

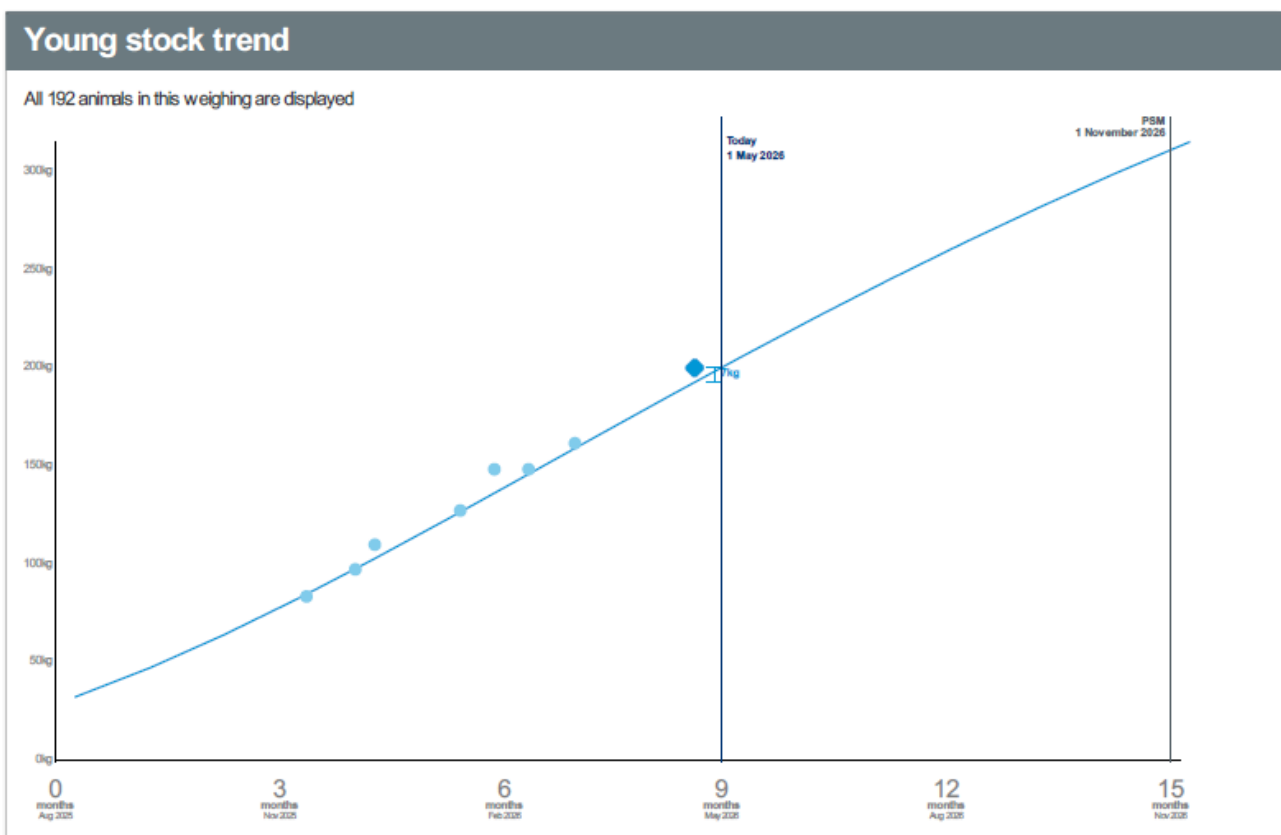
**2025/26 Season**

Weekly Farm Update as at 1 May 2026

*Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub.*

## Insights

**2025 Born Animals:** We're stoked with the growth weights in our young stock. The grazer has separated the slower-performing animals and is preferentially feeding them. They're looking in great condition as we head into winter. The graph below shows the group are, on average, 7kg ahead of target, a great result.



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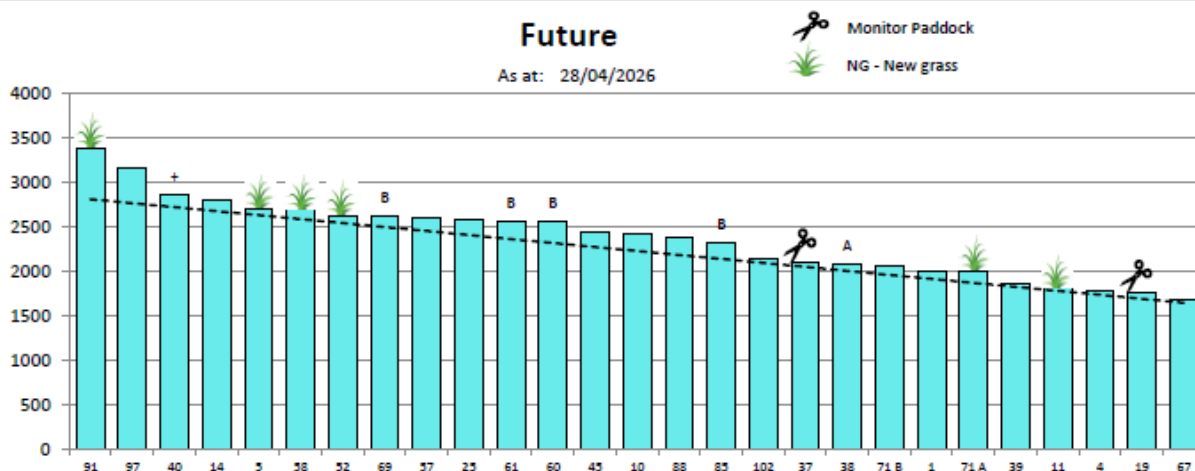
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**Dry Off:** We dried off our first group of animals this week (approximately 30 animals) based on current BCS data and the gain required ahead of the planned start of calving. While we're still four weeks out from full dry off, it's important we protect cow condition to help optimise health, reproduction, and production next season.

**Rotation Length:** We've received a number of questions regarding our current round length being quicker than normal at this time of year (this week it averaged 26 to 27 days, whereas you'd normally expect 30 to 35 days). This has resulted from higher average pasture covers over the last six weeks, dropping springer paddocks out of rotation, and continued good grass growth.

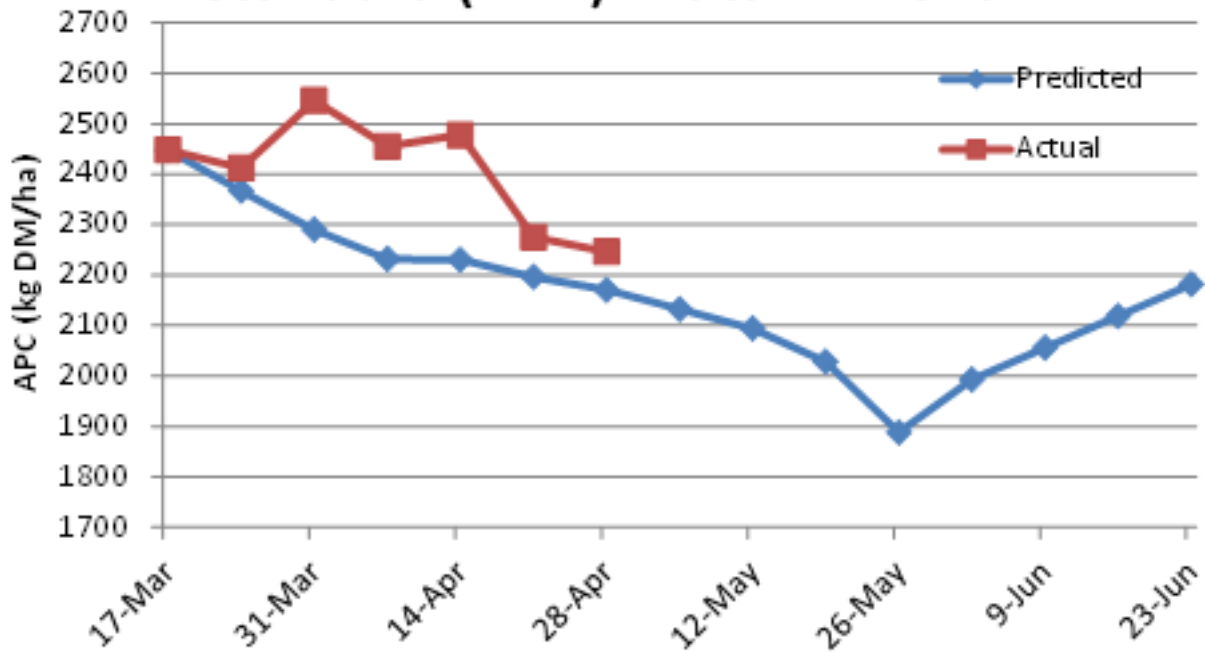
We've cut surplus paddocks for baleage and delayed exiting cows from both herds to manage average pasture cover and residuals. Residual management is critical at this time of year and becomes more challenging as we head into the wetter months. Continuing to exit cows from the herd and drying off cows with high BCS gain requirements will help push the rotation out.

We removed the in-shed feed from the Future herd, which has upset cow flow into the shed (sorry farm team), but they're just not hitting the residuals we need to set the farm up for next season.

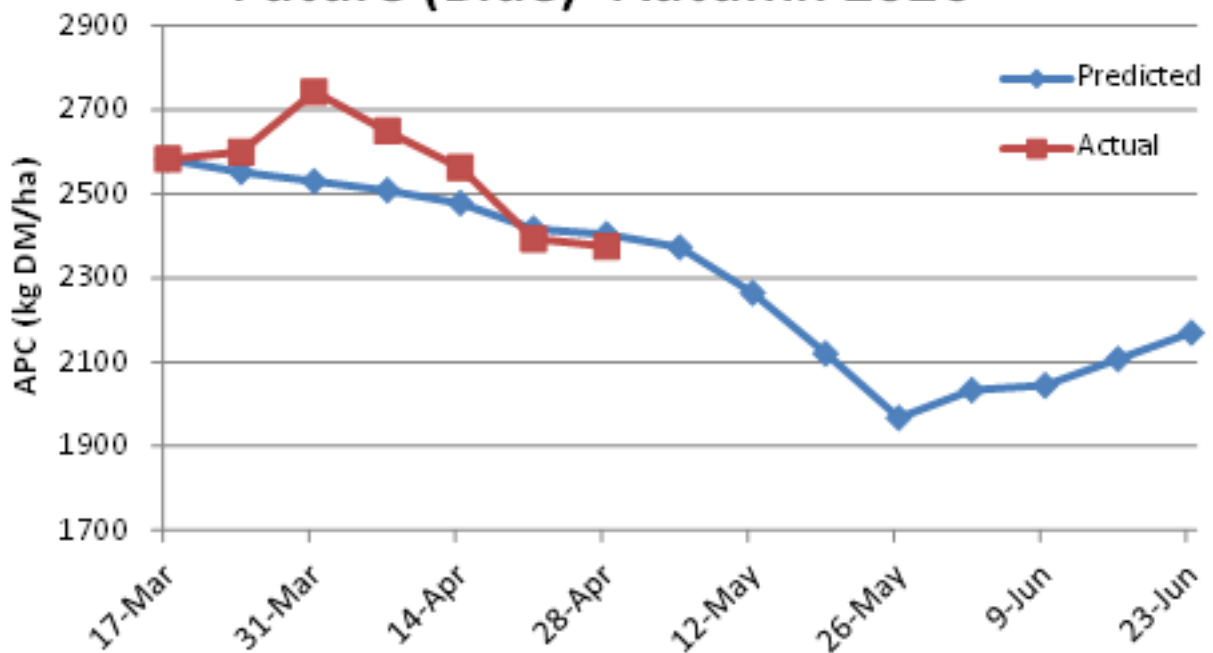


**Grass Growth:** We've had another week of great growth this late in the season at 43kg DM/ha. You can see from the graphs below we're more on track than in recent weeks to achieve our dry off targets of 1900 to 1950kg DM/ha. We still have about 90 cows to exit the farm over the next four weeks. These have been held on later than in other seasons given pasture covers.

### Standard (Pink)- Autumn 2026



### Future (Blue)- Autumn 2026



**Grass Quality:** We've received another set of pasture results this week and continue to be surprised by the dry matter levels given the time of season. This week we saw our first frost, so would expect this to impact DM% in our monitor paddocks over the next few weeks. There's still some great quality grass out there.

*Note: the sample for the paddocks below was taken on 22 April 2026.*

<b>Plant Analysis Results</b>			
<b>Sample Name:</b>		Pd 103	Pd 24
<b>Lab Number:</b>		4188411.1	4188411.2
<b>Sample Type:</b>		Mixed Pasture	Mixed Pasture
<b>Sample Type Code:</b>		P1	P1
Nitrogen	%	3.5	3.5
Nitrogen	%DM	3.6	3.6
Dry Matter*	%	14.6	16.6
Crude Protein	%DM	22.4	22.6
Acid Detergent Fibre (seq)	%DM	22.5	21.6
Neutral Detergent Fibre	%DM	43.2 #1	42.1
Lignin*	%DM	2.8	3.3
Ash	%DM	10.9	10.7
Organic Matter*	%DM	89.1	89.3
Soluble Sugars	%DM	9.7	10.6
Starch	%DM	0.5	0.6
Crude Fat	%DM	4.0	3.7
Digestibility of Organic Matter in Dry Matter (DOMD)	%	76.4	75.2
Metabolisable Energy	MJ/kgDM	12.2	12.0
Non Structural Carbohydrate*	%DM	19.5	20.8
OMD in-vivo*	%DM	85.7	84.3

**2025/26 Season**  
**Weekly Farm Update**  
**as at 29 April 2026**

*Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub*



		29-Apr-26	29-Apr-26
		Standard	Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	154.08	75.92
	Area out of rotation - ha	42.72	23.22
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat	448	198
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	2	0
	Total cows milking	450	198
	Total Sick Cows	0	0
	Average BCS (camera)	4.4	4.3
	BCS 4.0 or less (%)	16	28
	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2246	2375
Feed Budget	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	16.6	17.6
	Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	2.4	1.4
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	19.0	19.0
	Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)	2.9	2.6
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)	47	50
	Pasture growth rate	43	43
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	2990	2890
	Residual (average for week past)	1750	1775
	Round length (actual)	26	25
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.53	1.69
	Fat:protein	0.77	0.77
	SCC	153	155
	Milk urea	36.3	35.0
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	12.0	
	Rainfall (mm)	38.8	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	914.8	
	Soil conditions	OK for aeration	
People	Current Roster	5 in 2	
	Milking routine	TAD & 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 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		