

2025/26 Season

Weekly Farm Update as at 27 February 2026

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

Insights

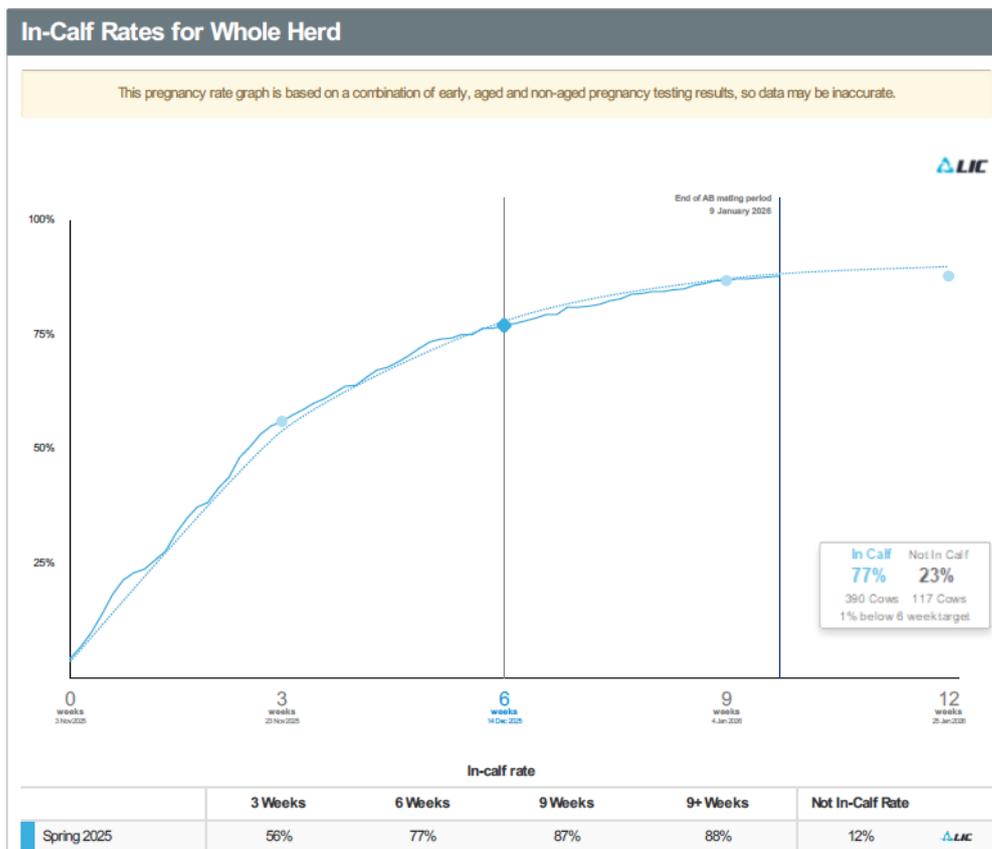
Pregnancy Results: Pregnancy results are in, with six-week in-calf rates of:

- 77% in the Standard herd
- 74% in the Future herd

We're pleased with these outcomes overall. A full review will be completed next week and shared in the upcoming newsletter. There are a few points to unpack, particularly from week five onwards in the Future herd, along with the slightly higher than desired Not in Calf rates of 12% and 13%. We'll keep you posted.

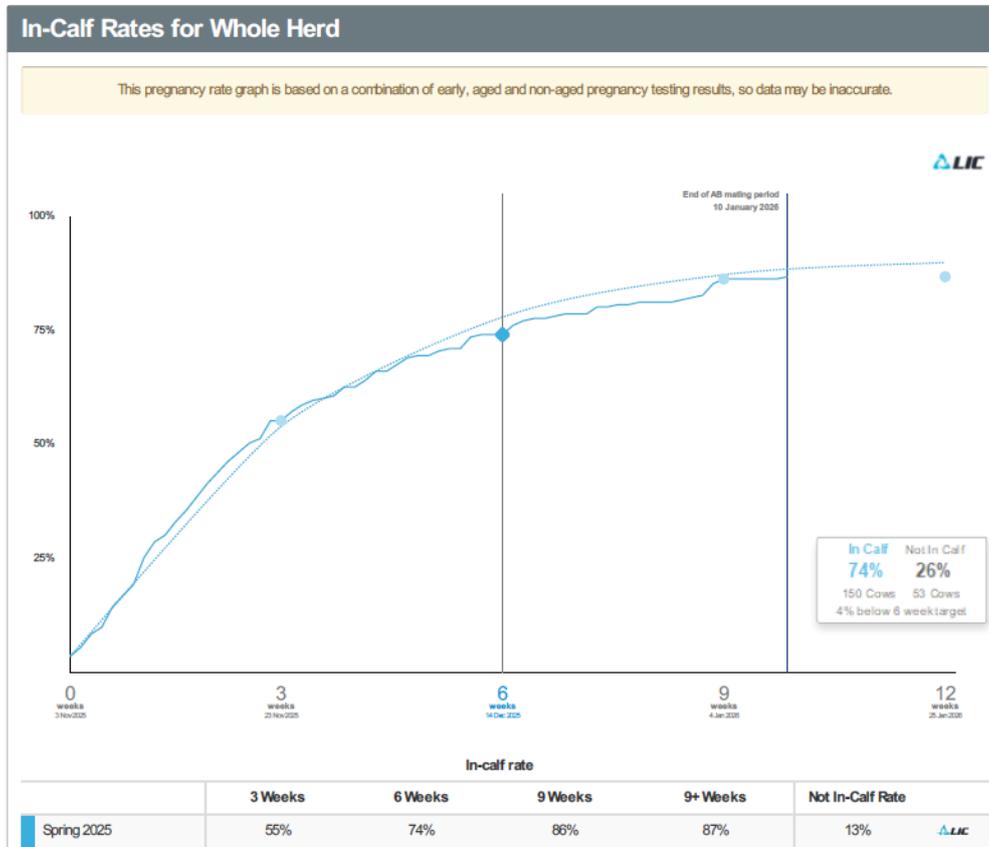
Standard Herd

In-Calf Rates for Spring 2025 (RKLX)



Future Herd

In-Calf Rates for Spring 2025 (TBGH)



Imported Silage: We have secured 120 tonnes of imported silage to support spring feed demand. Delivery to the stack is expected in the coming weeks.

Feed quality analysis shows:

- Crude protein: 15.4% DM
- Metabolisable energy (ME): 10.6 MJ/kg DM

Protein levels are strong. ME is slightly lower than ideal, likely reflecting species composition and pasture management. We will factor this into spring rate feed planning.

Johne's Testing: Johne's test results were received earlier this week. Blood samples have been sent for confirmation.

Initial results show:

- Standard herd: four positives and one suspect
- Future herd: one positive and two suspects

Southern Dairy Hub has been testing for Johne's since conversion in 2017, helping maintain low prevalence across both herds year on year. Once confirmatory blood results are returned, any confirmed positives will exit the herd. For more information on Johne's testing, visit LIC's [Johne's disease testing page](#).

2025/26 Season
Weekly Farm Update
as at 25 February 2026

Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		25-Feb-26	25-Feb-26
		Standard	Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	173.7	90.4
	Winter area out of rotation - ha	23.1	8.7
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat	514	201
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	0	1
	Total cows milking	514	202
	Total Sick Cows	8	6
	Average BCS (camera)	4.2	4.2
	BCS 4.0 or less (%)	32	41
	Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2419
Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		17.4	18.7
Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		0.9	0.0
Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		1.7	1.3
Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)		20.0	20.0
Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)		3.0	2.2
Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)		53	44
Pasture growth rate		46	56
Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)		3250	3050
Residual (average for week past)		1850	2000
Round length (actual)		30	32
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.82	1.95
	Fat:protein	0.79	0.78
	SCC	120	128
	Milk urea	31.2	26.0
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	16.4↓	
	Rainfall (mm)	20.2	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	723.2	
	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		