2026/27 Season
Weekly Farm Update
as at 18 November 2026
Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub

SOUTHERN DAIRY HUB
HubWatch

		18-Nov-26	18-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	222
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	0	2
	Total cows milking	519	224
	Total Sick Cows	11	8
	Average BCS Milking Cows (camera)	4.3	4.3
	BCS 4 or less (%)	34%	25%
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2496	2634
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	17.7	18.8
	Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	2.4	1.2
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	20.0	20.0
	Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)	3.0	2.6
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)	53	50
	Pasture growth rate	54	51
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	3100	3100
	Residual (average of last 3 paddocks)	1700	1700
	Round length (actual)	29	29
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.98	2.04
	Fat:protein	0.77	0.77
	Fat%	5.08	5.20
	Prot%	3.91	4.02
	SCC	151	130
	Milk urea	20.4	17.1
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	15.7	
	Rainfall (mm)	13.4	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	619	
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

Mating
- Submission rate is on target, with 78% of the Future herd and 83% of the Standard herd having been submitted in the first 16 days.
- A total of 62 cows have received CIDRs and subsequently been mated. This represents 5% of the Future herd and 10% of the Standard herd.

Cropping and regrassing
- The Italian paddocks for generating baleage and wintering the Future cows have been sown.
- Groundwork is continuing on the paddocks being prepared for swedes and kale, as well as those going into permanent pasture.
- Despite the challenging ground and weather conditions, our cropping and regrassing work is on track.
- The weeping wall was emptied, and the contents spread onto the crop paddocks before cultivation.
- The two remaining paddocks for regrassing will be sprayed out this week.

Surplus management
- Paddocks above the pre-grazing target have been identified for the next round of baleage.
- One silage bunker was filled over the weekend with standing pasture purchased locally. The DM of the material going into the stack was 28%.
- Two of our monitor paddocks had quality samples collected 2-3 weeks apart, as they had been earmarked for conservation after the initial samples were taken. Between the samples, crude protein content dropped from 18-19% to 14-15%, ME increased by 0.4-0.8 MJ, and DM remained constant.

Replacements
- The second mob of calves being prepared for weaning have increased their meal intake and will likely leave for the grazier next week.
- All calves still on farm will be weighed on Wednesday.