

HubWatch



2025/26 Season

Weekly Farm Update as at 27 March 2026

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

Insights

- **Winter crop paddock set-up nearly complete:** The team have been using the GPS Fields Area Measure Map App (see image). This app is great for accurately placing bales.



GPS Fields Area Measure Map

Distance, acres, range fin...

Get

In-App Purchases

1.1K RATINGS

4.6



AGES

4+

Years

CATEGORY



Utilities

DEVELOP



Rento U/

Picture of paddock in app before placement



Picture of paddock with bales placed



Production: The Future herd continues to be fully fed on grass with no in-shed feed. They're producing 1.86 kgMS/cow this week compared to the standard herd at 1.80 kgMS/cow being fed 1.7kg of in-shed feed.

Residuals continue to be a challenge, particularly for the Future herd with a lower stocking rate and longer round length. Soil temperatures have lifted, and there's plenty of grass in front of us.

Autumn feed budgeting suggests the Future herd will not require in-shed feed for the remainder of the season, taking into account current average pasture cover and predicted growth.

Dairy Environment Leaders Forum: GM Andrea Dixon attended the DEL Forum this week in Wellington alongside other members from the Otago/Southland region. There were many passionate farmers from across the country, all championing environmental stewardship and sustainable farming practices.

These forums are a great way to learn, share, and grow together. The DEL committee looks forward to hosting a field day at Tim and Justine McRae's next week alongside Beef + Lamb New Zealand. The focus will be on lifting the value and performance of dairy-origin beef calves. Register [here](#). See you there!



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

Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		25-Mar-26	25-Mar-26
		Standard	Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	168	87.54
	Area out of rotation - ha	28.77	11.6
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat	505	202
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	0	2
	Total cows milking	505	204
	Total Sick Cows	3	5
	Average BCS	4.3	4.3
	BCS 4.0 or less (%)	30	39
	Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2409
Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		18.2	20.0
Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		0.0	0.0
Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		1.8	0.0
Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)		20.0	20.0
Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)		3.0	2.3
Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)		50	46
Pasture growth rate		29	31
Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)		3220	3100
Residual (average for week past)		1800	2000
Round length (actual)		28	31
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.80	1.86
	Fat:protein	0.80	0.79
	SCC	120	127
	Milk urea	30.3	33.7
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	16.1↑	
	Rainfall (mm)	7.6	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	786.8	
	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		