

2025/26 Season
Weekly Farm Update
as at 22 October 2025

Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		22-Oct-25	22-Oct-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	514	210											
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	6	4											
	Total cows milking	520	214											
	Colostrum cows	0	0											
	Total Sick Cows	6	4											
	Dry cows on farm	0	0											
	Average BCS (camera, milking cows only)	4.5	4.6											
Feed Budget	BCS 4.5 or less (%)	41	51											
	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2347	2497											
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	14.8	19.0											
	Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	1.7	0.0											
	Current inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	3.5	1.0											
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	20.0	20.0											
	Stocking rate	3.0	2.5											
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)	45	47											
	Pasture growth rate	52	59											
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	2800	2800											
	Residual (average for week past)	1650	1650											
	Round length (actual)	27	27											
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	2.24	2.35											
	Fat:protein	0.77	0.74											
	SCC	100	148											
	Milk urea	19.8	19.8											
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	12.1+												
	Rainfall (mm)	25.4												
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	439.8												
	Soil conditions	Wet												
People	Current Roster	5 in 2												
	Health and safety incidences													
Milk 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.													
Decisions and Insights	The red warning winds yesterday were devastating for many farmers across the region, with many still without power or internet. Here at the Hub, the wind was intense from 11:30am to 3:00pm, with gusts reaching a maximum of 123.5 kph at the peak around 12:15pm and consistently sitting above 100 kph for about 45 minutes. We were one of the few fortunate farms in the region to have power restored late yesterday afternoon, allowing us to milk our cows this morning – although it was certainly a slow one. Damage on farm was relatively minor, with several trees down and some iron missing from the cow shed and calf shed roofs. Many farms are still without power and facing a big clean-up, but it's been heartening to see communities working together to support one another through this weather event. This week, soil temperatures dropped only slightly from 12.3°C to 12.1°C, which surprised us given the grass growth was a little better than expected. Interestingly, at this time last year, soil temperatures were 13.8°C. Contractors are no doubt itching for things to dry out. A couple of paddocks have been closed for conservation and are certainly getting long. Rainfall is higher than the same time last year by 18.8mm due to this week's rain – hard to believe given how wet it was in September and October last year. The strong winds have helped dry out some of our wetter paddocks. Like many in the lower South, we're keen to get started on winter crop cultivation.													
	23.10.2025 <table><tr><th></th><th>Measure</th><th>Comments</th></tr><tr><td>Average Soil Temp (°C) for last 7 days</td><td>12.1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Sum of Rainfall (mm) for past 7 days</td><td>25.4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Rainfall (mm) since 3 Jun 25</td><td>439.8</td><td></td></tr></table> The Future cows continue to outperform the Standard cows with less imported feed (Futures 2.35 kgMS vs Standards 2.24 kgMS). The Future Farm system is working well at the moment, though stepping over paddocks and meeting residuals will be key to maintaining performance.				Measure	Comments	Average Soil Temp (°C) for last 7 days	12.1		Sum of Rainfall (mm) for past 7 days	25.4		Rainfall (mm) since 3 Jun 25	439.8
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