

2025/26 Season

Weekly Farm Update as at 20 February 2026

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

Insights

Pasture sampling: We sent a pasture quality sample away early this week and were very pleased with the crude protein at 22% DM and ME at 11.7 MJ/kg DM. We were, however, surprised by the lower dry matter result of 15%. Dry matter at 15% is considered on the lower end of the typical range (15% to 25%) and has prompted discussion within the farm management team. We look forward to further pasture sampling results from other paddocks. This highlights the value of good information for making timely decisions.

Sample Name: SDH Pdk 3		Lab Number: 4103454.1			
Sample Type: Mixed Pasture (P1)					
Analysis	Level Found	Medium Range*	Low	Medium	High
Nitrogen	%	3.3	4.0 - 5.0		
Nitrogen	%DM	3.5			
Dry Matter*	%	15.0	12.0 - 30.0		
Crude Protein	%DM	22.0	20.0 - 30.0		
Acid Detergent Fibre (seq)	%DM	23.0	20.0 - 30.0		
Neutral Detergent Fibre	%DM	42.8	30.0 - 45.0		
Lignin*	%DM	5.5			
Ash	%DM	11.8	7.0 - 14.0		
Organic Matter*	%DM	88.2			
Soluble Sugars	%DM	8.3			
Starch	%DM	< 0.5 #1			
Crude Fat	%DM	4.3			
Digestibility of Organic Matter in Dry Matter (DOMD)	%	72.8	65.0 - 80.0		
Metabolisable Energy	MJ/kgDM	11.7	9.0 - 12.0		
Non Structural Carbohydrate*	%DM	19.1			
OMD in-vivo*	%DM	82.6			

Note: Paddock 3 was planted in the 2021/22 season using full cultivation with Vast Tetraploid Perennial Ryegrass. Tested 16 Feb 2026.

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as at 18 February 2026

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		18-Feb-26	18-Feb-26
		Standard	Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	173.7	90.4
	Winter area out of rotation - ha	23.1	8.7
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat	513	208
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	1	0
	Total cows milking	514	208
	Total Sick Cows	5	7
	Average BCS (camera)	4.2	4.2
	BCS 4.0 or less (%)	34	42
	Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2520
Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		18.3	17.7
Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		0.0	0.0
Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		1.7	1.3
Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)		20.0	19.0
Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)		3.0	2.3
Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)		53	44
Pasture growth rate		44	36
Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)		3250	3050
Residual (average for week past)		1800	1850
Round length (actual)		29	30
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.84	1.96
	Fat:protein	0.82	0.79
	SCC	122	22
	Milk urea	26.8	133.0
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	17.7	
	Rainfall (mm)	3.6	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	703	
	Soil conditions	OK	
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 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		