

HubWatch

2025/26 Season

Weekly Farm Update as at 2 April 2026

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



Insights

In-shed feed: We've added [Vitalise pelletised minerals](#) back into the feed to ensure cows are getting the required minerals heading into the end of the season. With only the Standard herd receiving in-shed feed, this gives us the opportunity to take bloods before and after Vitalise is reintroduced to their diet.

Aeration: We've started our aeration programme, with paddocks selected based on farm walk notes, compaction, historic pugging, and pasture growth throughout the year.

Silage: We'll be testing our new stack of silage for DM and quality to help ensure it's allocated correctly to cows in the spring.

Residuals: We continue to be challenged by residuals, especially in the Future herd. More paddocks were taken out this week for conservation. Ground temperature and moisture are helping us grow some great grass late into the season.

Autumn management: The first lot of cows left the farm this week, and we've started identifying cows for early dry-off to ensure they meet BCS targets at calving.

2025/26 Season
Weekly Farm Update
as at 1 April 2026

Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		01-Apr-26	01-Apr-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	503	204
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	1	0
	Total cows milking	504	204
	Total Sick Cows	6	3
	Average BCS	4.3	4.2
	BCS 4.0 or less (%)	24	37
	Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2546
Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		18.6	20.0
Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		0.0	0.0
Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)		1.4	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		64	57
Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)		3220	3100
Residual (average for week past)		1800	1930
Round length (actual)		32	35
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.78	1.82
	Fat:protein	0.79	0.78
	SCC	138	141
	Milk urea	32.0	32.1
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	16.6↑	
	Rainfall (mm)	36.6	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	823.4	
	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		