

# 2025/26 Season

## Weekly Farm Update

as at 1 October 2025

Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		01-Oct-25	01-Oct-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	490	203
	Cows milknng NOT into vat - treated	5	2
	Total cows milking	509	215
	Colostrum cows	11	9
	Total Sick Cows	8	3
	Dry cows on farm	16	5
	Average BCS (camera, milking cows only)	4.9	5.1
	BCS 4.5 or less (%)	15	9
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2184	2248
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	15.1	17.3
	Current Baleage/hay/straw fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.2	0.0
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	3.7	1.7
	Current PKE in trailers - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	19.0	19.0
	Stocking rate	3.1	2.6
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)	46	44
	Pasture growth rate	22	28
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	2900	2700
	Residual (average for week past)	1700	1700
	Round length (actual)	NA	NA
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	2.24	2.35
	Fat:protein	0.77	0.74
	SCC	125	121
	Milk urea	13.1	15.3
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	10.0↓	
	Rainfall (mm)	31	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	379	
	Soil conditions	Wet	
People	Current Roster	5 in 2	
	Health and safety incidences	0	
	Milking routine	TAD	
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>The lower stocking rate (2.5 cows/ha) of the Future herd is working really well at the moment, with silage not needing to be fed in the paddocks at this stage.</p> <p>Interestingly, pasture growth rates are lower than at this time last year, and we have had more rain this season: 378 mm since 1 June compared with 342 mm last season. We are certainly experiencing a feed deficit at the moment, with in-shed feed being increased for both famlets and silage being fed to the Standard herd.</p> <p>Looking at BCS data this week, we can see a higher drop-off in BCS from the Future cows than the Standards – an average 0.5 BCS drop for the Futures and 0.4 BCS drop for the Standards. The focus is certainly on the lower BCS cows and the younger cows around priority feed.</p> <p>We have the pasture quality results in for the paddocks we tested at the top of the feed wedge last week, and we look forward to sharing these at our field day next week.</p>		