

# 2025/26 Season

## Weekly Farm Update

as at 3 September 2025

Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		02-Sep-25	02-Sep-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	268	118
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	4	3
	Total cows milking	323	143
	Colostrum cows	30	22
	Sick Cows	7	5
	Dry cows on farm	204	73
	Average BCS	5.1	5.3
	BCS 4.5 or less (%)	23	7
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2596	2555
	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	3.1	2.5
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)		
	Pasture growth rate	6	7
	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)	2.1	2.2
	Fat:protein	0.71	0.71
	SCC	124	124
	Milk urea N	23.1	23.1
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	8.7	
	Rainfall (mm)	40	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	263	
	Soil conditions	Ok	
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>Milkers will be split into Standard and Future herds on Sunday, now that we have eaten through much of the high cover paddocks and have a good size Future milker mob.</p> <p>To manage the risk of milk fever, particularly in the wet and cold conditions, and where dusting with MgO and limeflour can be less effective, all cows five years and older receive a Ca bolus at calving.</p> <p>SRP daily area allocation is now on target for both farmlets, but both farmlets have higher average pasture cover than target and have 'banked' area from early spring when daily allocations were lower than target due to the very high pre-graze covers.</p> <p>Planning has started for mating of the R2's at the grazier - the post winter weigh has been completed with an average LW of 255 kg and a range of 200 to 315 kg. Blood samples will be collected for Se and Cu analysis to ensure correct levels ahead of mating.</p> <p>Calve sheds are performing well with the first dehorning and DNA sampling scheduled for next week.</p> <p>Two groups of beef calves have gone to the rearer. The farm team has noticed that the later Charolais calves are not as willing to feed. With two sires used we will see if this is a sire effect or coincidence.</p> <p>There does not appear to be a link between colostrum colour and Brix test; it appears that milking time, relatively to calving time and how much the cow has been suckled, is a better indicator.</p>		