

2024/25 Season
Weekly Farm Update
as at 15 August 2025

Your weekly glimpse into research in action at Southern Dairy Hub



		13-Aug-25	13-Aug-25
		Standard	Future
Farm Area	Grazing area available to milkers - ha	170.7	85.81
	Winter area - ha	26.1	13.3
Stock Numbers	Cows milking into vat		
	Cows milknng NOT into vat - treated		
	Total cows milking	80	31
	Once a day milking cows	80	31
	Sick Cows	0	0
	Dry cows on farm	460	194
	Average BCS	5.3	5.5
	BCS 4.5 or less (%)	2	0
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/ha)	2655	2772
	Current Pasture fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	17.5	18.0
	Current Baleage/hay/straw fed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current Inshed feed - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.5	0.5
	Current PKE in trailers - milkers (kg DM/cow/day)	0.0	0.0
	Current per cow (kg DM/cow/day allocation)	18.0	18.5
	Stocking rate	3.2	2.6
	Current Pasture demand - milkers (kg DM/ha)		
	Pasture growth rate	12	14
	Pre-graze cover target (for week coming)	>3000	>3000
	Residual (average for week past)	1800	1800
	Round length (actual)	NA	NA
Farm Conditions	Soil temperature average (degree C)	7.7	
	Rainfall (mm)	25	
	Rainfall season to date (mm)	189	
	Soil conditions	Good	
People	Current Roster	5 in 2	
	Health and safety incidences		
	Milking routine		
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		
Key decisions/actions this week	<p>General</p> <p>- Milkers and colostrums separated on the 13th August to start supply for the season</p> <p>- Due to ground conditions being good we have identified paddocks for winter 2026 for both famlets taking into account crop rotations and feed requirements with the intention to start as soon as the weather enables us. We are having early conversations with contractors to make sure we have them booked in early</p> <p>-We (like a lot o Southland) are experiencing higher than normal APC for this time of the season. While we are only in the early days of spring we are constantly considering ways to best manage this using a spring rotation planner to ensure high pasture quality in the second round and beyond. We are currently using the later calving cows to achieve post grazing targets given the great ground conditions we have. The spring rotation planner with a slow to start calving and high average pasture covers is currently tracking above balance date target for both famlets (4th October for Standard herd and 24th September for the Future herd).</p> <p>- Brix testing all first milking colostrum and allocating to calves accordingly. Brix >22 is deemed gold colostrum. WE are noticing variability at cow level so have begun recording cow number to colostrum quality to better understand the differences. The question is - could this be a famlet variation (wintered on Swedes v. baleage)?</p> <p>- Pre calving blood testing across both famlets showed average to below average for selenium and average for copper. Magnesium was above average showing this has held well through winter. Given the lower selenium result all cows are receiving a selenium and Vitamin B12 injection at first milking as recommended by the vets.</p>		