2026/27 Season
Weekly Farm Update
as at 4 November 2026
Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub

SOUTHERN DAIRY HUB
HubWatch

		04-Nov-26	04-Nov-26
		Standard	**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	516	223
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	4	1
	Total cows milking	520	224
	Total Sick Cows	12	5
	Average BCS Milking Cows (camera)	4.3	4.4
	BCS 4 or less (%)	20%	24%
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2483	2702
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	17.5	18.4
	Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	2.5	1.6
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	20.0	20.0
	Stocking rate (based on available pasture area)	3.0	2.6
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)	51	50
	Pasture growth rate	55	56
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	3200	3100
	Residual (average for week past)	1900	1800
	Round length (actual)	23	21
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	2.14	2.36
	Fat:protein	0.77	0.78
	Fat%	5.08	5.30
	Prot%	3.93	4.11
	SCC	137	133
	Milk urea	22.4	23.5
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	13.0	
	Rainfall (mm)	38.4	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	600	
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

Feeding
- No changes to feeding levels at this stage, but we're stepping up our monitoring of pasture covers and will likely reduce in-shed feed as pre-grazing covers continue to increase.
- With ryegrass seedhead emergence very noticeable, keeping on top of residuals will be critical to ensuring good-quality pasture in the next round.
- Five Future paddocks and four Standard paddocks have been stepped over for conservation, with cutting hopefully to take place this week. Buffer zones from the wintering paddocks will also be cut and baled.

Conservation
- We made a conscious decision to continue with in-shed feed for the Standard herds, despite having paddocks shut for conservation. We need approximately 2,000 bales of baleage for winter and spring. Given the current PKE price (40c/kg DM), predicted baleage prices (up to 55c/kg DM) and climate predictions, we believe it will be more cost-effective and efficient to make as many bales on farm as possible rather than relying on the market for this feed.
- Given the current changeable weather conditions, we're also investigating the value of including an inoculant in the baleage.

Mating
- Mating commenced on 2 November, with a big first day. However, we expect submission rates to settle to more normal levels as mating progresses.
- The first group of 31 cows requiring cycling intervention has been identified, with mating CIDRs due to come out on 6 November. The next group is planned to be identified for intervention on 13 November.

Cropping and regrassing
- We're excited to report that cultivation of our winter paddocks began on 1 November, with the springer paddocks sprayed out on 5 November.