

Insights

- It's looking dry, but pasture dry matter is likely higher than it appears. Cows are content, residuals are good, and production is being maintained.
- Measuring grass to better understand DM% and how this aligns with feed allocation and cow performance.
- Future herd tracking similar to last year for milk production, with the Standard herd around 0.25 higher than this time last year. Both are holding.
- A new silage stack has been opened, with DM testing underway to better track feeding levels.
- Crops are getting close to canopy closure. Leaf size suggests it's a good time to assess nitrogen application, with plans to use the drone.
- The farm team is enthusiastic about the arrival of a new effluent spreader, with training and measurement now underway.
- New grass paddocks are ready to be grazed and will be nipped off as soon as conditions allow.



2025/26 Season
Weekly Farm Update
as at 21 January 2026
Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		21-Jan-25	21-Jan-25
		Standard	Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	156.3	74.2
	Area out of rotation - ha	40.5	24.9
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat	514	205
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	0	3
	Total cows milking	514	208
	Total Sick Cows	6	9
	Average BCS (camera)	4.2	4.2
	BCS 4.0 or less (%)	74	77
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2240	2232
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	14.9	16.0
	Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	3.4	2.4
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	1.7	1.6
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	20.0	20.0
	Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)	3.3	2.8
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)	56	50
	Pasture growth rate	36	25
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	3100	2950
	Residual (average for week past)	1600	1750
	Round length (actual)	25	25
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.86	1.92
	Fat:protein	0.79	0.76
	SCC	128	137
	Milk urea	21.7	20.0
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	17.3↓	
	Rainfall (mm)	0	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	638	
	Soil conditions	Dry	
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		