

2026/27 Season

Weekly Farm Update

as at 16 September 2026

Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		16-Sep-26	16-Sep-26
		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	425	198
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated/colostrums	32	13
	Total cows milking	457	211
	Total Sick Cows	9	2
	Dry cows on farm	70	17
	Average BCS Milking Cows (camera)	4.7	5.0
	BCS 4.5 or less (%)	31%	13%
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2404	2303
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	12.2	14.6
	Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day) - colostrums only	2.9	1.7
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	2.9	1.7
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	18.0	18.0
	Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)	3.0	2.7
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)	37	39
	Pasture growth rate	31	30
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	3500	3500
	Residual (average for week past)	1700	1700
Milk production	Round length (actual)	52	50
	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.90	1.99
	Fat:protein	0.75	0.77
	Fat%	5.11	5.16
	Prot%	2.83	3.95
	SCC	178	154
	Milk urea	24.2	18.7
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	9.8	
	Rainfall (mm)	24.5	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	338	
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 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	Standard herd: The herd was split late last week. There are currently 202 mixed-age cows in the Std 1 mob and 226 R2s, R3s and approximately 30 lighter mixed-age cows in the Std 2 mob. High pre-graze covers at the top of the feed wedges, along with silage and in-shed feeding, are allowing us to maintain the spring rotation plan area allocations for both farmlets. With ground conditions impacting silage utilisation, we are opting for more in-shed feeding for the Standard herd to capitalise on the better utilisation of this feed. Nitrogen applications are becoming a little more urgent if we are to avoid a pasture deficit in the second round. However, with soils still at field capacity and paddock conditions too wet for vehicle application, we will continue to hold off until conditions enable a good response to the nitrogen and sulphur applied. We are working through strategies to prepare for the forecast El Niño. Early conversations with contractors to maximise the chances of good crop establishment, using N for the best response, and discussing options for calves to go off earlier to generate more baleage from the support block are all in the mix. The effluent pond is now at 80% capacity, so we are hoping for some settled weather soon so we can start applying. All cows that have been calved for more than two weeks will be Metrichecked this week. The first calves ventured outside this week.		