2026/27 Season
Weekly Farm Update
as at 11 November 2026
Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub

SOUTHERN DAIRY HUB
HubWatch

		11-Nov-26	11-Nov-26
		Standard	Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	173.4	84.6
	Area out of rotation - ha	23.1	14.5
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat	519	218
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	1	6
	Total cows milking	520	224
	Total Sick Cows	9	10
	Average BCS Milking Cows (camera)	4.3	4.3
	BCS 4 or less (%)	34%	25%
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2511	2568
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	18.4	18.8
	Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	1.5	1.3
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	19.9	20.1
	Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)	3.0	2.6
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)	55	49
	Pasture growth rate	66	74
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	3300	3100
	Residual (average of last 3 paddocks)	1730	1700
	Round length (actual)	30	28
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	2.04	2.10
	Fat:protein	0.79	0.77
	Fat%	5.01	5.21
	Prot%	3.94	4.03
	SCC	140	126
	Milk urea	19.8	19.0
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	16.2	
	Rainfall (mm)	5.4	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	605.4	
People	Current Roster	5 in 2	
	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 & kale 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

Visitors
Last Thursday, we enjoyed a visit from the Blackwater Forge Farm Group from Southern Ireland. It was an incredibly engaged group, and Southland put on some stunning weather for them.

Feeding
We reduced in-shed feed to the Standard herd as residuals were beginning to increase.

A question was raised following last week's HubWatch, so we'd like to clarify that we don't plate paddocks immediately after grazing. We plate once a week as part of our farm walk. Therefore, the residual figure includes paddocks that may be several days post-grazing.

A total of 112 bales were conserved from nine paddocks. So far, we've mown 17% of the Future herd's farm area and 7% of the Standard herd's farm area. No post-grazing topping has occurred. Instead, we prefer to mark any untidy residuals on the feed wedge for conservation during the next round. There are currently two paddocks we've identified as needing to be conserved next round.

We've secured some good-quality pasture from a neighbour to conserve as silage. Weather permitting, this will be cut this weekend. The plan is for this to at least half-fill the first bunker, which will then be topped up with the first cut from our support block.

Mating
We feel we've had a good start to mating, with 330 cows submitted within the first eight days. This represents 44% of the Standard herd and 41% of the Future herd. This figure includes 30 CIDR cows.

Of the 192 R2s, 43 were spot-mated within the first seven days, while 140 received a PG injection and were subsequently artificially inseminated. Jersey bulls have now been put in with them.

Calves
Calves still being fed milk were weighed on 11 November, and 85 calves will be weaned over the next week, leaving 50 still on milk.

The first 80 weaned calves will leave for the grazier on Friday 13 November.

Cropping and regrassing
We've achieved excellent dieback in the paddocks sprayed out on 5 November, and D Thompson Contracting began ploughing paddocks that were previously in permanent pasture on 11 November.