

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY DAIRY FARM

Newsletter



LUDF

Tomorrow's farming, today



South Island Dairying Demonstration Centre

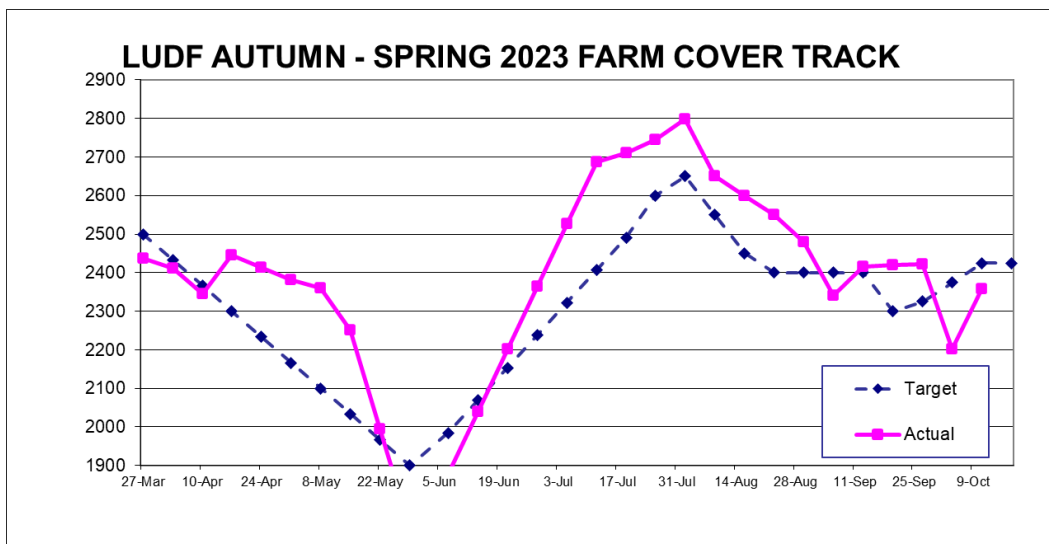
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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Please note that next weeks Farm Walk is in the afternoon at 1.30pm, meeting outside the dairy shed.

Pasture Management

The previous week (27 Sept – 4 October) resulted in a large drop-in pasture growth rate (43 kgDM/ha/d) due to the cold weather. The spring cover track went from being above the target to dropping below the target, (refer to graph below). An increase from 1.98 kgDM/cow to 3.56 kgDM/cow of silage was feed out to keep the round length to 23 days. The following week (post Focus Day) the weather improved, and grass growth rebounded (84 kgDM/ha). This rebound was probably assisted by the N fertiliser.



Per cow production has increased up to 2.07 kgMS/cow so there has been a corresponding increase in per cow allocation to 20 kgDM/ cow. Consequently, our target pre graze mass will be 3200 kgDM/ha though currently pre-grazing mass is sitting at 3050 kgDM/ha. The plantain is starting to be break fed again to the 10-in-7 mob. They spend 6 hours on plantain, so plantain is a third of their diet, before being moved to their overnight pasture paddock.

There has been enough rainfall that there has only been 2 days of irrigation in the last 4 weeks. However, with soil moisture dropping irrigation will probably start again this week, (refer to graph on the next page). Soil temperature had a few ups and downs over the last six weeks but on average it has been increasing by 0.59°C and clover is becoming more visible in the paddocks.

This Week:

- Pasture Update

- Heifer Mating

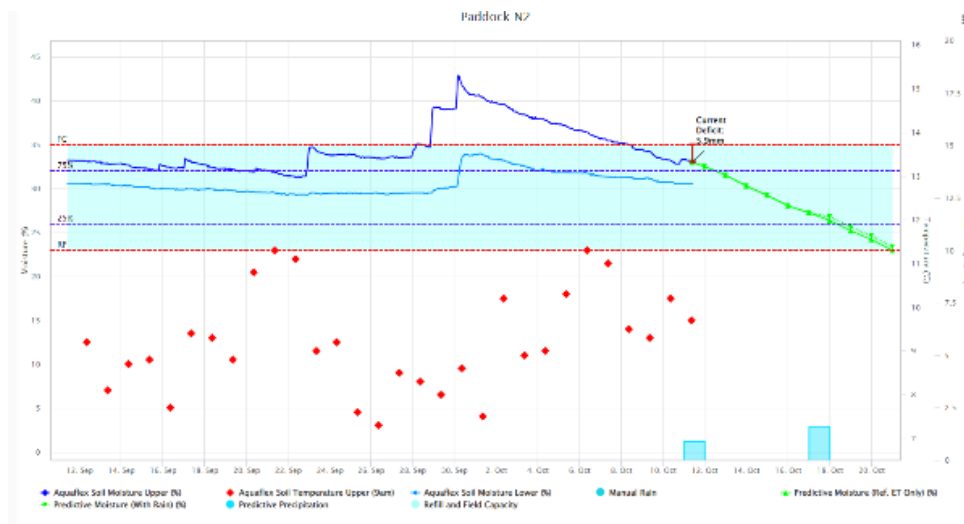


Next Farm Walk

Wednesday

18th October

1.30pm



Livestock Management

There are currently 545 milkers in the 10-in-7 mob, 12 cows in the once a day (OAD) mob and 5 cows still to calve. Another 80 calves have been weaned making a total of 129 calves weaned and there are 84 calves still on milk.

The pre-mating condition is looking good with the benchmarking program of pre-mate cycling placing LUDF in the top quarter. The collars have helped in identifying non-cycling cows and we are currently sitting at 76% of cows cycling and on track for 85% cycling at mating. Overall, there has been an increase of 7% at the herd level from 2022 pre-mating, which are significant gains.

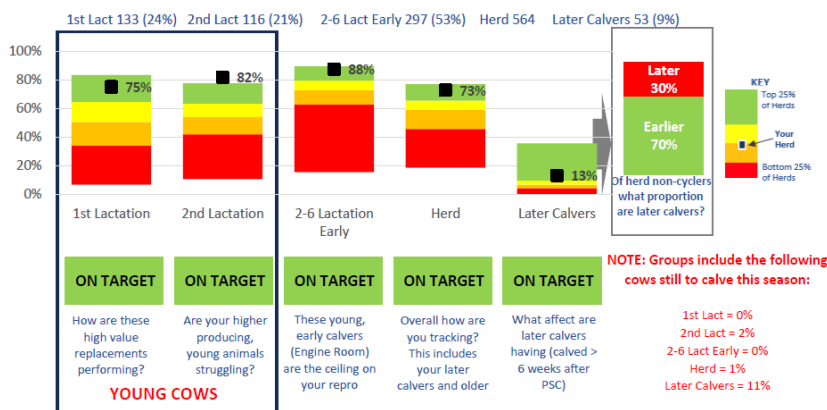
Pre-Mate Heat Analysis LUDF 2023 (Week -2 to PSM)



PSM = 23-10-2023 Includes Heats To: 08-10-2023

Benchmark of Pre-Mate Cycling

Which cows are cycling? Drivers and potential solutions



Our 141 heifers have had CIDR's and will undergo AI on Wednesday. The top 50 BW heifers will receive sexed semen with the rest receiving Forward Pack semen. Twenty-four hours after AI, eight yearling Jersey bulls will be introduced to the herd to cover any returns.



	KEY WEEKLY INFO	This Week	Last Week	1 Year Ago
		11-Oct 23	4-Oct 23	12-Oct 22
Farm Area	Grazing area (Ha)	160	160	160
	Re-grassing (Ha)	0	0	0
Stock Numbers	Cows currently milking to vat	545	542	541
	Cows currently milking NOT to vat	12	9	0
	Total cows milking	557	551	541
	Once-a-day milking cows	12	16	6
	Lame cows current	10	7	6
	Dry cows on farm	5	11	1
Milk Production	Current bulk milk SCC (tgt below 150) (SCC)	87	103	105
	Milk Solids per cow (kgMS/cow)	2.07	2.05	2
	Protein:Fat ratio (%)	0.8	0.75	0.82
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kgDM/Ha)	2358	2202	2344
	Current Pasture Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	16.44	18.02	20
	Current Silage Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	3.56	1.98	0
	Current Demand per cow (kgDM/cow)	20	20	20
	Stocking Rate - Milkers (Cows/Ha)	3.52	3.52	3.63
	Current Pasture Demand - Milkers (kgDM/Ha)	72	72	68
	Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/Ha)	84	43	54
	Pre-grazing cover (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	3050	3358	3165
	Residual (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	1600	1600	1550
	Round Length (Days)	23.6	28.8	26
Farm Conditions	Soil temp average (Aquaflex) (degree C)	10.56	9.3	8.7
	Rainfall (MM)	6	26.8	13.8
	Irrigation days this week (days)	0	0	2
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