2026/27 Season
Weekly Farm Update
as at 18 November 2026
Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub

SOUTHERN DAIRY HUB
HubWatch

		25-Nov-26 Standard	25-Nov-26 Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	173.4	84.6
	Area out of rotation - ha	23.1	14.5
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat	519	224
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	0	0
	Total cows milking	519	224
	Total Sick Cows	13	7
	Average BCS Milking Cows (camera)	4.2	4.2
	BCS 4 or less (%)	40%	36%
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2402	2394
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	16.2	17.9
	Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	3.3	1.6
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	19.5	19.5
	Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)	3.0	2.6
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)	48	47
	Pasture growth rate	44	49
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	3100	3050
	Residual (average of last 3 paddocks)	1830	1820
	Round length (actual)	30	29
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.98	2.01
	Fat:protein	0.79	0.77
	Fat%	5.06	5.29
	Prot%	3.98	4.09
	SCC	133	148
	Milk urea	18.8	21.4
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	15.4	
	Rainfall (mm)	14.4	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	633	
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 & kale 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

General
Milk and pasture production continue to hold steady. Warm rainfall this week, combined with the application of 30 kg N/ha of urea to paddocks within a week of grazing or conservation, means we are expecting a lift in pasture growth rates.

Mating
Mating performance remains encouraging. The Standard herd achieved a three-week submission rate of 98.6% (88.8% without intervention), while the Future herd achieved 95.0% (89.6% without intervention). Of the 18 cows not submitted, nine had shown previous heats, and some have been subsequently submitted in the first days of the second round of AB.

Surplus management
Our second round of baleage was cut on Saturday, with a further 81 bales made. The Future farmlet has now had 27.4% of its area conserved, compared with 21.7% on the Standard farmlet. No topping has occurred yet.

Cropping and regrassing
Progress on next winter's feed supply continued this week, with three of the four kale paddocks sown in Firefly kale on Monday. The paddocks will receive their pre-emergence herbicide application as soon as weather conditions allow.

Replacements
Calves still being fed milk were weighed on Wednesday, and a further 32 calves were at or above the target weaning weight of 95 kg. These calves will be weaned off milk over the next week, leaving 18 calves still on milk.