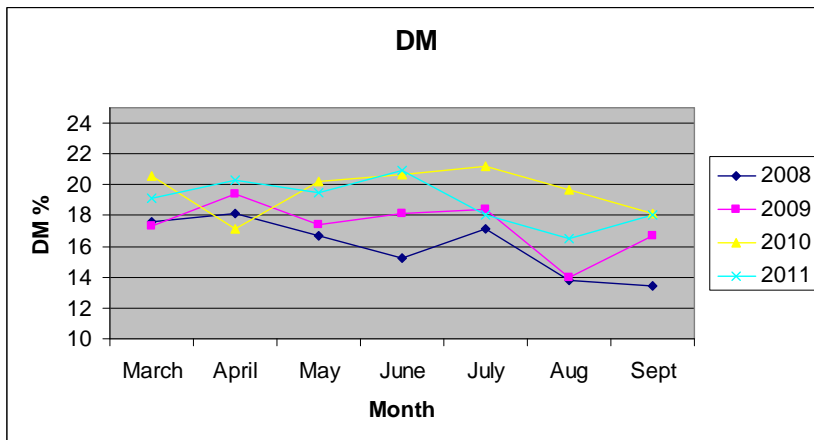


September 2011

Results:

	DM	D' Value	ME	Protein	NDF	Oil	Sugar	Nitrates	Pre grazing grass cover
W Cornwall	19.4	74.0	11.6	26.2	35.4	2.8	14.3	0.13	2860
W Devon	14.3	72.0	11.3	26.8	38.0	3.3	10.4	0.24	2980
N Devon	20.6	68.0	10.6	22.7	37.4	2.8	13.6	0.18	2400
S Devon	17.8	70.0	10.9	28.2	36.3	3.4	7.7	0.20	2684
Dorset	20.8	65.0	10.3	18.8	51.6	3.1	7.9	0.14	3518
Wiltshire	16.7	67.0	10.6	29.4	47.2	3.1	2.1	0.22	2982
E Sussex	16.4	66.0	10.4	31.5	48.3	2.9	4.3	0.19	2800
Average	18.0	68.9	10.8	26.2	42.0	3.1	8.6	0.2	2889

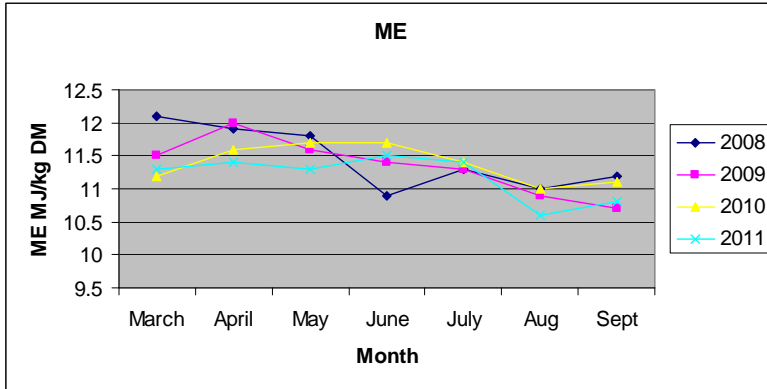
Dry matter:



Grass DM improved slightly this month and is equal to the highest we've had in four years, which is interesting considering the weather. Any chance to improve DMI from grazing is a good thing at this time of year, but we should only be challenging staler cows to do this, fresh calvers now need a more consistent ration with little or no grass.

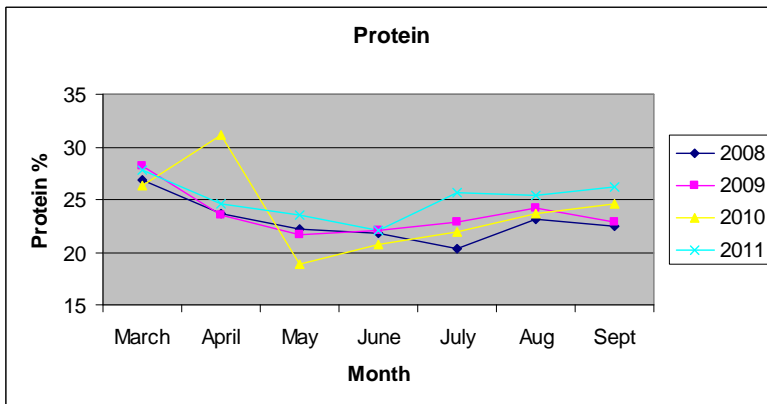
GrassWatch 2011

Energy level:



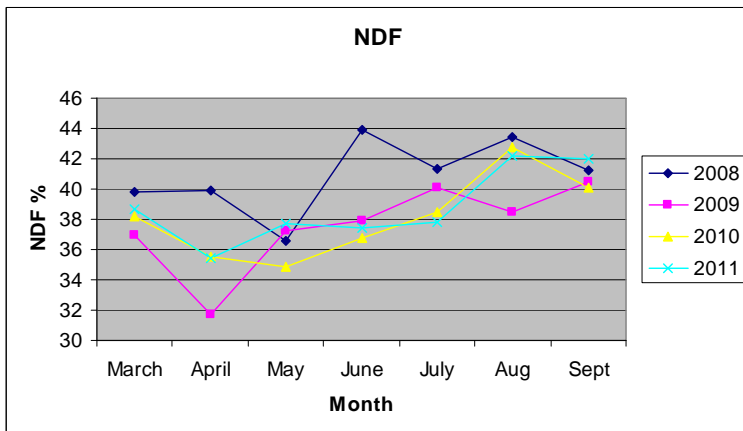
ME levels have improved slightly this month, but still very low when compared to the average over 4 years and this has been the trend all year. It's difficult to explain why ME's have been lower this year, but maybe the difficult growing season has contributed to this. It does reinforce the point that we shouldn't rely on grazing to provide anything other than extra on top of inside fed ration for fresh calvers.

Protein:



Protein levels are again higher than the 4 year average which they have been all year other than April. When taken with the lower the ME levels it shows a greater imbalance than normal between protein and energy and this is always difficult to manage in a typical year. Milk urea levels haven't reflected this in general, so perhaps we're getting better at balancing the overall diet.

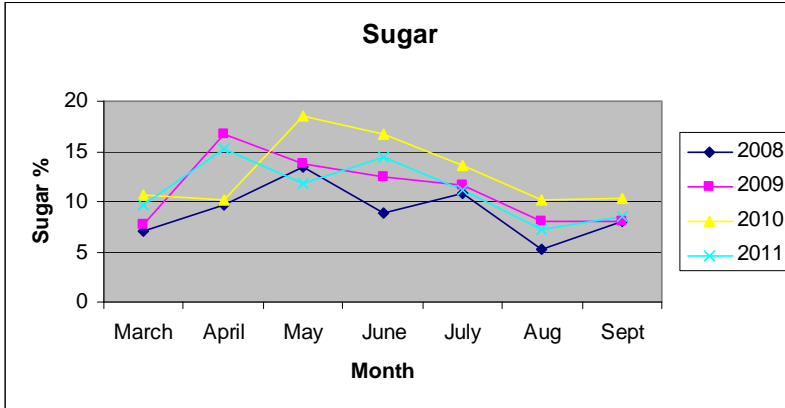
Fibre:



NDF levels have been maintained from last and are at their highest point for Sept in 4 years. This highlights more mature grass being fed and should help to maintain butterfat levels. There has been a better consistency to the NDF levels in grass this year and perhaps shows we are getting better at managing grazed grass and keeping it at the right stage for more of the grazing season.

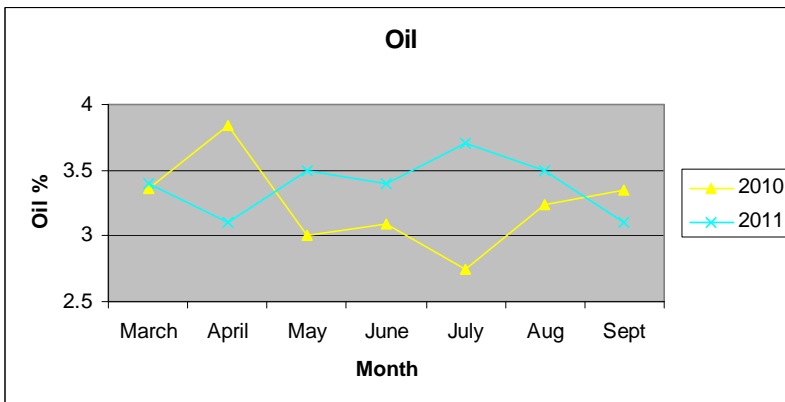
GrassWatch 2011

Sugar:



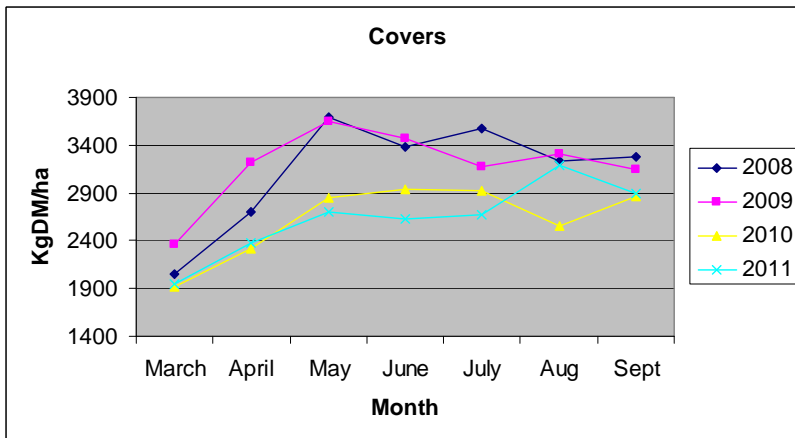
Sugar levels have stabilised and Sept seems to be the most consistent month over the years for sugar content. Although lower than the levels recorded earlier in the year there is still enough sugar available to meet requirements especially for staler cows.

Oil:



Grass oil content has dipped sharply this month possibly as a result of the wetter weather. There is no need to be adjusting diets to take account of this, but it will be having some effect on the ME levels. Another beneficial point will be that it will help butterfat % to not have as much unsaturated fat in the diet.

Covers:



Grazing covers have come back this month to a level close to last year which is good and means we have got on top of covers and stopped grass getting away too much. This will help to maintain quality through into the autumn again helping to maintain yields in later lactation staler cows.

GrassWatch 2011

Growth rate:



Grass growth rate has dropped sharply this month bucking the trend of the 3 year average. This is probably because the temperatures in late Aug/Sept were colder and inhibited grass growth, also less fertiliser was applied as grass was growing so quickly in July and early Aug. It will also have contributed to keeping on top of grazing covers.

M+ potential:

Fresh grass intake kg/day	DMI @ 18%DM	M+ Potential
75	13.5	14.6
65	11.7	10.8
55	9.9	7.1
45	8.1	3.4
35	6.3	-0.4

With the slightly higher DM and ME this month M+ potential is also slightly higher, but this should be monitored carefully as things change very quickly at this time of year. M+5 litres should be the benchmark, but staler cows can still be challenged for M+10 litres.

Grazing rotations:

Growth rate kgDM/Ha/day	Post graze kgDM/Ha	Pre graze target kgDM/Ha	Grazing rotation days target
20	1800	2800	50
30	1800	2800	33
40	1800	2800	25
50	1800	2800	20
60	1800	2800	17
70	1800	2800	14
80	1800	2800	13

Keep grazing targets and rotation length the same as last month, but still take out paddocks/fields that got ahead and cut them. Check the rejected grazing areas and top where necessary to maintain grass quality.

Nitrates:

Nitrates 0.19%

Guide	
<0.1%	Safe
0.1 - 0.25%	May raise milk urea's
>0.25%	Caution, high level