



Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub

		03-Dec-25	03-Dec-25
		Standard	Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	156.3	74.2
	Area out of rotation - ha	40.5	24.9
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat	515	208
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	2	3
	Total cows milking	517	211
	Total Sick Cows	5	9
	Average BCS (camera)	4.3	4.3
	BCS 4.5 or less (%)	70	67
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2421	2537
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	17.7	18.3
	Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	2.3	1.7
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	20.0	20.0
	Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)	3.3	2.8
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)	60	54
	Pasture growth rate	37	35
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	3100	3000
	Residual (average for week past)	1750	1850
	Round length (actual)	25	25
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	2.01	2.17
	Fat:protein	0.79	0.79
	SCC	103	158
	Milk urea	19.2	20.5
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	16.7↑	
	Rainfall (mm)	14.4	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	243.6	
	Soil conditions	Dry	
People	Current Roster	5 in 2	
	Health and safety incidences		
	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		
Decisions and Insights	Growth rates: Growth rates dropped this week, averaging 36 kgDM/ha. This is well below demand of 54 for the Futures and 60 for the Standards. While we're holding slightly higher covers, we expect these to come down as we bring paddocks that were earmarked for baleage back into the round. Soil temperatures lifted again this week to 16.7°C (from 15.8°C). Rain in the coming days will be very welcome.		
	Weaning of calves: This week we weighed the later born calves for weaning. Only 12 calves remain on milk as we head into December.		
	Hospice Southland calves: We sent four dairy beef cross calves to Lomeville this week in support of our local hospice. These calves were magnificent and it's great to support a local organisation.		
	Mating: We have finished our four weeks of mating to artificial breeding sires and have now moved to beef (Changus and Angus). Submission rates have been great and, while still early days, the returns are looking good too.		
	End of year function: This week we celebrated the year with the SDH farm team and their families, the SDH board, key partners and supporters. For many it was the first time they had dinner in the cow shed. It was a great event and a good way to say thank you to our farm team and wider SDH family.		