

2025/26 Season

Weekly Farm Update

as at 9 September 2025

Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		09-Sep-25	09-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	353	142
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	10	4
	Total cows milking	394	164
	Colostrum cows	31	18
	Sick Cows	10	4
	Dry cows on farm	133	52
	Average BCS	5.1	5.3
	BCS 4.5 or less (%)	23	7
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2470	2439
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	18.5	18.5
	Current Baleage/hay/straw fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	1.0	1.0
	Current PKE in trailers - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	19.5	19.5
	Stocking rate	3.1	2.5
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)		
	Pasture growth rate	13	22
	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)	2.0	2.2
	Fat:protein	0.73	0.71
	SCC	165	155
	Milk urea N	19.9	19.9
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	8.9	
	Rainfall (mm)	35	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	298	
	Soil conditions	Wet underfoot	
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>Noticing fluctuations in MUN between 19 and 26 which we think are linked to the range in quality between paddocks. We would be interested to know how much importance others are putting on MUN at the moment and what tools you are using to manage it.</p> <p>Pasture samples sent for analysis last week have returned an average ME of 12.0, crude protein of 18.2 and NDF 42.6 which is better quality than we were anticipating given the high pre-graze mass. Putting our data into the DairyNZ Feed Checker tool indicates we have sufficient energy and protein for the current level of production.</p> <p>An interesting observation from this week was that season to date we have had more rainfall (298 mm) compared to last year (255 mm), but conditions on farm are quite different due to the drier autumn and winter this year.</p> <p>We have observed an increase in environmental mastitis in the last week which we attribute to the wetter conditions. As a result we are reassessing our springer management and area allocation because we have 'spare' area available in the spring rotation planner. Springers that look like they are going to calve over night are being moved onto the new break late in the afternoon.</p> <p>We are continuing to hold the SRP area with the milkers but have ability to move on in very wet conditions based on area used to date.</p> <p>The standard herd will be split this week with the second herd being made up of 2 and 3 year olds and any light conditioned mixed age cows.</p>		