

**2026/27 Season**  
**Weekly Farm Update**  
**as at 7 October 2026**  
*Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub*



|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 07-Oct-26                          | 07-Oct-26 |      |
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|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Standard                           | Future    |      |
| Farm Area               | Grazing area available to milkers - ha                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 173.7                              | 84.6      |      |
|                         | Area out of rotation - ha                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 23.1                               | 14.5      |      |
| Stock Numbers           | Cows milking into vat                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 500                                | 214       |      |
|                         | Cows milking NOT into vat - treated/colostrums                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 12                                 | 10        |      |
|                         | Total cows milking                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 512                                | 224       |      |
|                         | Total Sick Cows                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 7                                  | 4         |      |
|                         | Dry cows on farm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 5                                  | 2         |      |
|                         | Average BCS Milking Cows (camera)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4.5                                | 4.6       |      |
|                         | BCS 4 or less (%)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 21%                                | 11%       |      |
|                         | Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 2288                               | 2255      |      |
| Feed Budget             | Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 8.6                                | 14.9      |      |
|                         | Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 4.3                                | 0.0       |      |
|                         | Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 5.1                                | 3.6       |      |
|                         | Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 18.0                               | 18.5      |      |
|                         | Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 3.0                                | 2.7       |      |
|                         | Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 32                                 | 44        |      |
|                         | Pasture growth rate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 33                                 | 41        |      |
|                         | Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2650                               | 2600      |      |
|                         | Residual (average for week past)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1800                               | 1800      |      |
|                         | Round length (actual)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 29                                 | 27        |      |
|                         | Milk production                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow) | 2.01      | 2.17 |
|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Fat:protein                        | 0.73      | 0.72 |
| Fat%                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 5.26                               | 5.40      |      |
| Prot%                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 3.85                               | 3.86      |      |
| SCC                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 171                                | 156       |      |
| Milk urea               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 17.3                               | 16.3      |      |
| Farm Conditions         | Soil temperature average (degree C)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 12.1                               |           |      |
|                         | Rainfall (mm)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 13.8                               |           |      |
|                         | Rainfall season to date (mm)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 500                                |           |      |
| People                  | Current Roster                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 5 in 2                             |           |      |
|                         | Milking routine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | TAD, colostrums OAD                |           |      |
| 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 & kale<br>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>Nitrogen fertiliser as Ammo31 at 100 kg/ha has been applied to 92 ha by truck this week, with a further 48 ha scheduled for Friday. The plan at this stage is to continue with 25 kg N/ha every 28 days, as conditions allow.</p> <p>During the farm walk this week, we observed notable stem elongation in the ryegrass plants, indicating the start of the reproductive process. On a positive note, the clover is beginning to grow.</p> <p>Similar levels of supplement will be required this week to meet cow demand, but with growth rates increasing and N now in the system, we are hoping this will only be a temporary measure. Now that the paddocks are starting to dry out, baleage will be replaced with silage.</p> <p>The farm team has been visually assessing BCS during milking and using this alongside the camera data to identify cows for priority in-shed feeding or reallocation between the two Standard herds.</p> <p>The mating plans for the heifers at grazing and the cows have been finalised.</p> <p>The three older mobs of calves were weighed this week, and weaning of those above 90 kg will start in the next couple of days.</p> <p>This week, we completed the winter feed plan for 2027 and the spring regrassing plan. We will now schedule meetings with PGGW Seeds to discuss seed selection and with D Thompson Contracting to plan paddock preparation.</p> |                                    |           |      |