

## Insights

- **Silage testing:** Next week we will be testing the oats silage standing paddock on offer to ensure it meets the demands of our animals as a spring feed. We'll share the results once they're through.
- **Cow health:** Two samples put through the Mastatest machine this week came back as Streptococcus species and E. coli. Using this machine means we can treat the animal with the most appropriate product, as recommended by our vets at [VetSouth](#).
- **Effluent pond levels:** The pond level is currently down to 30%. Heading into autumn, it's a good time to keep levels down before conditions get too wet. This is a daily task for the team. [Effluent management and operation | DairyNZ](#).
- **In-shed feed:** This week we are removing in-shed feed for our future first calvers and three-year-olds with a BCS over 4.4, and cows above BCS 4, due to good pasture covers and quality silage in the stack. It was always the aim with the future herd to only use in-shed feed during a feed deficit.
- **New grass paddocks:** These paddocks are now back into the feed wedge, allowing us to extend the round length to 32 days for the Futures and 30 days for the Standards, as we work to build cover over the next month.
- **Farm team roster:** The team remain on a 5 and 2 roster and are loving it. It provides a good work-life balance and has proven very attractive for staff.

**2025/26 Season**  
**Weekly Farm Update**  
**as at 4 February 2026**  
*Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub*



		04-Feb-26	04-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	206
	Cows milking NOT into vat - treated	0	2
	Total cows milking	514	208
	Total Sick Cows	5	8
	Average BCS (camera)	4.3	4.2
	BCS 4.0 or less (%)	31	42
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2341	2482
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	16.2	17.6
	Current Silage fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	2.1	0.8
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	1.7	1.6
	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)	48	40
	Pasture growth rate	43	47
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	3100	3050
	Residual (average for week past)	1900	1800
	Round length (actual)	30	20
Milk production	Weekly average milksolids (kg/cow)	1.90	2.07
	Fat:protein	0.79	0.78
	SCC	113	167
	Milk urea	30.6	24.8
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	16.9↑	
	Rainfall (mm)	9.8	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	679.8	
	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		