

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ON LUDF ?

PASTURE & REGRASSING

Pasture growth is currently 43 kg DM/ha, while our herd demand is 61 kg DM/ha and are offering the herd 18 kg DM/cow/day. We have extended our round out to 40 days (41.6 days for the week) and will hold our round at this level until the end of April, at which time we will assess pasture on farm to have a plan to hit our APC of 1900 for dry off. Supplementation levels are currently 7 kgs DM/cow/day (silage). Our APC (Average Pasture Cover) is 2504, with pre grazing covers with week at 3200-3300 kg DM/ha and grazing to a

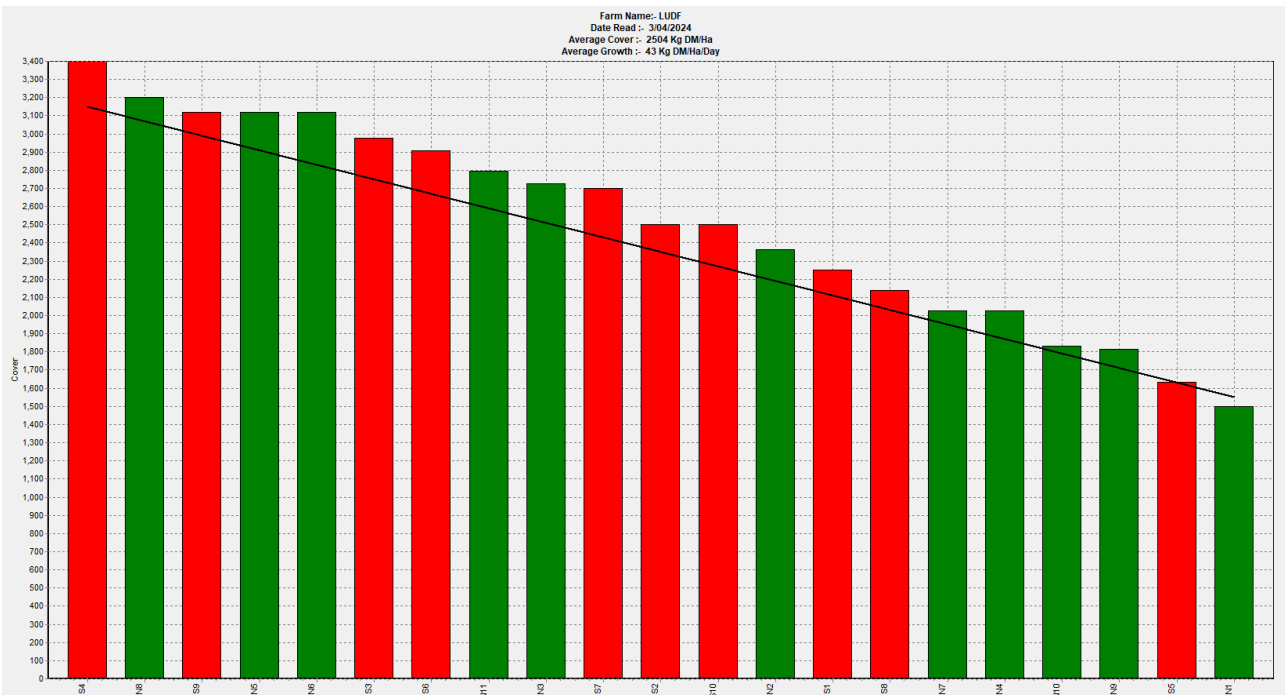
residual of 1550-1600.

Our last new grass paddock is now back in the round. This was drilled in early January and grazed 21 March. This is a tetraploid hybrid ryegrass (Forge NEA), white clover (Kotuku & Ruru) with Plantain. Seed ratio 22:2:2:3. The cow's milk picked up after grazing and grazed very evenly.



Stages of our new grass paddock

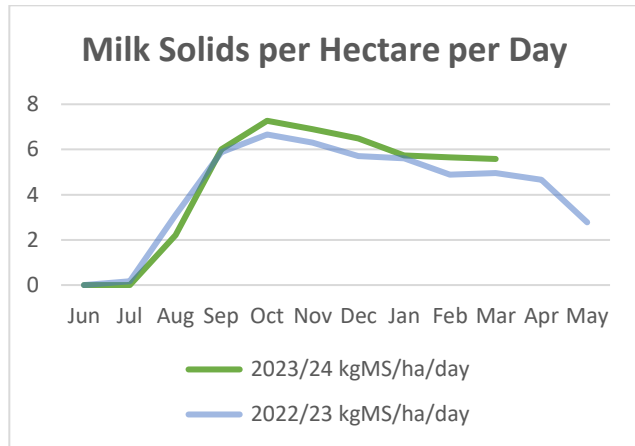
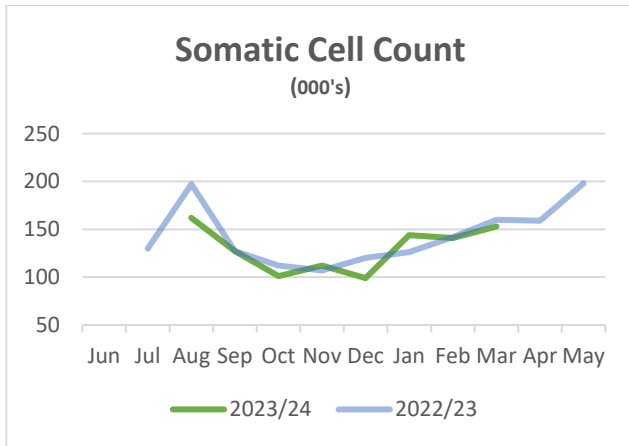
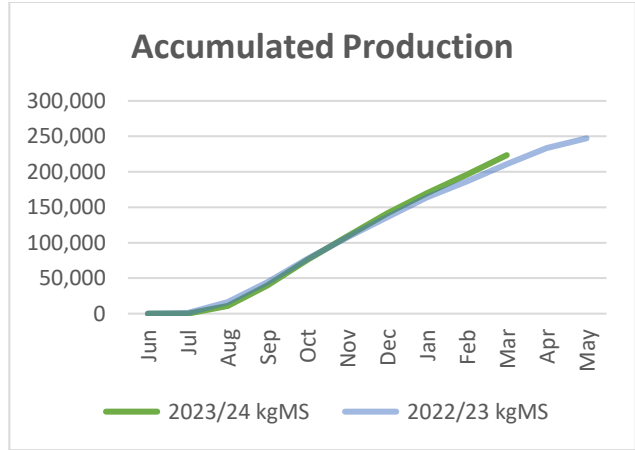
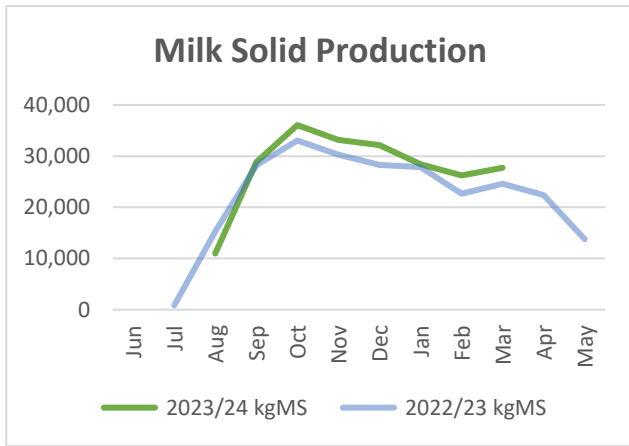
L-R: Spray out, emergence, pre spray, post spray and pre grazing



Current Feed Wedge

MILK PRODUCTION

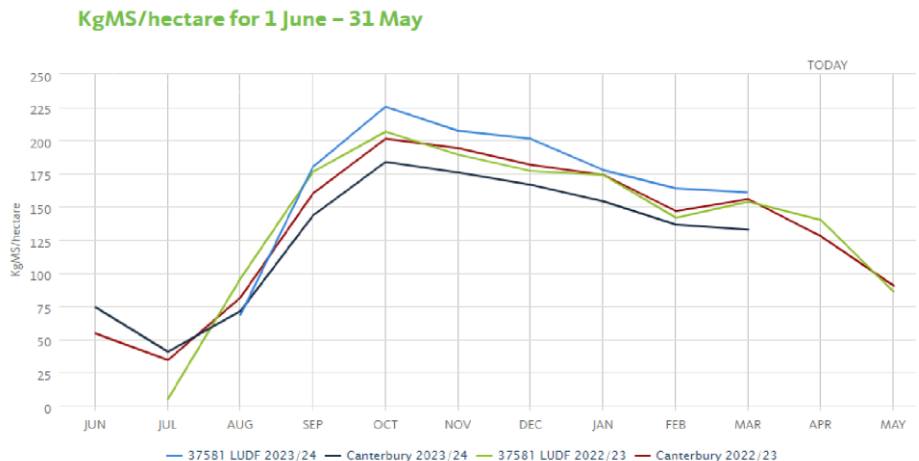
March's production has been favourable with cows milking well, they are currently producing 1.60 kg MS/cow/day. We landed 12.6% up for the month of March and 5.9% ahead for the season. SCC has been following a similar trend to last season with March's average of 154,000 compared to last seasons of 160,000. Our STD is 126,000, which is 4% lower than last season which was sitting at 131,000.



The regional benchmark below, shows the impact between the 22/23 season and the 23/24 season. LUDF has peaked well and is holding in line with the benchmark, we did see a dip in January. This is primarily due to an irrigation development that required our sprinklers to be turned off for 10 days, we also had one paddock out for renewal at this time which put pressure on pasture availability, along with late seed head. This led to a higher level of supplement use over this time.

Canterbury Benchmark

Source: Farmsource
Canterbury District
kg MS/ha

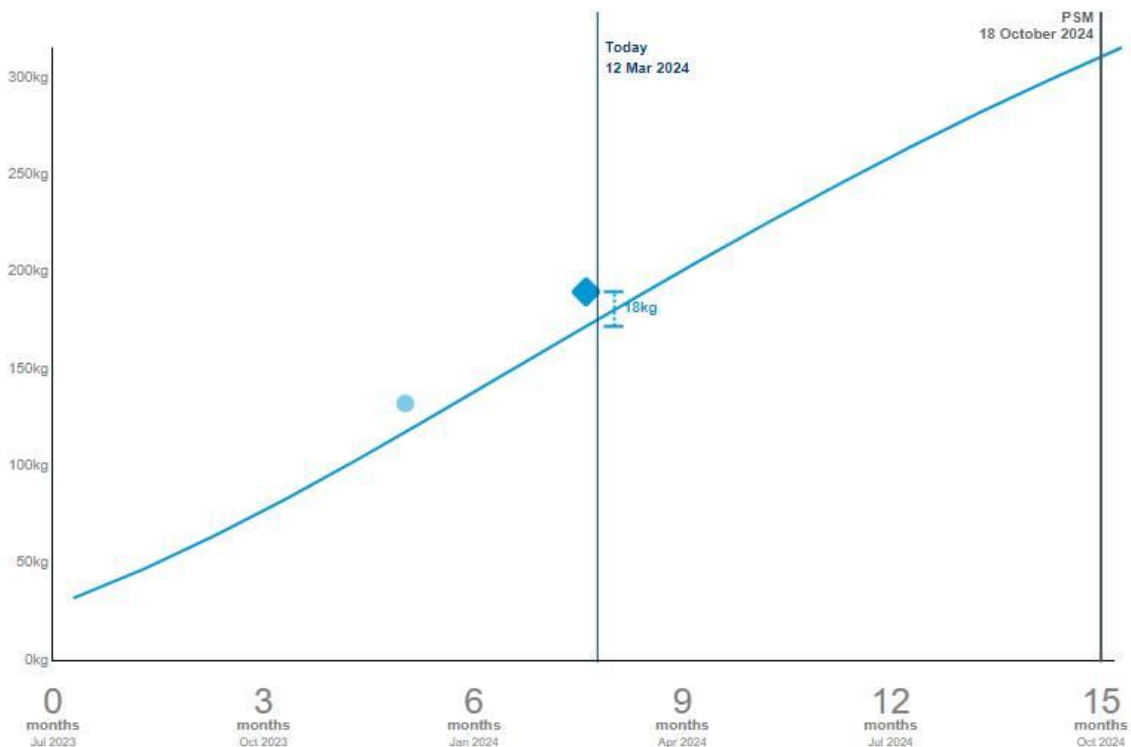


IRRIGATION

We note that we are still irrigating which is unusual for LUDF for March. We have had 25.6mm for the month of March, compared to 65.3mm in March last year, although this was a wetter season than average. The Jan-Feb-Mar 30 year data for Lincoln is: below normal – 61-95mm; near normal – 95-170mm; and above normal 170-284mm. For this period, this year we have had 95.2mm, compared to last season of 227.8. Whereas much of Canterbury has experience a very dry Jan-Feb-Mar period. Source: [NIWA](#)

LIVESTOCK

We have weighed our calves (2023 born) on March 12 and the average is currently 18kgs head of target. We currently have 5 of 114 (4.4%) that are underweight, with the balance ideal or above target. There are a few that have lower growth rates than their peers. They are currently on a grass diet before they move to winter grazing.



2023 Born Weights

WHAT'S COMING UP

As we move into autumn, in line with our culling policy, all culls are to be off farm by the end of April. This is part of our N loss strategy as autumn is the highest risk period. We do this to limit the amount of urine deposited over autumn as pasture growth reduces and plant uptake is limited. Due to our improved reproduction results it will enable more strategic culling, allowing us to focus on any high somatic cell count cows and repeat offenders, and also base decisions on confirmation and age.

We will also be setting up our R2's for winter. Bloods have been completed to ensure we are on target for our iodine and selenium levels and will be drenched. We will be giving a leptospirosis boost to all classes of stock.

FARM VISITORS

Global Dairy Farmers

This year New Zealand hosted the Global Dairy Farmers Congress which was centred around "Navigating dairy challenges towards green horizons." The group reaffirmed the challenges farmers are facing globally, which often aren't too far different to New Zealand. It is important to understand what consumers are expecting, particularly in the markets where we trade, and to ensure we look to the future for practical and profitable solutions. These study tours help bridge the gap and encourage collaboration between countries, farmers, industry and research, so that we can find innovative solutions that are practical, feasible and impactful.



Genimex

Genimex visited LUDF, who have been on a New Zealand farm tour with LIC.

Genimex imports genetics from around the world and source some of their genetics from New Zealand. There were great conversations around the LUDF herd, their genetics, our reproduction results and what our genetic goals are for the herd.

Their systems have a wide range, just like New Zealand, and see a wide strategy around breeds, however they are seeing a crossbred becoming more common.



Lincoln University Students



With this year's courses back in full swing, we welcomed students from the Diploma in Agriculture and first year Farm Management students. We enjoy giving the students an overview to LUDF and dairy farming in general.



Hoof Trimmers Association of NZ

The Hoof Trimmers Association of NZ held their annual conference in Lincoln recently and visited LUDF. It great to see their collaborative spirit, sharing knowledge between members and upskilling with recent research around hoof health and treatment.



See you at our next Focus Day ...

SIDDC FOCUS DAYS

Methven

Tue 30 April @ 10.15am – 1.00pm

Venue: Highveld Pastures
465 Reynolds Road, Methven
SN37225

Eyrewell Forest

Wed 1 May @ 10.15am – 1.00pm

Venue: Waimak Dairies
151 Two Chain Road, Eyrewell Forest
SN37777



LUDF UPDATE

Peter Hancox & Antoinette Archer

- Setting up for dry off
- Milk production
- Season's financials & outlook for 24/25
- Winter cow management

FLEXIBLE MILKING

Flo Coetzee (Methven)

Richard Pearse (Eyrewell Forest)

How has flexible milking stacked up?

Hear about the host farm's milking regime as well as a review of LUDF's system

- What did we do?
- Why did we do it?
- How did we do it?
- Key Learnings & practical tips

REPRODUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

Jeremy Savage, Aaron Henderson & Jair Mandriaza

Guest Vets: Donald Arthur & Ryan Luckman

We have halved our not in-calf rate – how did we do it?

LUDF Mating Benchmark Project: Year 2 results

- What were our keys to success?

Reproduction Results & Objectives

- Regional and National trends – how are we tracking?
- Breeding objectives and opportunities

Register on the day from 10.15am

Light lunch provided

E. office@siddc.org.nz T. (03) 423-0022



	KEY WEEKLY INFO	Last Week	This Week	1 Year Ago
		27-Mar-24	3-Apr-24	3-Apr-23
Farm Area	Grazing area (Ha)	160	160	152.73
	Re-grassing (Ha)	0	0	7.27
Stock Numbers	Cows currently milking to vat	554	550	530
	Cows currently milking NOT to vat	2	5	0
	Total cows milking	556	556	530
	Once-a-day milking cows	5	9	12
	Lame cows current	4	9	12
	Dry cows on farm	2	1	0
Milk Production	Current bulk milk SCC (tgt below 150) (SCC)	163	173	144
	Milk Solids per cow (kg MS/cow)	1.82	1.60	1.58
	Protein:Fat ratio (%)	0.77	0.78	0.82
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kg DM/Ha)	2530	2504	2411
	Current Pasture Fed - Milkers (kg DM/cow)	12.23	10.68	9.12
	Current Silage Fed - Milkers (kg DM/cow)	5.67	7.22	8.08
	Current Demand per cow (kg DM/cow)	17.9	17.9	17.2
	Stocking Rate - Milkers (Cows/Ha)	3.43	3.47	3.47
	Current Pasture Demand - Milkers (kg DM/Ha)	61	61	58
	Pasture Growth Rate (kg DM/Ha)	53	43	53
	Pre-grazing cover (avg for week) (kg DM/Ha)	3119	3325	3325
	Residual (avg for week) (kg DM/Ha)	1550	1550	1550
	Round Length (Days)	37.2	41.6	29
Farm Conditions	Soil temp average (Aquaflex) (degree C)	14.5	13.22	12.52
	Rainfall (mm)	0	0	35.8
	Irrigation days this week (days)	3	2	0
People	Current Roster	5+2	5+2	5+2
	Health & Safety Incidences	nil	nil	nil
	Milking Routine	10 in 7	10 in 7	10 in 7