

# HubWatch

2025/26 Season

Weekly Farm Update as at 20 March 2026

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



## Insights

**Production:** This week we've seen a drop in production for the Future herd, which is now producing the same as the Standard herd. We attribute this to a combination of factors, including a lag from in-shed feed being removed and the herd needing to tidy up a couple of paddocks for regrassing.

Interestingly, while milk revenue is the same for both herds at \$17.38/cow/day, the Standard herd's supplement feed costs are approximately \$1.51 per cow/day, compared to \$0 for the Future herd, making the Future milk more profitable.

**Plantain Broadcast Success:** In November last year, we broadcast prill-coated Ecotain (plantain) seed at 8kg/ha via drone onto several paddocks. Last week, all plantain paddocks were assessed by Agricom as part of the Plantain Partner Farm Network to determine establishment levels.

We're pleased to share that paddock 1 (which previously had no plantain) now has 5% plantain. It is still early days, so we expect this to increase further by this time next year.



**Milk Composition (kg MS%):** We're currently seeing differences in milk components between the Standard and Future herds: Fat% 5.81 vs 6.09 and Protein% 4.51 vs 4.67.

The Future herd has a higher Fat and Protein BV and is +127 BW above the Standard herd.

**Crop Yields:** We've started winter crop yield monitoring this week for both swede and kale crops and look forward to sharing the results next week.

**Pasture Quality:** We took a pasture sample from paddock 78, one of our poorer-performing monitor paddocks, growing at 8.3T compared to the Future farmlet average of 11.2T season to date.

Interestingly, the quality of this paddock was better than expected. This highlights that lower-performing paddocks can still achieve good quality results under our pasture management practices. Results below.

Plant Analysis Results					
Sample Name:		Pdk 24	Pdk 92	Pdk 78	
Lab Number:		4132510.1	4132510.2	4132510.3	
Sample Type:		Mixed Pasture	Mixed Pasture	Mixed Pasture	
Sample Type Code:		P1	P1	P1	
Nitrogen	%	3.6	3.2	2.5	
Nitrogen	%DM	3.8	3.4	2.7	
Dry Matter*	%	17.0	17.1	20.1	
Crude Protein	%DM	23.6	21.4	16.6	
Acid Detergent Fibre (seq)	%DM	21.4	21.8	23.4	
Neutral Detergent Fibre	%DM	42.5	42.1	44.5	
Lignin*	%DM	4.9	5.0 #1	3.7	
Ash	%DM	11.7	11.1	9.8	
Organic Matter*	%DM	88.3	88.9	90.2	
Soluble Sugars	%DM	9.3	10.0	10.6	
Starch	%DM	< 0.5 #1	< 0.5 #1	0.6	
Crude Fat	%DM	4.4	4.0	3.6	
Digestibility of Organic Matter in Dry Matter (DOMD)	%	75.6	75.7	71.8	
Metabolisable Energy	MJ/kgDM	12.1	12.1	11.5	
Non Structural Carbohydrate*	%DM	17.8	21.4	25.5	
OMD in-vivo*	%DM	85.6	85.1	79.6	

2025/26 Season  
 Weekly Farm Update  
 as at 18 March 2026

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		18-Mar-26	18-Mar-26
		Standard	Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	168	87.54
	Area out of rotation - ha	28.77	11.6
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat	511	206
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	3	2
	Total cows milking	514	208
	Total Sick Cows	8	4
	Average BCS (camera)	4.3	4.3
	BCS 4.0 or less (%)	31	37
	Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2448
Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		16.7	20.0
Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		1.6	0.0
Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		1.7	0.0
Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)		20.0	20.0
Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)		3.1	2.4
Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)		50	46
Pasture growth rate		47	45
Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)		3160	3120
Residual (average for week past)		1850	1850
Round length (actual)		30	30
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.83	1.83
	Fat:protein	0.78	0.77
	SCC	116	130
	Milk urea	30.1	24.6
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	15.8↓	
	Rainfall (mm)	8.6	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	779.2	
	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		