

# 2025/26 Season

## Weekly Farm Update

as at 16 September 2025

Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		16-Sep-25	16-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	385	156
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	10	2
	Total cows milking	452	182
	Colostrum cows	53	21
	Sick Cows	14	5
	Dry cows on farm	75	34
	Average BCS (camera, milking cows only)	4.9	5.1
	BCS 4.5 or less (%)	15	9
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2273	2292
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	18.5	19.0
	Current Baleage/hay/straw fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.5	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)	20.0	20.0
	Stocking rate	3.1	2.5
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)		
	Pasture growth rate	18	27
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	3100	3100
	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	0.75	0.71
	SCC	135	169
	Milk urea	21.2	21.2
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	8.7↓	
	Rainfall (mm)	37	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	336	
	Soil conditions	Wet	
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>Looking at consolidating the remaining dry cows into one mob with just under 100 to calve.</p> <p>This week we started feeding baleage to Standard mobs to hold spring rotation plan and meet cow demands but will monitor requirement daily and remove if not being utilised. It is a balance at the moment with the wetter conditions.</p> <p>Baleage quality is always a focus for the Hub and there has been a range this week fed out. We will implement another marking system to our current system this year to make it easier to know the 'milking quality' baleage.</p> <p>Will utilise BCS camera data fortnightly to identify any lighter BCS cows that may need further action (priority feeding). We are only manually undertaking BCS monthly now rather than the traditional two weekly score (utilising the technology more).</p> <p>We visited the grazier this week when animals were in the yards for pre-mating bloods as we prepare them for mating late October. We plan to AB our heifers this year to further drive genetic gain.</p> <p>We move our focus to mating and are scheduling the vets for the first round of metrichecking of all cows calved more than 42 days next week.</p>		