Calving (PSC). If so there will be enough grass on the farm to match the increasing intake demands of the herd as they calve.

What do I do if the farm is below target cover?

If the farm is below target cover at the PSC holding to the rotation length and putting in a small amount of supplement early can get the farm back on track at little cost. Doing weekly farm walks to assess pasture cover is an essential activity to properly manage this.

If the farm is below target cover towards the end of the SRP it is essential to go slower than what is planned in the SRP. **Never speed up anticipating earlier growth to fix the problem.**

What do I do if the farm is above target cover?

If the farm cover is above target in the first weeks of the start of the SRP it is important to hold the rotation length and use this extra cover for periods of bad weather to avoid pugging.

If the farm is above target cover (and only if it is above target cover in the last few weeks leading to “balance date” can more area be allocated than the plan.

There is no feed better for cows than high quality grass pasture.

Cow intakes increase slowly from 8 kgs DM when a springer to 16 kgs DM at peak production about 60 days later. Herd allocations increase more slowly and peak about 90 days after the start of calving because there will be a mix of dates when cows have calved.

Below is an example of a Spring Rotation Plan

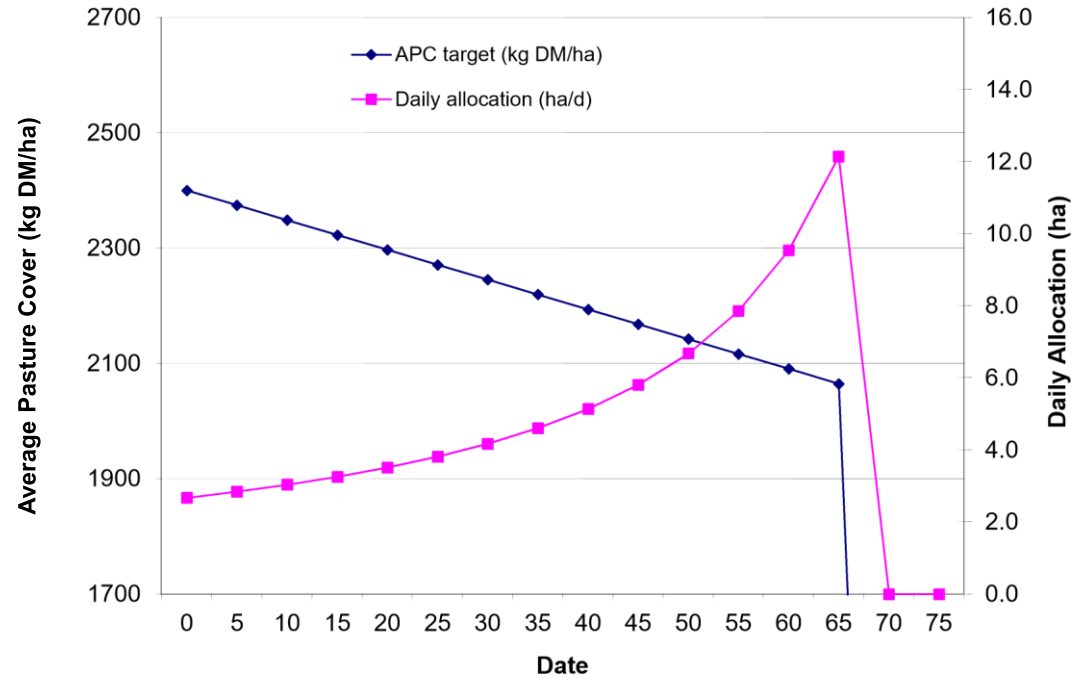
* Note on enter information into yellow cells

Input Data

Effective area ha	267
Average calving cover kg DM/ha	2400
Round length at PSC days	100
Round length at balance date days	22
Calving date	28-Jul
Balance date	01-Oct
Average cover at Balance date	2065

Assumptions

Maintenance	70 MJME
ME / kg Milk solid	80 MJME
Percentage of peak production at Balance date	80%
Pasture quality	12 MJME



DAIRY HOLDINGS LTD - Spring Rotation Planner

	Days after (ha)	Road (kg DM/ha)	Daily Allocation (kg DM/ha)	Accumulated Area Used	APC target	Actual cover	Date	PSC	length (ha/d)	Area
28-Jul	0	100	2.7	2.7	0	2400	0			
29-Jul	1	99	2.7	5.4	0	2395	0			
30-Jul	2	98	2.7	8.1	0	2390	0			
31-Jul	3	96	2.8	10.9	0	2385	0			
01-Aug	4	95	2.8	13.7	0	2379	0			
02-Aug	5	94	2.8	16.5	0	2374	0			
03-Aug	6	93	2.9	19.4	0	2369	0			
04-Aug	7	92	2.9	22.3	0	2364	0			
05-Aug	8	90	3.0	25.3	0	2359	0			
06-Aug	9	89	3.0	28.3	0	2354	0			
07-Aug	10	88	3.0	31.3	0	2348	0			
08-Aug	11	87	3.1	34.4	0	2343	0			
09-Aug	12	86	3.1	37.5	0	2338	0			
10-Aug	13	84	3.2	40.7	0	2333	0			
11-Aug	14	83	3.2	43.9	0	2328	0			
12-Aug	15	82	3.3	47.1	0	2323	0			
13-Aug	16	81	3.3	50.4	0	2317	0			
14-Aug	17	80	3.4	53.8	0	2312	0			
15-Aug	18	78	3.4	57.2	0	2307	0			
16-Aug	19	77	3.5	60.6	0	2302	0			
17-Aug	20	76	3.5	64.2	0	2297	0			
18-Aug	21	75	3.6	67.7	0	2292	0			
19-Aug	22	74	3.6	71.4	0	2287	0			
20-Aug	23	72	3.7	75.0	0	2281	0			
21-Aug	24	71	3.8	78.8	0	2276	0			
22-Aug	25	70	3.8	82.6	0	2271	0			
23-Aug	26	69	3.9	86.5	0	2266	0			
24-Aug	27	68	3.9	90.4	0	2261	0			
25-Aug	28	66	4.0	94.5	0	2256	0			
26-Aug	29	65	4.1	98.6	0	2250	0			
27-Aug	30	64	4.2	102.7	0	2245	0			
28-Aug	31	63	4.3	107.0	0	2240	0			

29-Aug	32	62	4.3	111.3	0	2235	0
30-Aug	33	60	4.4	115.7	0	2230	0
31-Aug	34	59	4.5	120.2	0	2225	0
01-Sep	35	58	4.6	124.8	0	2219	0
02-Sep	36	57	4.7	129.5	0	2214	0
03-Sep	37	56	4.8	134.3	0	2209	0
04-Sep	38	54	4.9	139.3	0	2204	0
05-Sep	39	53	5.0	144.3	0	2199	0
06-Sep	40	52	5.1	149.4	0	2194	0
07-Sep	41	51	5.3	154.7	0	2189	0
08-Sep	42	50	5.4	160.0	0	2183	0
09-Sep	43	48	5.5	165.6	0	2178	0
10-Sep	44	47	5.7	171.2	0	2173	0
11-Sep	45	46	5.8	177.0	0	2168	0
12-Sep	46	45	6.0	183.0	0	2163	0
13-Sep	47	44	6.1	189.1	0	2158	0
14-Sep	48	42	6.3	195.4	0	2152	0
15-Sep	49	41	6.5	201.9	0	2147	0
16-Sep	50	40	6.7	208.6	0	2142	0
17-Sep	51	39	6.9	215.4	0	2137	0
18-Sep	52	38	7.1	222.5	0	2132	0
19-Sep	53	36	7.3	229.9	0	2127	0
20-Sep	54	35	7.6	237.5	0	2121	0
21-Sep	55	34	7.9	245.3	0	2116	0
22-Sep	56	33	8.1	253.5	0	2111	0
23-Sep	57	32	8.4	261.9	0	2106	0
24-Sep	58	30	8.8	270.7	0	2101	0
25-Sep	59	29	9.1	279.8	0	2096	0
26-Sep	60	28	9.5	289.4	0	2091	0
27-Sep	61	27	10.0	299.3	0	2085	0
28-Sep	62	26	10.4	309.8	0	2080	0
29-Sep	63	24	10.9	320.7	0	2075	0
30-Sep	64	23	11.5	332.2	0	2070	0
01-Oct	65	22	12.1	344.3	0	2065	0
00-Jan	66	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
00-Jan	67	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
00-Jan	68	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

00-Jan	69	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
00-Jan	70	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
00-Jan	71	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
00-Jan	72	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
00-Jan	73	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
00-Jan	74	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
00-Jan	75	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

5 daily cover decline kg DM ha

Round length decline

5

1.2

AVERAGE PASTURE COVER TRACKER

