

**Report by:** Berni Saldias  
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**Report for:** LUDF

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Visit Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

|                                | 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2025<br>CURRENT | 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2024<br>Last Season |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Total cows on farm</b>      | 552  | 546  |
| <b>Cows Milkers</b>            |  | 531  |
| <b>Penicillin/Colostrum</b>    |  | 15   |
| <b>Springer/MT, CO cows</b>    |  | 20 springers                                   |
| <b>Milksolids: per day</b>     | 1016 kg MS                                 | 1079 kg MS                                     |
| <b>per cow</b>                 | ~2.1 kg MS/cow                             | 2.05 kg MS/cow                                 |
| <b>per ha</b>                  | 6.35 kg MS/ha                              | 6.74 kg MS/ha                                  |
| <b>Somatic cell count</b>      | 186,000                                    | 123,000  |
| <b>Average pasture cover</b>   | 2266 kg DM/ha                              | 2373 kg DM/ha                                  |
| <b>Pre-grazing covers</b>      | 3240 kg DM/ha                              | 3356 kg DM/ha                                  |
| <b>Post-grazing covers</b>     | 1530 kg DM/ha                              | 1600 kg DM/ha                                  |
| <b>Effective area in round</b> | 160 ha                                     | 160 ha   |
| <b>Stocking rate</b>           | 3.45 cows/ha<br>(incl. all cows)           | 3.41 cows/ha                                   |

## Cows and Mating

- Cows will be individually body conditioned today.
- A small herd with a maximum of 160 cows will be drafted, using the following criteria:
  - Young cows and skinny cows
- Calving rate key performance indicators (K.P.I.s)
  - The midpoint of calving was 14 days from the start of calving, which aligns with the industry target.
  - The three-week calving rate was 65% which is 2% below the industry target of 67%.
  - The six-week calving rate was 91% which is 3% above the industry target of 88%.
- According to MINDA records, 523 cows had calved by the 15<sup>th</sup> September, which is 94.7% of the herd.
- Consider having the very late calvers on OAD to minimise body condition loss post-calving and support their reproductive performance.
- Consider having any non-cycling (>42 days calved) by the PSM in the small herd to remove the pressure of being in the main herd.
- PSM dates are:
  - 17<sup>th</sup> October for the heifers
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> October for the milking herd
- The industry target aims to have at least 85% of the herd (469 cows, based on the current number of cows) cycle by the planned start of mating. This equates to 22 cows per day from 21 days before the PSM.

## Pasture

- The first round will be finished around the 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> of September.
- The current round length is 39 days based on 160ha effective area at 4.06ha/day.
- Recent growth rate was 34kg DM/ha/day.
- Look to hold a 32-30-day round length by the end of the first round and start slowly increasing the pasture allocation.
- Use growth rates of 50-55 kg DM/ha/day as a trigger point to aim for a grazing rotation of about 22 days.
- Area allocation and pre-grazing targets for 22-day rotation on 145.8ha (160ha less 14.2ha for regressing).

|              |              | Total Diet         |               | 18.5 kgDM        |                              |                            |          |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Post-grazing | 1550 kgDM/ha | Round length       |               | 22 days          |                              | Area                       | 145.8 ha |
| d            | Cows         | Pre-grazing target | Area in round | kgDM/cow offered | Supplement offered –kgDM/cow | m <sup>2</sup> /cow/ha/day | day      |
| 1st Herd     | 400          | 3,113              | 104 ha        | 18.5             | 0.0                          | 4.7                        | 118      |
| 2nd Herd     | 160          | 3,113              | 42 ha         | 18.5             | 0.0                          | 1.9                        | 118      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>560</b>   |                    |               | <b>18.5</b>      | <b>0.0</b>                   | <b>6.6</b>                 |          |

- Total demand will be 71kg DM/ha/day.
- If pre-grazing covers are below target, offer silage rather than speeding up the rotation length. Supplement should be offered to ensure the cows always leave the targeted post-grazing residuals. It is important that the cows are on a rising plane of nutrition leading into mating and are not being held too tight for feed.
- Once growth rates are strong, consider having a 21-day round length to target a lower pre-grazing cover, while the regressing area is still out of the round.
- Area allocation and pre-grazing targets for 21-day rotation on 145.8ha (160ha less 14.2ha for regressing).

|              |              | Total Diet         |               | 18.5 kgDM        |                              |                            |          |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Post-grazing | 1550 kgDM/ha | Round length       |               | 21 days          |                              | Area                       | 145.8 ha |
|              | Cows         | Pre-grazing target | Area in round | kgDM/cow offered | Supplement offered –kgDM/cow | m <sup>2</sup> /cow/ha/day | day      |
| 1st Herd     | 400          | 3,042              | 104 ha        | 18.5             | 0.0                          | 5.0                        | 124      |
| 2nd Herd     | 160          | 3,042              | 42 ha         | 18.5             | 0.0                          | 2.0                        | 124      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>560</b>   |                    |               | <b>18.5</b>      | <b>0.0</b>                   | <b>6.9</b>                 |          |

## Regrassing and Cropping

- Paddock N10 will be sown with Italian grass, and next spring it will be drilled into a permanent pasture.
- Paddock S9 will be sown onto permanent ryegrass.
- Both paddocks have recently been grazed, and they will be sprayed out in 2 weeks.

## Nitrogen / fertiliser

- As per the farm plan.

Any queries about this report or other issues please contact me.

**Next scheduled visit: TBC – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

Regards,

Berni Saldias

FarmRight Limited Consultant