

2025/26 Season

Weekly Farm Update

as at 27 August 2025

Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		27-Aug-25	27-Aug-25
		Standard	Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	170.7	85.81
	Winter area - ha	26.1	13.3
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat	198	83
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	7	5
	Total cows milking	235	110
	Colostrum cows	30	22
	Sick Cows	7	5
	Dry cows on farm	285	102
	Average BCS	5.1	5.3
	BCS 4.5 or less (%)	23	7
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2708	2633
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	18.0	18.0
	Current Baleage/hay/straw fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.5	0.5
	Current PKE in trailers - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	18.5	18.5
	Stocking rate	3.0	2.5
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)		
	Pasture growth rate	12	14
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	>3000	>3000
	Residual (average for week past)	1800	1800
	Round length (actual)	NA	NA
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.9	1.9
	Fat:protein	0.73	0.73
	SCC	176	176
	Milk urea N	18.7	18.7
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	9	
	Rainfall (mm)	0	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	223	
	Soil conditions	Dry	
People	Current Roster	5 in 2	
	Health and safety incidences		
	Milking routine		
Farm System Description	Standard herd: average BW Southland herd stocked at 3.2 cows/ha at peak, up to 180 kg N/ha and wintered on swedes Future herd: higher genetic merit herd (127 BW difference) stocked at 2.5 cows/ha at peak, up to 180 kg N/ha and wintered on baleage		
Decisions and Insights	<p>High pre-graze pasture covers continue to drive herd management decisions. We will continue with a combined milking herd for another week to eat through high mass paddocks quicker, rather than splitting into Future and Standard mobs that will required more grazings in individual paddocks.</p> <p>With soil temperatures above 7°c for 3 weeks, ammo 31 will be applied at 100 kg/ha to all grazed paddocks and three at the bottom of the wedge that are not growing.</p> <p>A full herd BCS this week gives a baseline to track individual cow condition between calving and mating.</p> <p>Calcium boli are now being given to all cows five years and older after a small run of down cows earlier in the week; down cows responded quickly to treatment.</p> <p>Replacement calf discussions this week have included options for the oldest calves going outside after disbudding and DNA testing and transitioning to milk powder; straw left over from our winter contingency plan is now being used over the bark chips in the calf shed.</p> <p>New mastitis cases this week have all presented with the same clinical signs and have all come back positive for Streptococcus species; discussions have started to develop protocols for determining whether all cases need testing.</p>		