

HubWatch

2025/26 Season

Weekly Farm Update as at 24 April 2026

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



Insights

Feed Management

- Introducing in-shed feed to the Future herd to maintain daily area allocation and keep the autumn feed budget on track.
- Increasing in-shed feed to the Standard herd to 3.5kg DM per day. Intake will be monitored, with silage introduced if required. Approximately 15T DM less supplementary feed has been fed to the Standards than predicted in the autumn feed budget to 21 April.

Body Condition Score (BCS)

- First 30 cows from the Standards to begin the dry-off process this week. They need to gain 0.6 or more BCS before winter.

Crop Results

- April crop yields completed. Swedes averaged 12.7T DM/ha, with 30% leaf averaging 9.8% DM, and 70% bulb averaging 8.9% DM. Kale averaged 12.4T DM/ha with an average DM of 10.3%.

Herd Management

- Culls continuing to go off on a weekly basis.

Pasture Growth

- Significant drop in soil temperature of 2.8°C, negatively impacting growth rates.

Animal Health

- Stripping the Future herd as cell count has crept up, using the Delpro system to identify likely offenders.

2025/26 Season
Weekly Farm Update
as at 22 April 2026

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		22-Apr-26	22-Apr-26
		Standard	Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	156.6	78.82
	Area out of rotation - ha	40.24	20.32
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat	467	199
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	1	1
	Total cows milking	468	200
	Total Sick Cows	3	3
	Average BCS	4.3	4.3
	BCS 4.0 or less (%)	23	33
	Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2275
Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		17.4	19.0
Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		0.0	0.0
Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		1.6	0.0
Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)		19.0	19.0
Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)		3.0	2.5
Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)		54	50
Pasture growth rate		24	24
Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)		2950	2820
Residual (average for week past)		1720	1700
Round length (actual)		26	30
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.57	1.74
	Fat:protein	0.76	0.77
	SCC	129	240
	Milk urea	37.6	37.4
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	12.0↓	
	Rainfall (mm)	32.6	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	876	
	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		