



# Hennie and Gea Amtink







# Farm Facts

- **1000 cows** (3.5 cows/ha)
- **64 Bale rotary**
- **564kgms/cow** (production per liveweight 122)
- **Production per ha 1957**
- **Purchased Nitrogen Surplus 108**
- **Nitrogen fertiliser applied per ha 97kg Supplement per cow 1.6T/cow (total supplement) Breed – Kiwicross 485 kg/LW cow**
- **Protrack draft and soon Cow Manager Tags Silage stack – 1000 T/DM**
- **Calving pad Feed pad**
- **Winter on Fodder Beet** (most stock grazed off farm – balage and grass)
- **Grow approximately 17-18T grass a season** (Southland avg. ????)





# Management of grass to get the best out of supplement use

## Pasture Quality is the focus

Pre and post grazing management is key

## Dealing with a surplus as it appears

Pre mowing is a tool used throughout the season to maintain quality and reach post grazing residual

- Mow 1550/1600)

## Grass species

Diploids 80% of the farm

- Copes with wet weather better as more dense
- FarmSource - Array and One Fifty

Very little tetraploid – moved away from over last five years

- More open
- Wet spring and autumn challenge with wetness

Round length – sit on a long round – grass grows grass (this does not mean long residuals)

Undersowing is important





# Tips and Tricks

## High Quality Preserved feed

### Bale any surplus

- Take off as soon as see fit (four or five days after cows should go in 3400/3500)
- Always tedder straight after being mowed
- Baled the next day
- Put straight on to crop paddock once baled

### Maximise utilisation



# Tips and Tricks High Quality Preserved feed

## Silage

Genuine big surplus will cut and put in stack

Chopper availability

Silage cover

- Barrier silo stop (95% oxygen barrier – note: plain black silage is about 80%)
  - Can't use on its own – needs a protection cover – green cloth (12 years old)
- Sandbags used to compartmentalise the stack
  - If there is a hole anywhere it is contained
  - Lifespan/durability – have accessed up to five years later and still great quality





# Why does your system work?

## Infrastructure well planned

Drainage (grow maximum grass from your own land)

Feedpad (a piece of concrete is pretty cheap)

- Utilisation
- Minimise pasture damage
- Bang for buck – less stock camps

## Effluent application

100% effluent irrigatable

Maximise nutrient distribution (reduction in fertiliser costs)



# Why does your system work?

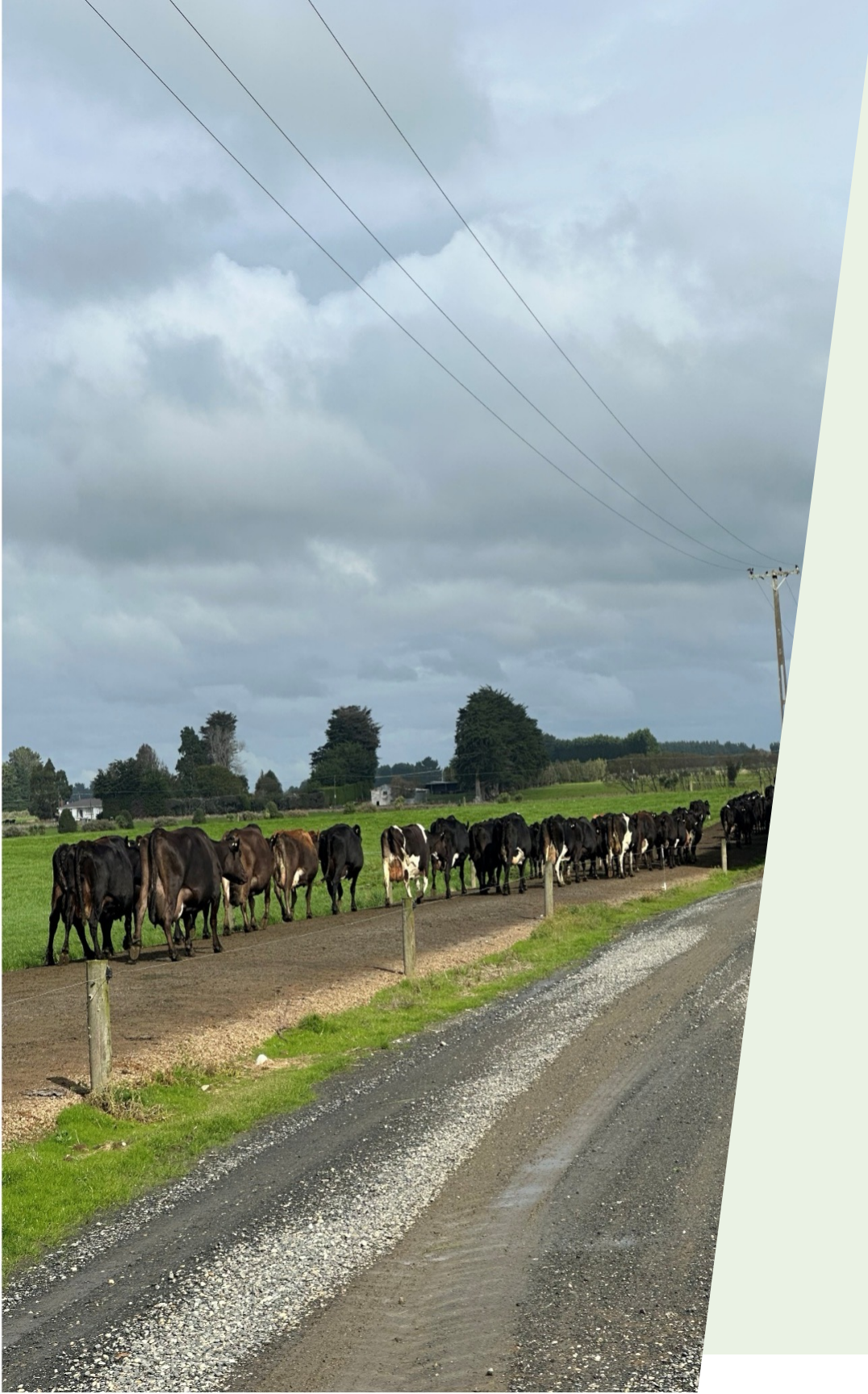
**Buffer to allow for a tight season (like last spring)**

Half a season of silage (feed 500 T then still have 500 T)

**Secure reliable grass for silage stack**

This is key





# Why does your system work?

## Good high producing efficient cows

Drainage (grow maximum grass from your own land)

Herd test four times, parentage test, use forward pack – 25% replacement rate, 70% 6WICR

## The team is very important

Stable team

Good grazier – great heifer management

## Ability to act quick

Flexible able to make quick decisions





# Key considerations to optimise your system?

## Look at your farm

Take limiting factors out

- Drainage – the value of this is underestimated – resilient farm system
- Fertility
- Good lanes
- Feed pad: utilise the concrete to the maximum, and feed them there as less dirty at entry and exit
- Cow health: lameness – use rubber mat in the yard, stand off on lane – biggest cost to a business





# Key considerations to optimise your system?

## Supplement surplus – look at it rather than for it

Resilient in the troughs of the season (always have a buffer) and not having to go to the market at spot price

## Relationships

Established long term contractor and grass supply