

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY DAIRY FARM

Newsletter

LUDF
Tomorrow's farming, today

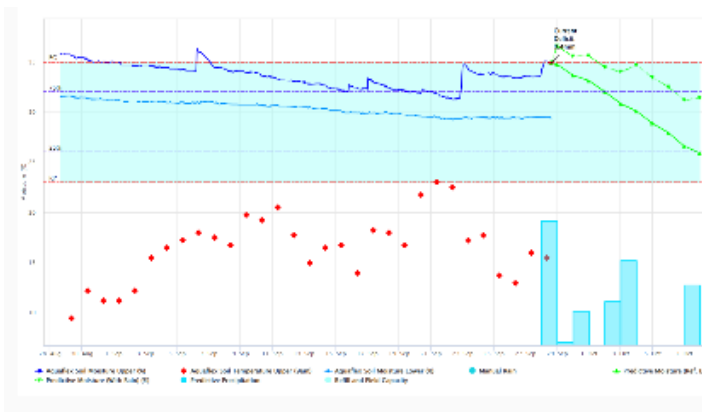
SIDDC
South Island Dairying Demonstration Centre

ISSUE NO. 11 | WED 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Weather Effects

The low-pressure system experienced over the previous weekend (23rd and 24th) had several effects on-farm. It brought 23ml of rain which increased soil moisture, so we have not had to irrigate. It also brought cooler temperatures and soil temperatures dropped, which slowed grass growth down and was impacted further by the following two frosts on Monday (25th) and Tuesday (26th). Pasture growth dropped from 58 kgDM/ha down to 53 kgDM/ha.



The cows also experienced a drop in rumination on Saturday to around 329 minutes down from over 500 minutes, but it has shifted back up the following day. There was a higher increase in mastitis cases after Saturday due to the wet muddy conditions. But overall, animal health and cow condition continue to remain on track.

Pasture Management

The second round was started on the previous Saturday (23rd September), which is 9 days later than last year (14th September). Partly due to this year's spring conditions being different from last years and the delayed calving, which has also taken pressure off the feed demand that occurs early in the season.

The longest covers are sitting at 3342 kgDM/ha with the average cover of 2422 kgDM/ha. The feed planner shows that we need a growth rate of 67 kg DM/ha for balance date, so we are not quite there yet at 53 kg DM/ha/d for last week. Looking forward we want a 24-day round, with approximately 6.4 ha of the dairy platform being utilized by the herd each day. Ideally round length will remain between 23-24 days (refer to feed planner table). And with an average cover being higher than the predicated target cover (refer to farm cover track) this is realistic with careful management and good weather. If the round length does shorten to 22 days, then silage will be used if required to maintain the 24-day round. All paddocks have received their maintenance fertilizer and a full round of Ammo 31 has been applied. And from now on nitrogen will be applied in the form of Urea following the cows.

This Week:

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Weather Effects

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Pasture Update

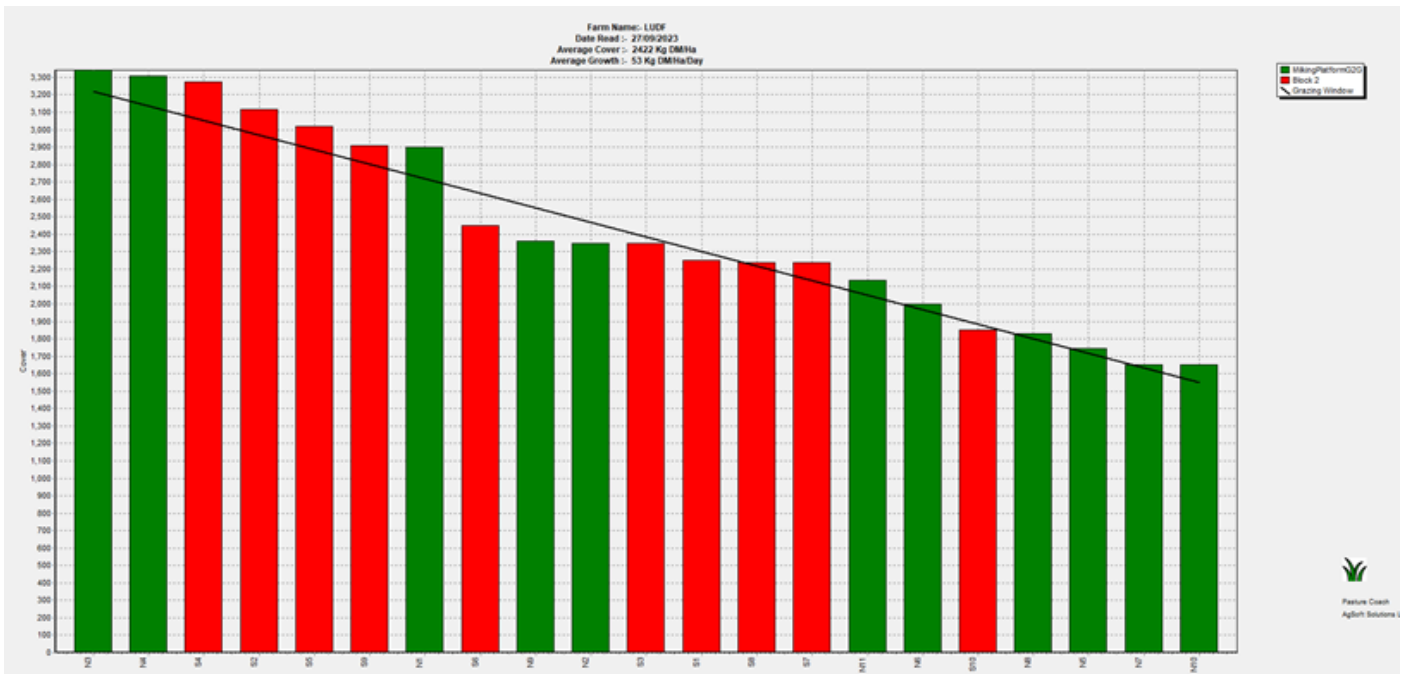


Next Farm Walk

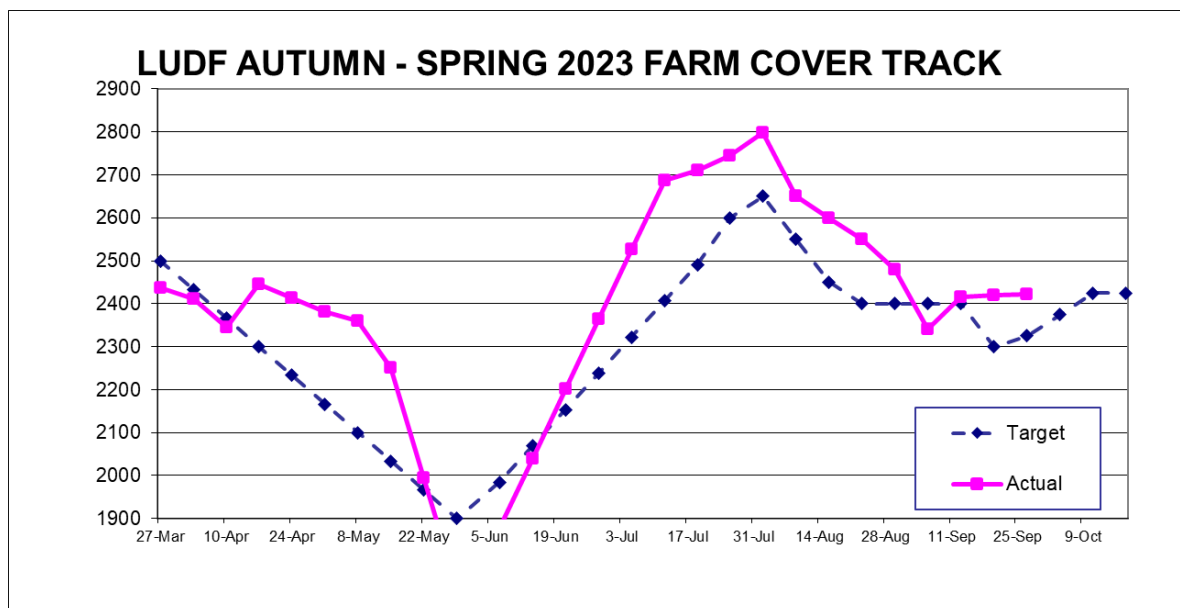
Wednesday

11th October

9am



MRB Feed Planner			Date	27/09/2023
Current Situation			Land Use	
Cows in Milk	540		Effective Area	160
Cows Dry	24		Cropping / Regrassing	0
Cow Liveweight	507		Current Pasture Area	160
Stocking Rate	3.53		Utilisation	85%
Milking Cows			Pasture Required	
Per Cow Production	1.99	kgMS/cow	Round Length	24 Days
Diet MJME		KGDM	Hectares per Day	6.7 Ha/Day
Total Diet		19.2	Current Average Cover	2422 kgDM/Ha
			Pregrazing	3221 kgDM/Ha
Silage	11	0	Residual	1623 kgDM/Ha
Pasture	12.6	19.2 kgDM/Hd	Demand	67 kgDM/Ha
Dry Cows				
Pregnant	TRUE	(last 2 months)		
Diet MJME		KGDM		
Total Diet		12.6		
Silage	11	0		
Straw	8	0		
Beet	10	0		
Pasture	12	12.6 kgDM/Hd		



Livestock Management

There are currently 540 milkers in the 10-in-7 mob, 16 cows in the once a day (OAD) mob and 24 cows that still need to calve. Calving should finish on the 15 October. Per cow production has increased from 1.94 kgMS/cow to 1.99 kgMS/cow despite the poor weather.

An LIC herd test has been scheduled for 2 October and the Dairy Audit for the 3 October. The calves were weighed and there were 49 calves over 75kgs that are now being weaned off milk but still being fed meal and pasture. The dairy replacement calves have had their DNA samples collected, and there are 39 excess calves that are expected to be ready by December with their DNA results confirmed.



Join us and follow [Peter](#)
to our Focus Day on-farm
@ LUDF Lincoln this Wednesday

	KEY WEEKLY INFO	This Week	Last Week	1 Year Ago
		27-Sep 23	20-Sep 23	21-Sep 22
Farm Area	Grazing area (Ha)	160	160	160
	Re-grassing (Ha)	0	0	0
Stock Numbers	Cows currently milking to vat	534	517	527
	Cows currently milking NOT to vat	6	14	15
	Total cows milking	540	531	542
	Once-a-day milking cows	16	24	15
	Lame cows current	3	3	9
	Dry cows on farm	24	35	0
Milk Production	Current bulk milk SCC (tgt below 150) (SCC)	128	130	118
	Milk Solids per cow (kgMS/cow)	1.99	1.94	1.94
	Protein:Fat ratio (%)	0.72	0.75	0.82
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kgDM/Ha)	2422	2421	-
	Current Pasture Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	16.6	14.12	15.38
	Current Silage Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	2.4	3.88	3.62
	Current Demand per cow (kgDM/cow)	19	18	19.5
	Stocking Rate - Milkers (Cows/Ha)	3.52	3.53	3.63
	Current Pasture Demand - Milkers (kgDM/Ha)	66	-	-
	Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/Ha)	53	58	-
	Pre-grazing cover (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	3236	3447	3087
	Residual (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	1600	1600	1550
	Round Length (Days)	34.6	37.8	36
Farm Conditions	Soil temp average (Aquaflex) (degree C)	9.72	9.51	9.76
	Rainfall (MM)	23.2	0	0
	Irrigation days this week (days)	0	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