SIDDC
South Island Dairying Demonstration Centre

FOCUS DAY

Thursday 15 October 2026
@ LUDF
10.00am-2.30pm

TOPICS

10.30am - LUDF Farm Update

11.00am - Staying Ahead of El Niño

- Climate outlook
- Pasture quality – why it drives profitability
- Panel Discussion – practical management for drier conditions
- Prepare for Summer Fire Risk

12.30pm – LUNCH

1.15pm - Beef on Dairy

- Latest on beef on dairy research & insights
- Creating value through beef
- Market opportunities and industry needs
- Perspectives from beef rearers and finishers

GUEST SPEAKERS

Staying Ahead of El Niño

Tony Trewinnard - Blue Skies Weather
Matthew Herbert - Fonterra
Graham Kerr - Barenbrug
Kerri Pring - FENZ

Beef on Dairy

Cam Walker – Pāmu
Maddie Drew – LIC
Duncan Elliott – Beef + Lamb New Zealand

FARMER PANELS

Wendy Main – Dairy Farmer

Alan McDermott – Pearl Veal
Ben Fahey – Beef Farmer

Relevant for dairy farmers, livestock farmers and rural professionals
Attend one or both sessions
Registration from 10.00am - Venue: LUDF Supply No.37581
Parking: Off Ellesmere Junction Rd, Lincoln
Free event: morning tea & light lunch provided
www.siddc.org.nz

SIDDC
South Island Dairying Demonstration Centre

Partners networking to advance South Island Dairying

Lincoln University · DairyNZ · ravensdown · LIC · Fonterra · Bioeconomy Science Institute · SIDE

SIDDC FOCUS DAY

15 October 2026

10:00am – 2:30pm

LUDF Update

Season to date update with regrassing strategy
Presenters: Jeremy McCallum, Peter Hancox – LUDF and Antoinette Archer - SIDDC

Staying Ahead of El Niño

- Climate outlook
- Pasture quality and management for drier conditions
- Summer preparedness

Presenters: Tony Trewinnard – Blue Skies Weather, Matthew Herbert – Fonterra & Graham Kerr – Barenbrug with FENZ and farmer panel.

Beef-on-dairy

Focussing on improving cow quality and efficiency, to have a more productive cow and herd.
Presenters: Maddie Drew – LIC, Cameron Walker – Pāmu Farms, Duncan Elliot – Beef + Lamb New Zealand, Pearl Veal, Ben Fahey – Pāmu Farms

Table of Contents

Health & Safety 3
SIDDC Objectives 4
LUDF Update 6
Staying Ahead of El Niño 20
Pasture Quality & Management 28
Irrigation Start Up 31
Practical Fire Tips 32
Beef-on-Dairy 33

Contact us: Ph: 03 423 0022 www.siddc.org.nz www.ludf.org.nz

With thanks to our partners:

Welcome to Lincoln University Dairy Farm – LUDF

FARM VISITOR HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION

Stay Farm Safe – Look, Think, Act

LUDF is a working commercial dairy farm. While every effort is made to provide a safe environment for visitors, hazards associated with farming activities may be present. All visitors are required to follow directions from farm staff and event organisers, remain within designated areas, and take reasonable care for their own safety and the safety of others

Visitor Responsibilities.

- Follow instructions from LUDF staff and event organisers at all times.
- Remain within designated event areas and marked pathways.
- Do not enter machinery, livestock handling, effluent or restricted areas unless authorised.
- Supervise children at all times.
- Wear sturdy closed-toe footwear and suitable outdoor clothing.
- Immediately report hazards, incidents, injuries or near misses to event staff.

Biosecurity

Please arrive with clean footwear and equipment and comply with any biosecurity requirements advised by organisers.

Key Farm Hazards

- Moving vehicles, tractors and farm machinery
- Livestock and animal movement
- Irrigation equipment and water races
- Effluent ponds and drains
- Electric fences and electrical equipment
- Uneven ground, holes and slippery surfaces
- Chemical storage areas
- Weather-related hazards

Emergency Procedures

- In an emergency call 111.
- Notify the nearest LUDF staff member or event organiser immediately.
- Follow all evacuation and assembly point instructions.
- Report all accidents, injuries, near misses or hazards promptly.

Important Notice

LUDF and event organisers have identified and communicated known hazards associated with this event. Visitors are required to follow all instructions, remain alert to hazards, and take reasonable care for their own safety and the safety of others while on site.

If you are uncertain about any risk or feel unsafe, please do not proceed, stop and contact your host, farm manager, farm staff or event organiser.

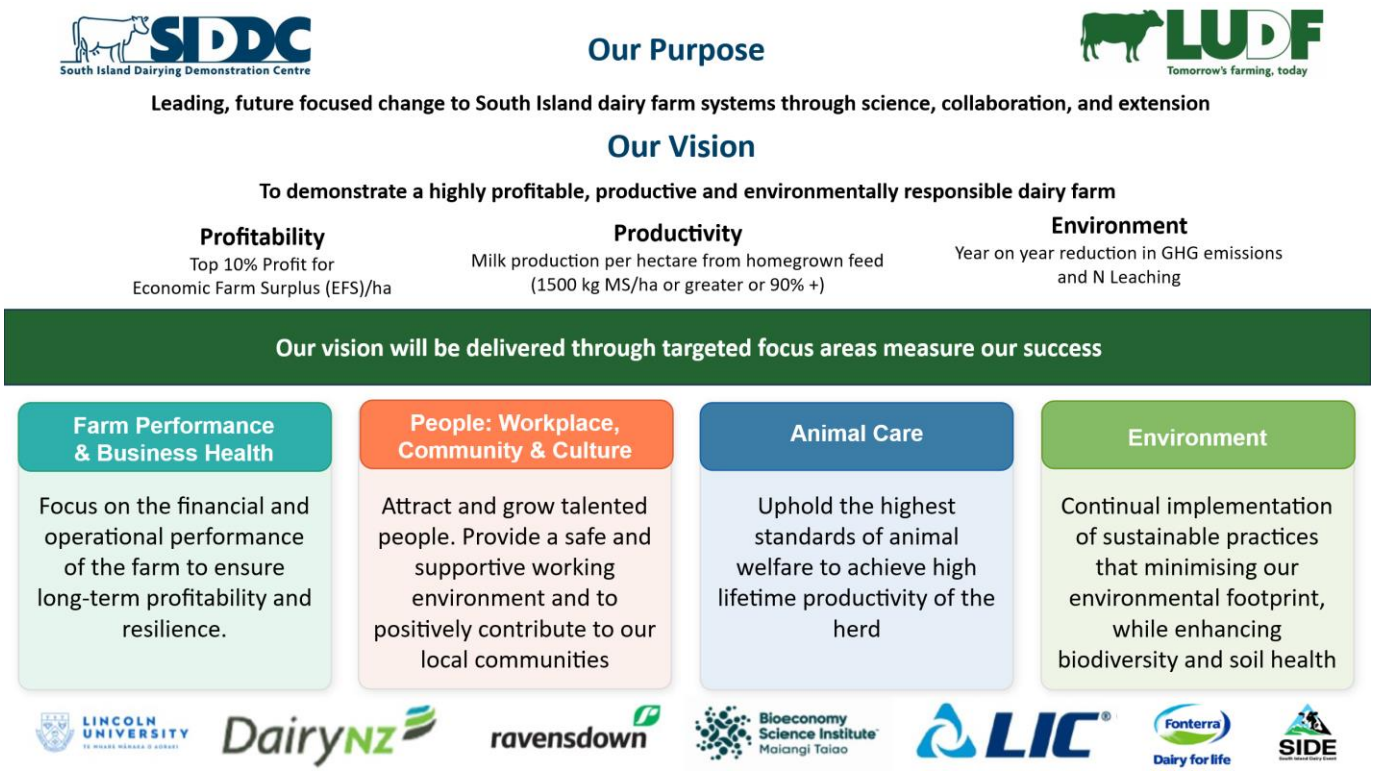
SIDDC

Lincoln University Dairy Farm (LUDF) is a demonstration farm developed by the South Island Dairying Demonstration Centre (SIDDC). This industry-funded partnership of seven leading dairy sector organisations collaborate to promote the sustainable development of South Island dairying via demonstration activities, research, education and training of farmers. The current partners of SIDDC are:

Strategic Objective at LUDF

To maximise sustainable profit embracing the whole farm system through:

- Increasing productivity
- Without increasing the farm's total environmental footprint
- While operating within definable and acceptable animal welfare targets; and
- Remaining relevant to Canterbury (and South Island) dairy farmers by demonstrating practices achievable by leading and progressive farmers.



Focus for 2026/27 Season:

Nil-Infrastructure, low input, low N-loss, optimise profit.

Current farm system:

- 3.5 cows/ha (target 560 peak milked – 550 this season).
- Target up to 190kg N/ha synthetic fertiliser.
- 450kgDM/cow imported supplement with cows wintered off farm.
- Cost control - FWE budget of $6.08/kg MS or less.
- Target production 475 kg MS/cow on a hybrid/tactical milking system.

Your farm's key information*

Farm stats		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26*		Regional council average 2025/26
Dairy farm effective area	ha	160	160	160	–	242
Maximum cow numbers	Cows (maximum numbers)	568	560	550	↓	832
Stocking rate (dairy cows)	Cows/ha (maximum numbers)	3.6	3.5	3.4	↓	3.5
Cows at peak milk	Cows	560	560	550	↓	818
Production						
Production	kgMS	261,894	257,815	258,594	↑	384,821
Production	t FPCM	3,318	3,267	3,293	↑	4,937
Production per ha	kgMS/ha	1,637	1,611	1,616	↑	1,596
Production per cow	kgMS/cow (cows at peak milk)	468	460	470	↑	460
Production per cow	kgMS/cow (maximum numbers)	461	460	470	↑	468
Production per kg liveweight	% kgMS/kgLW	103	101	91	↓	100
Liveweight of herd	kg	455	455	517	↑	466
Animal health and reproduction						
Average somatic cell count	Cells/ml	134,832	139,293	133,364	↓	128,528
Mastitis	Cows	116	101	97	↓	105
Lameness	Cows	47	85	59	↓	69
6-week in-calf rate	%	75	74	71	↓	72
Not in-calf rate	%	7.0	10.0	10.0	–	13.6
Mating length	Weeks	12	12	12	–	11
Feed and fertiliser						
Pasture & crop eaten (homegrown feed)	tDM/ha	14.4	15.8	14.9	↓	15.2
Imported supplement per cow	tDM/cow (maximum numbers)	0.8	0.4	1.0	↑	0.9
Nitrogen fertiliser applied per ha	kgN/ha	182	174	174	–	154
Nitrogen fertiliser conversion efficiency	kgDM/kgN	79	91	86	↓	107
Purchased nitrogen surplus	kgN/ha	114	85	127	↑	120
Feed converted to milk	%	58	58	56	↓	58
Emissions**						
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (from on-farm activities)	$kgC0_2e$/ FPCM	714	699	727	↑	744
Biological emissions – Methane	$kgCH_4$ / ha	436	430	427	↓	484
Biological emissions – Nitrous Oxide	kgN_2O/ ha	8	8	8	–	9

* Your Farm Dairy Record (FDR) data is used to calculate these figures. If something appears to be incorrect, the first step should be correcting the data you submitted in your FDR. Click here to edit.

** What is your total biological kg emissions? This number shows an estimate of your farm's biological GHG emission for your activity on your dairy farm effective area. This is an indication of the emissions which may be included in any future emission pricing regulations.

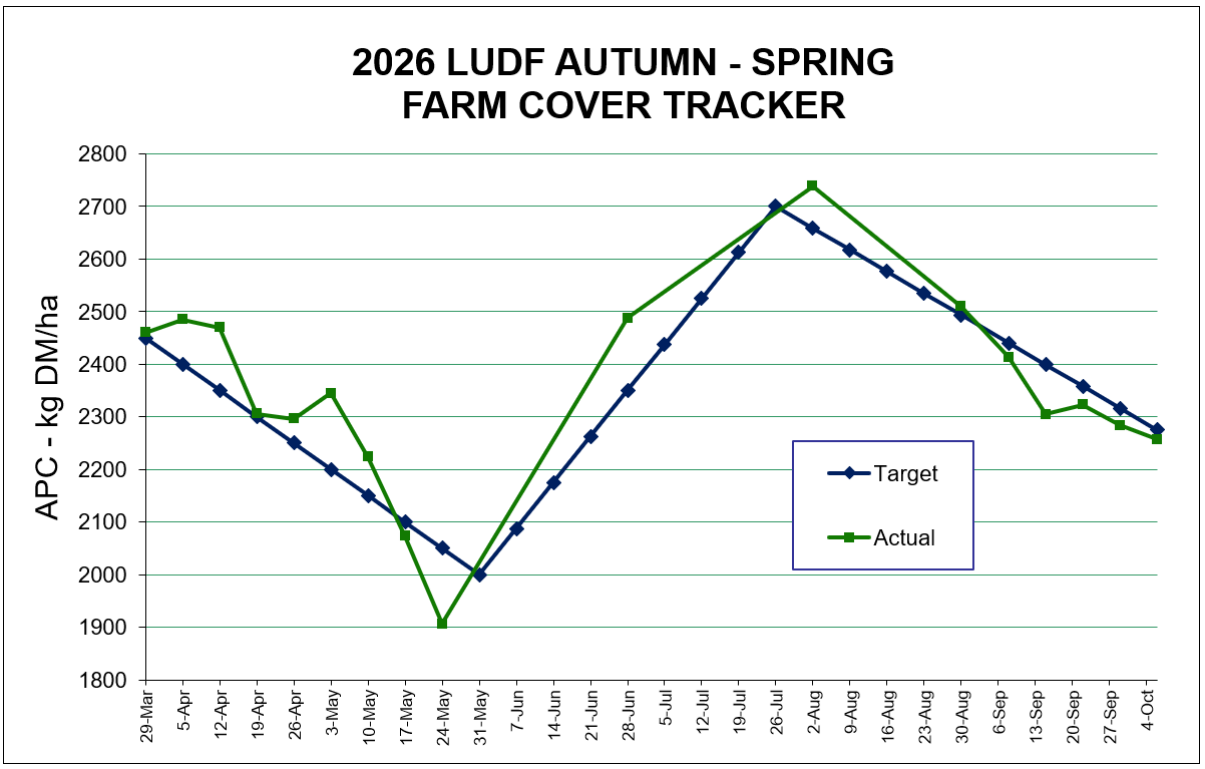
↑↓ Arrows indicate the comparison to your last season

LUDF Update

FARM PERFORMANCE – Pasture & Feed

- APC at calving was 2771 kg DM/ha, our target was 2700 kg DM/ha
- 1st Round completed 24 September 2026
- We have reached balance date, with our most recent growth rate of 72 kg DM/ha/day and a cow demand now at 74 kg DM/ha (with one paddock now out for regrassing).
- Spring has been very good with high utilisation of pasture minimal damage to pasture.
- With good growth over spring, it resulted in higher covers through August.
- We have utilised dry cows behind the milkers to achieve residuals to ensure high-quality pasture is followed in the second round.
- At end of September, we had fed 106 kg DM/cow as supplement, this is 23% of an annual brought in feed budget.

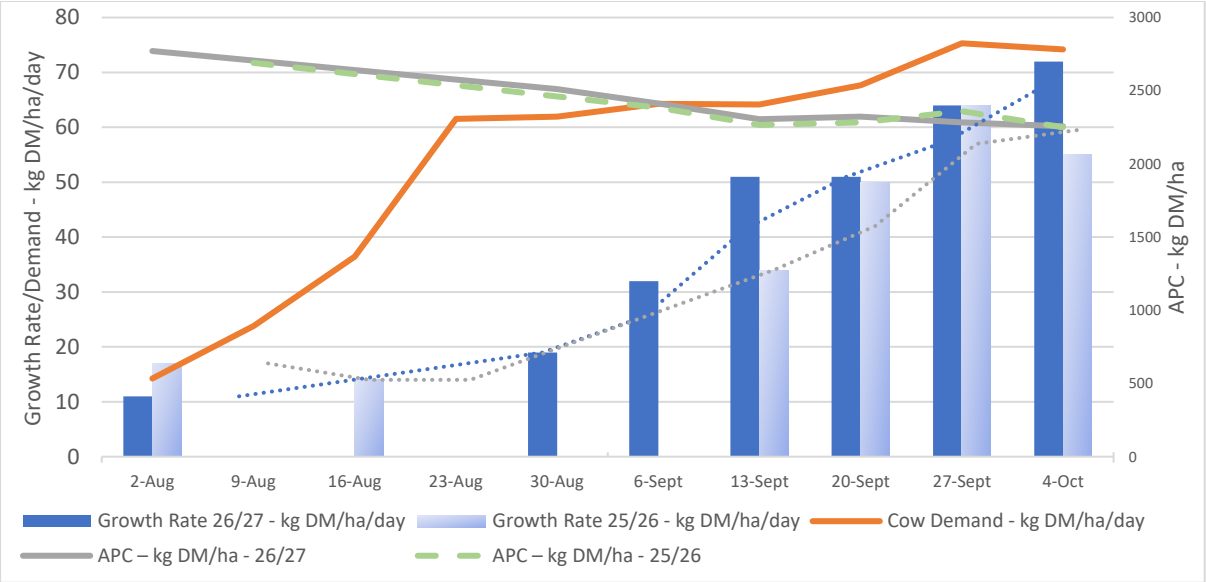
Scan for current Farm Data



Spring Data:

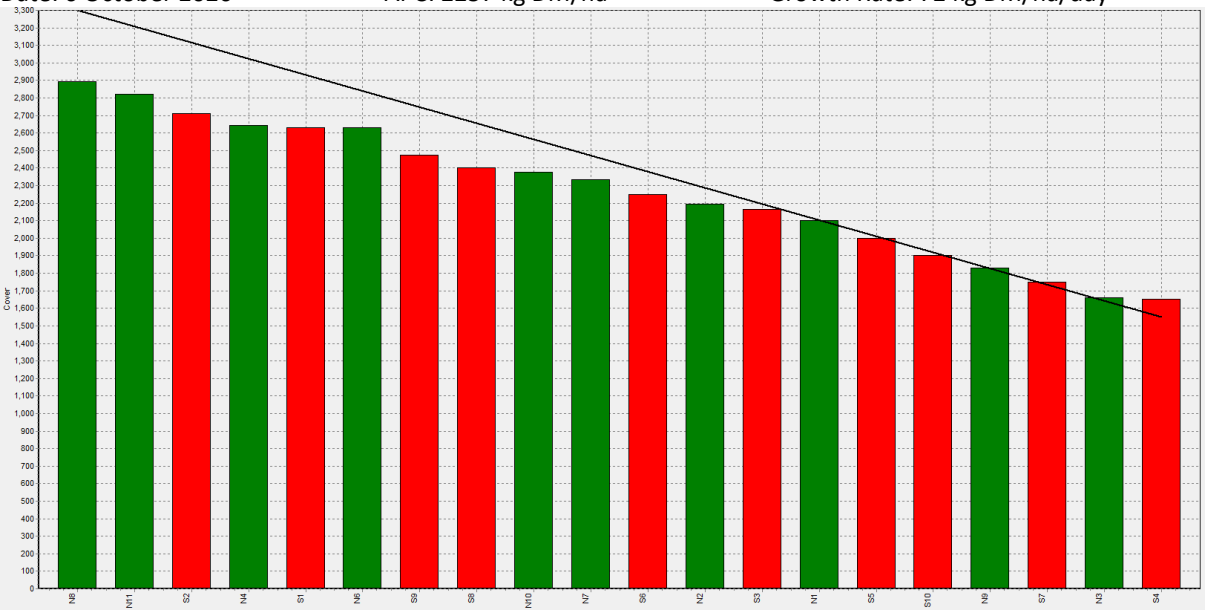
Week ending	2-Aug	9-Aug	16-Aug	23-Aug	30-Aug	6-Sept	13-Sept	20-Sept	27-Sept	4-Oct
Cow Demand - kg DM/ha/day	14	24	36	62	62	64	64	68	75	74
Growth Rate 26/27 - kg DM/ha/day	11				19	32	51	51	64	72
Growth Rate 25/26 - kg DM/ha/day	17		14				34	50	64	55
APC – kg DM/ha - 26/27	2771				2510	2413	2305	2323	2284	2257
APC – kg DM/ha - 25/26		2690				2385	2266	2283	2360	2250
Rainfall 26/27 - mm	10.8	12.4	4	1	17	12.6	12.6	8.8	31.6	24.6
Rainfall 25/26 - mm	11.2	27.8	9.8	18.4	6.1	1	15.4	15.2	1.8	12.6
Soil Temperatures 26/27 - °C	5.1	6.1	8.4	8.4	8.7	9.0	8.4	9.5	10.2	9.7
Soil Temperatures 25/26 - °C	6.9	6.5	6.2	6.1	7	7.2	7.5	9.2	9.7	10.2

Spring Feed Supply and Demand: This Season vs Last



Current Feed Wedge:

Date: 6 October 2026 APC: 2257 kg DM/ha Growth Rate: 72 kg DM/ha/day



Feed Quality Tests

Date	Protein % DM	NDF % DM	ADF % DM	Digestibility % (DMD)	MJ ME/kg DM	OM %	WSC % DM	DM %
Aug-26	16.58	39.13	20.23	81.64	12.62	93.18	29.37	21.04
Sept-26	21.07	41.56	21.96	81.09	12.35	91.78	19.79	18.23
Oct-26	23.98	40.02	21.80	79.76	12.00	90.63	16.39	15.39

Note: this is a weighted average of all samples

Average metabolisable energy for 26/27 season

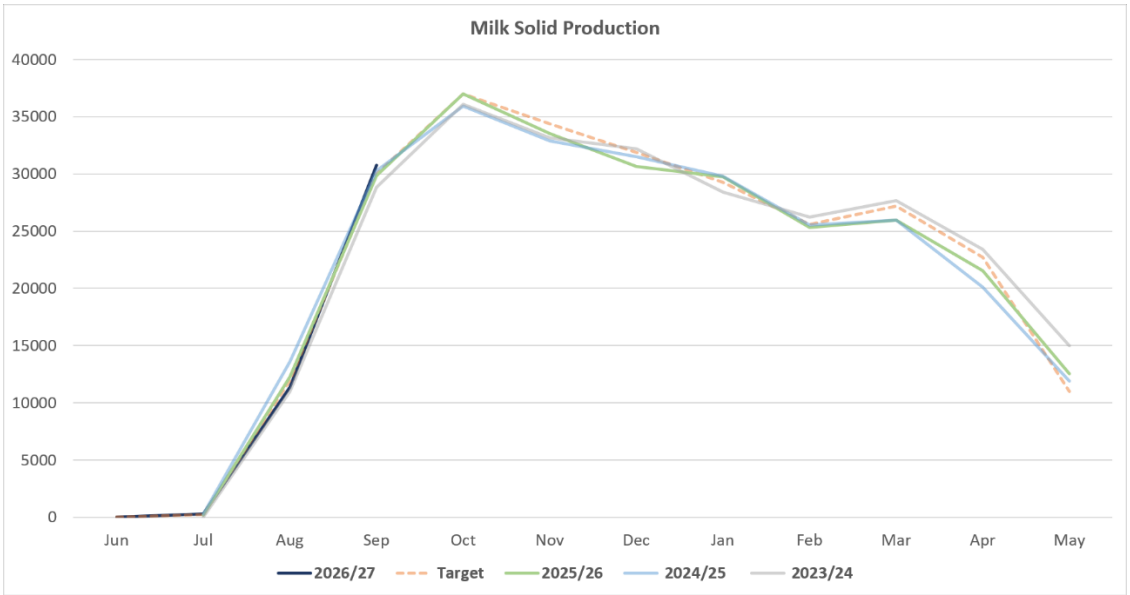
FARM PERFORMANCE – Herd & Milk Production

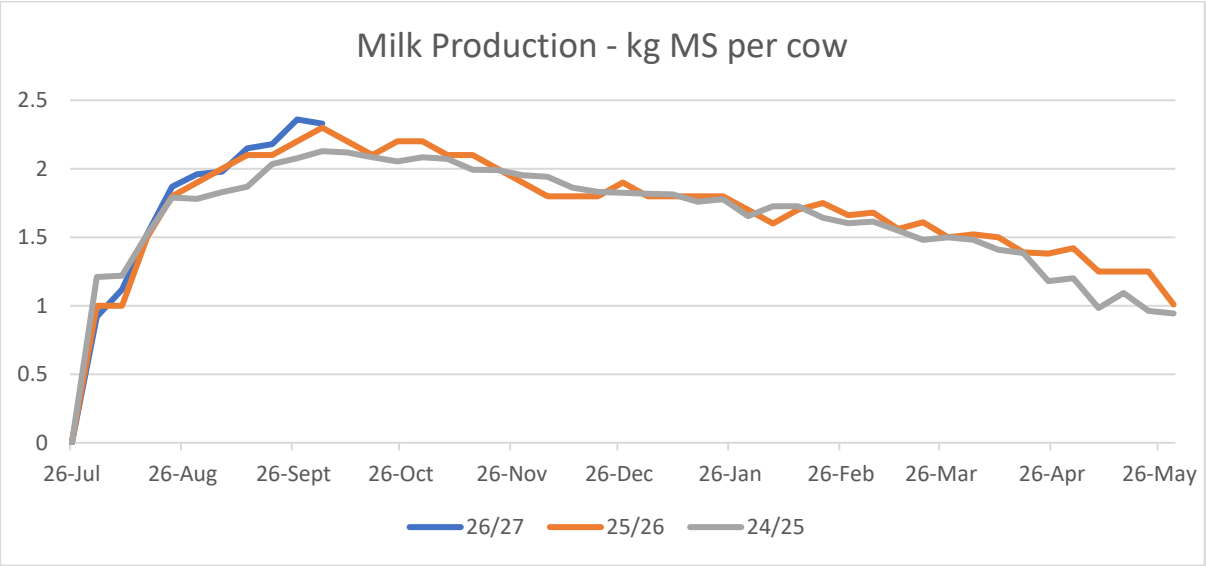
Season to date milk production has tracked to target. We have produced 42,442 kg MS to the end of September, which is 0.5% ahead of target

Milk Production									
Month	**Litres**	**kg MS (%)**	**Avg SCC**	**2026/27 kg MS**	**Target kg MS**	**Variance to Target**	**2025/26 kg MS**	**Variance to 25/26**	**Accumulated kg MS**
Jul	3,025	10.3	118	312	250	24.8%	179	73.9%	312
Aug	131,234	9.4	127	11,370	11,960	-4.9%	12,268	-7.3%	11,682
Sep	335,179	9.2	88	30,760	30,000	2.5%	29,876	3.0%	42,442
STD	**469,438**	**9.4**	**105**	**42,442**	**42,210**	**0.5%**	**42,323**	**0.3%**	42,442

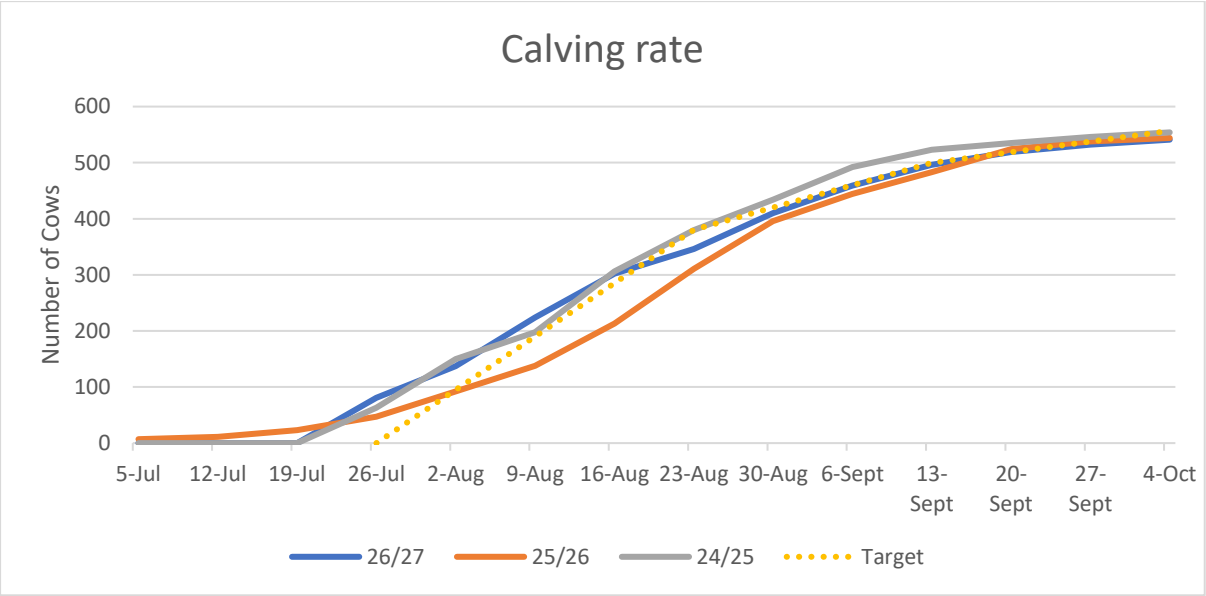
Milk Production: STD 42,442 kg MS, which is 0.3% up from last season and 0.5% up from target.

- **Milk production per cow:** Currently 2.36 kg MS/cow/day.
- **Milk production budget:** 475 kg MS/cow, 1633 kg MS/ha – 261,250 kg MS.

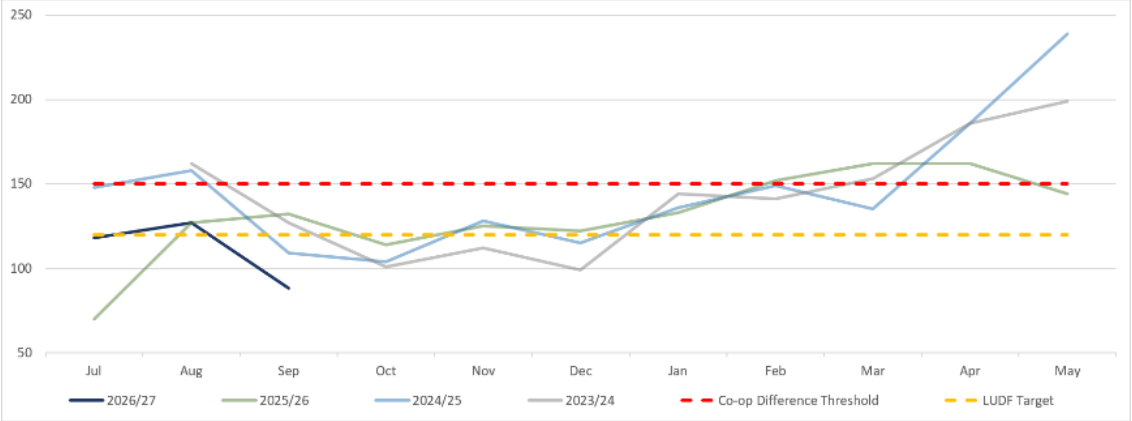




Calving Rate & Per Cow Production



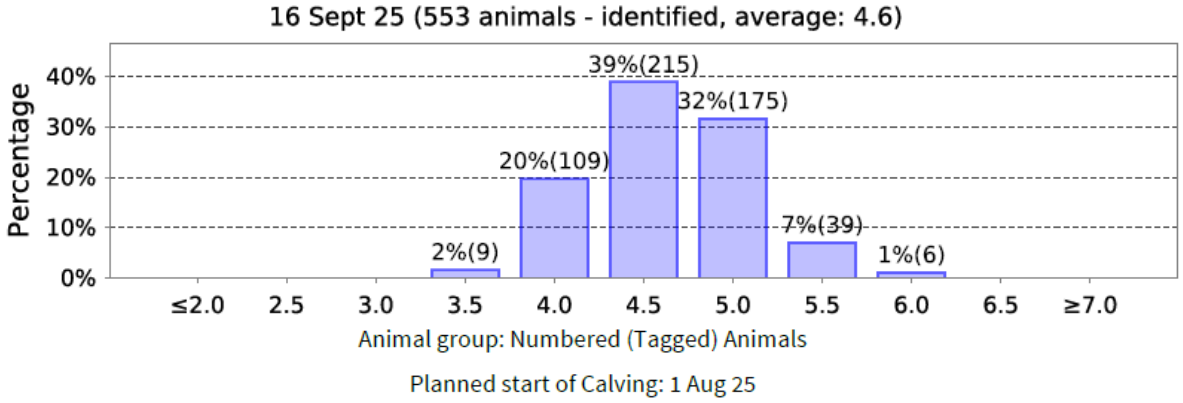
Somatic Cell Count:



Month	2026/27	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24
Jul	118	70	148	
Aug	127	127	158	162
Sep	88	132	109	127

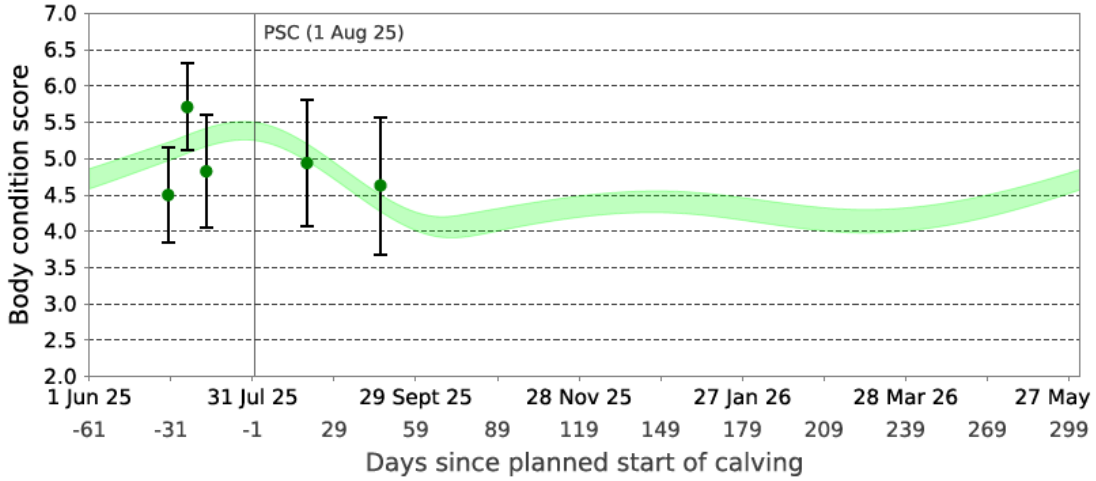
ANIMAL CARE

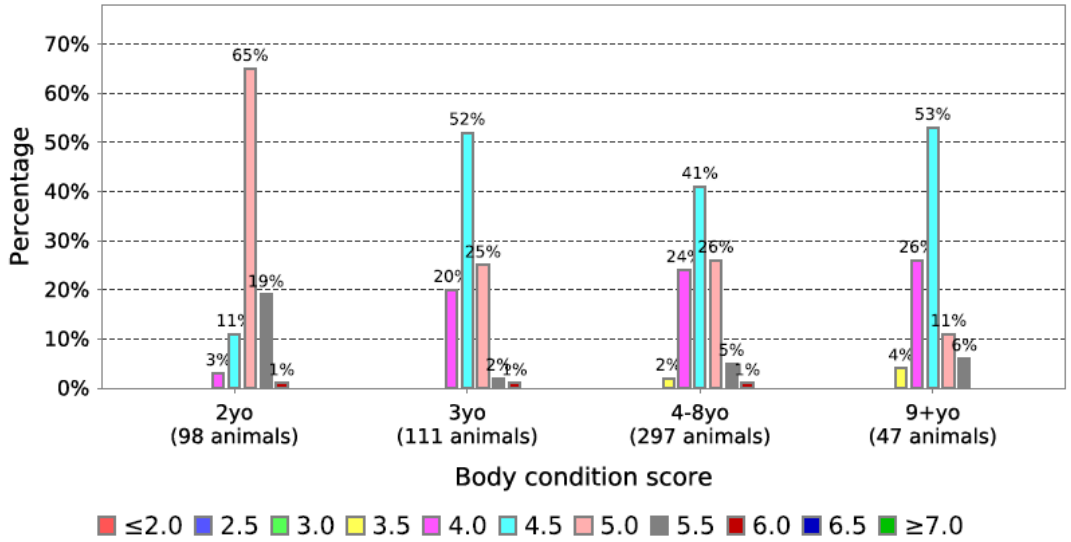
- Most recent Body Condition Score was 4.6 on 16 September.
- BCS spread of 3.5 to 6.0.



Planned start of Calving: 1 Aug 25

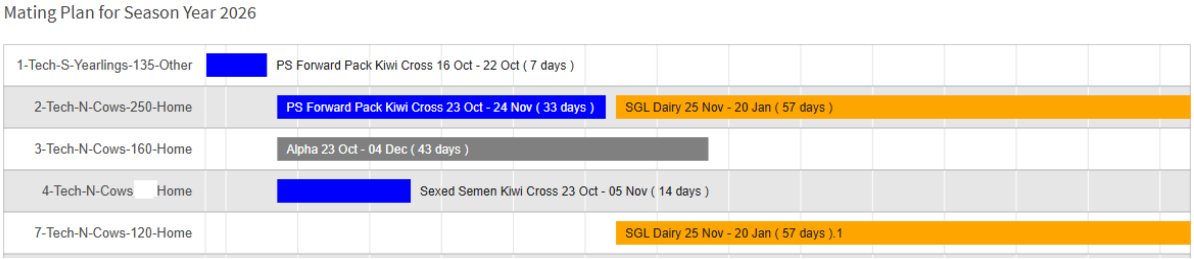
Denominator is limited to the scored cows within the group.





Mating

Premating Heats	Date	Target	Actual
PSM-21	2-Oct	25-30%	66%
PSM-14	9-Oct	50-60%	71%
PSM-7	16-Oct	75-80%	
PSM	23-Oct	80-85%	



ANIMAL CARE – Youngstock

2026 Born (R1s):

- Target 145 replacement heifers, sell surplus - approx. 30 calves at weaning.
- Beef calves – 83 sold at 4 days, 23 to be sold at weaning.

2025 Born (R2s):

- 134 yearling heifers.
- Average 269 kg on 14 September.
- Range – 227-315 kg LWT

Animal health plans completed: vaccinations, drenches, iodine and B12 administered to appropriate age groups – see our animal health plans.
We note our cows have had lower Selenium levels coming into mating so have increased and will monitor.

ENVIRONMENT

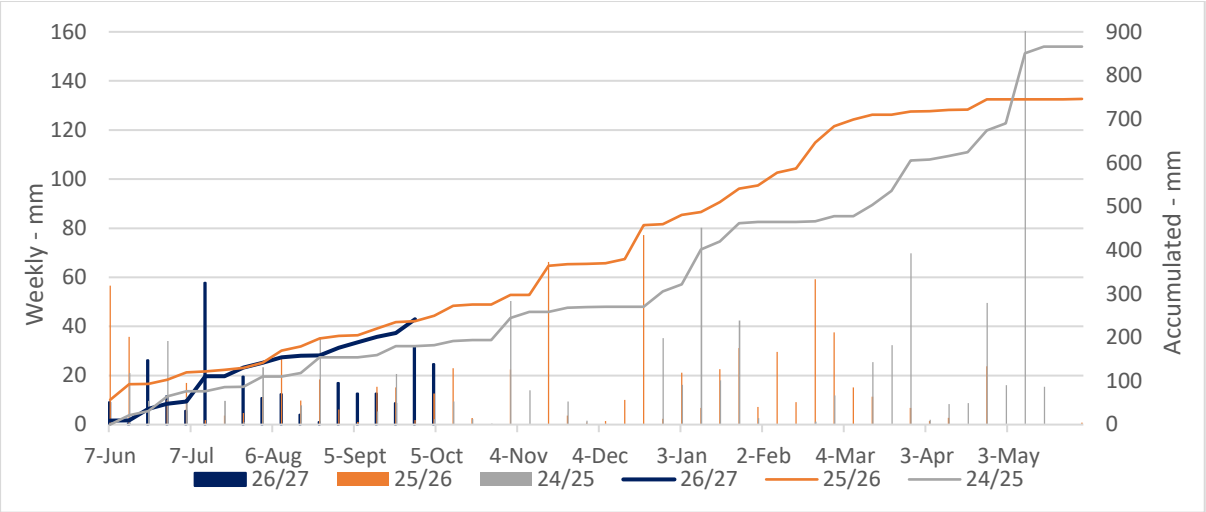
Rainfall

Month	Month	STD
June	47.6	47.6
July	87.6	135.2
August	41.8	177
September	64.4	241.4

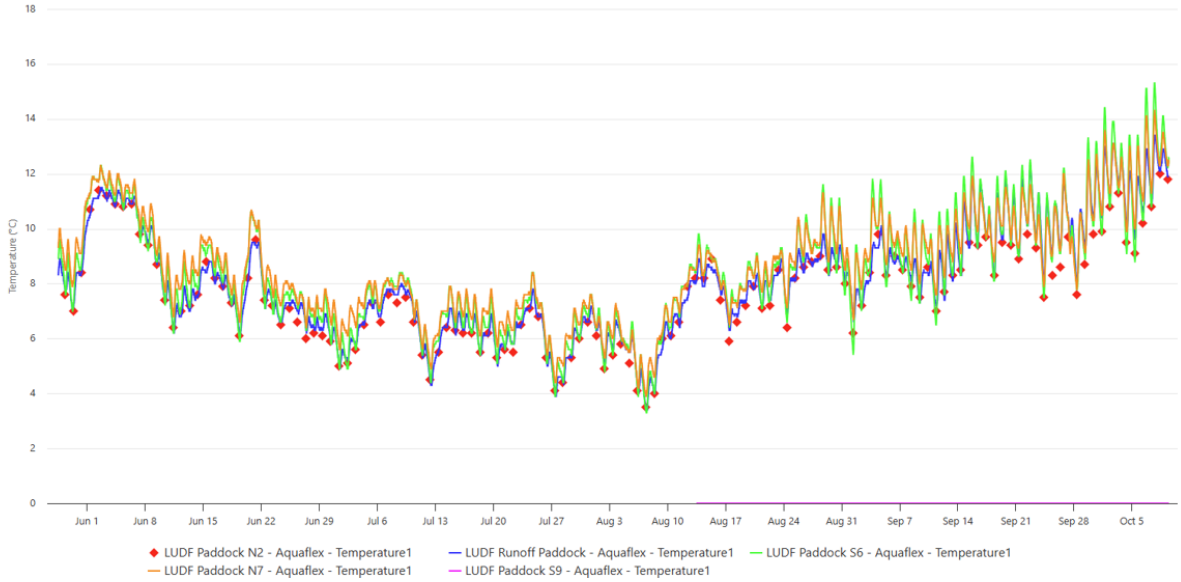
Soil Temperatures

Month	Average	Minimum	Maximum
June	8.9	4.0	9.1
July	6.9	3.7	9.7
August	6.5	4.5	8.4
September	8.5	11.3	5.1

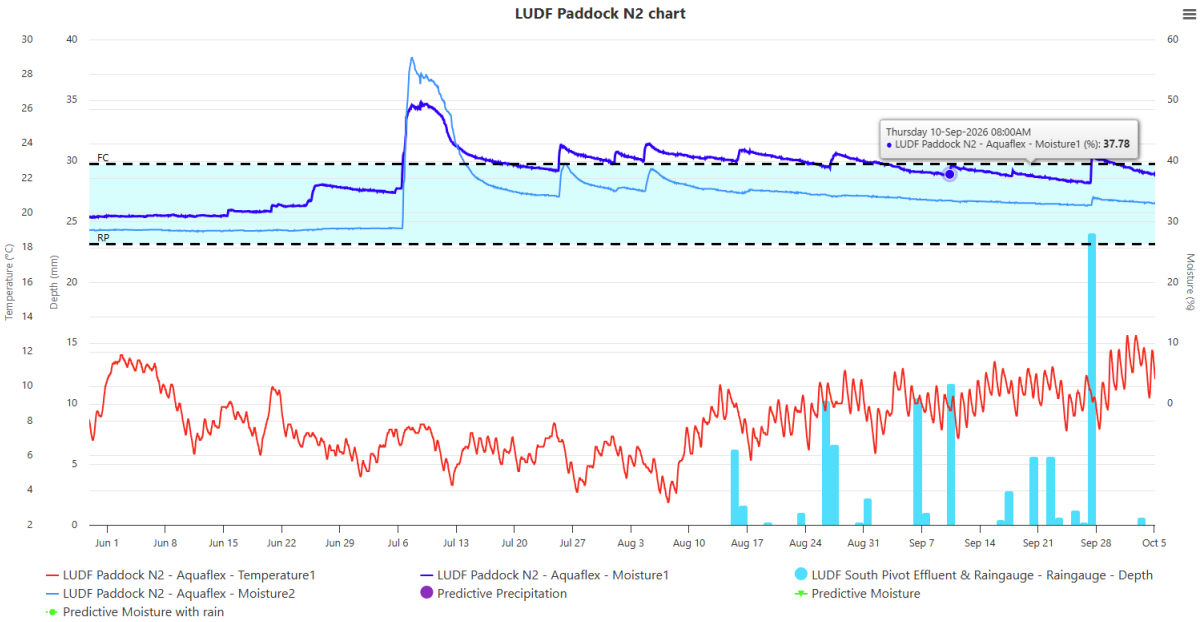
Rainfall: 2026/27 vs 2025/26 - Weekly and Accumulated



Soil Temperatures



Soil Moisture



Fertiliser:

- All maintenance fertiliser has been applied. This averaged 348 kg/ha of superphosphate and 74 kg/ha of Sulphur Super 30.
- We have completed the first round of Ammo 31 at an average rate of 86 kg/ha, which is 26 kg N/ha and onto our second round of nitrogen, which is N-Protect at a rate of 60kg/ha which is 28 kg N/ha.

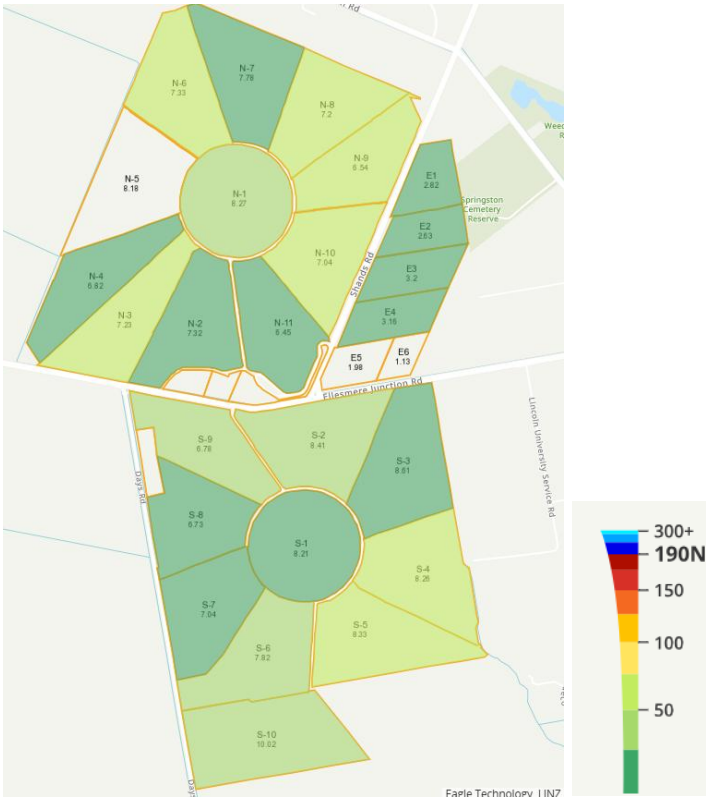
LUDF Super 2026/27

Product	Area	P	S	Total
Superphosphate	120	33	41	44 t
Sulphur Super 30	25	6	25	2 t
Total	**144**			**46 t**

Nitrogen 2025/26

Time	Rate - kg/ha	Product	kg N/ha
September	85	Ammo 31	26
October	60	N-Protect	28
November	50	N-Protect	23
December	50	N-Protect	23
January	50	N-Protect	23
February	50	N-Protect	23
March	50	N-Protect	23
April	45	N-Protect	21
Total kg N/ha			**190**

Nitrogen Heat Map



PEOPLE, WORKPLACE COMMUNITY & CULTURE – Team Update

- **Our Team:** Peter, Jeremy, Eugene, & Ellen
- **Roster**: 6 on / 2 off
- **Focus**: Learning and development for all staff, through personal development plans.

A big thanks to the team for all their effort this spring!

BUSINESS HEALTH – Financials & Farm Plan

Financial Overview

Metric	25/26 Actual	26/27 Budget	26/27 Budget - Reforecast
Peak Cows	545	550	550
Total Production	**258,594**	**261,250**	**261,250**
Per Cow	487	475	475
Per ha	**1,660**	**1,633**	**1,633**
Milk Price	$9.70	$9.25	$9.50
Farm Op Exp	$6.51	$6.08	$6.15
EBIT	$1,062,214	$976,862	$1,044,322
EBIT/ha	**$6,639**	**$6,105**	**$6,527**

Notes to 25/26 actuals:

1. Cow Sales - $20k culls in June + lift in cwt
2. Heifer Calf Sales - 34 dairy heifers, 59 beef heifers
3. Beef calf sales - 52 beef steers
4. Milk Price revised to $9.70, production back 7,039 kg MS
5. Insurance payment
6. Animal Health - higher mastitis (17.6%) & lameness (11% antibiotics, 28% intervention no AB's), use of Mastatest & Ketomax for cow comfort and vaccines - Lepto, BVD & IBR for all stock (MA cows included), Salmonella for R2's and Clostridial for R1's
7. Breeding - includes DNA testing for all heifer replacements, 5-day heifer synchro programme and 4 herd tests
8. Shed Expenses - additional teat spray use in spring recalibration required
9. Feed Purchased/Made - supplement sourced internally (lease blocks) - $110/bale no cartage & internal mowing, East block grazed and charged at $0.23/kg DM. 46.5t DM supplement made on milking platform.
10. Cows returned from winter grazing early
11. Freight increased from budget
12. Youngstock grazing - additional stock reared
13. Calf rearing - 275 calves reared at $368/calf reared - excluding labour
14. Nitrogen - change in unit price and quantity
15. Fertiliser freight - underbudgeted and fuel increase
16. Seed - additional repair post spring, weed control - spray and drill (S7, S8 & S9 & N10)
17. Contractor cultivation & drilling - additional spray and drilling for weed control (S7 & S8). New grass (N10 & S9) additional spray. Increase in fuel costs
18. Vehicle Expenses - large repairs to tractor ($35k) and mule ($12k)
19. R&M - Tree topping $12k
20. EcoPond is currently being researched and has now been removed from operational expenditure due to pilot
21. Rates increase
22. Lease Blocks - a total 78 ha is leased for youngstock grazing and supplement - lease costs are paid via grazing and purchase of supplement at market rates

LUDF 2025/26 Actuals vs Budget

$ 10.00	487	1,660	BUDGET		ACTUALS		$ 9.70	470	1,616	Notes &
265,633 $/kg MS	545 $/cow	160 $/ha	2025/26 $	Description	2025/26 $	Variance	258,594 $/kg MS	550 $/cow	160 $/ha	% to Budget
				Income						
0.03	12.79	27.87	6,969	Sales - Bobby Calves	6,565	-404	0.03	11.94	41.03	
0.02	9.17	20.00	5,000	Sales - R2 Heifers	13,084	8,084	0.05	23.79	81.78	
0.00	0.00	0.00	0	Sales - Bulls			0.00	0.00	0.00	
0.18	89.45	195.00	48,750	Sales - Cows	120,418	71,668	0.47	218.94	752.61	1
0.10	48.44	105.60	26,400	Sales - Surplus heifer calves	26,250	-150	0.10	47.73	164.06	2
0.24	114.68	250.00	62,500	Sales - Beef calf Sales	67,189	4,689	0.26	122.16	419.93	3
0.64	**274.53**	**1,059.00**	**149,619**	**Total Stock Sales**	**233,506**	**83,887**	**0.90**	**424.56**	**1,459.41**	**56.1%**
10.00	4,874.00	16,602.06	2,656,330	Sales - Milk Solids Current Season	2,508,362	-147,968	9.70	4,560.66	15,677.26	4
0.00	0.00	0.00		Sales - Co-operative Difference			0.00	0.00	0.00	
0.00	0.00	0.00		Sales - Feed, Silage, Other Crops			0.00	0.00	0.00	
0.00	0.00	0.00		Income - Other	4,512	4,512	0.02	8.20	28.20	5
10.56	**5,148.53**	**17,537.18**	**2,805,949**	**TOTAL REVENUE**	**2,746,380**	**-59,569**	**10.62**	**4,993.42**	**17,164.87**	**-2.1%**
				Expenses						
1.05	513.46	1,748.99	279,838	Labour	283,765	-3,927	1.10	515.94	1,773.53	
0.05	23.11	78.70	12,593	Staff Costs: ACC, Super, H&S, Clothing	11,979	614	0.05	21.78	74.87	
1.10	**536.57**	**1,827.69**	**292,430**	**Total Labour Expenses**	**295,744**	**-3,314**	**1.14**	**537.72**	**1,848.40**	**-1.1%**
0.24	116.18	395.73	63,316	Animal Health	92,624	-29,308	0.36	168.41	578.90	6
0.21	102.73	349.92	55,988	Breeding	79,030	-23,042	0.31	143.69	493.94	7
0.04	18.78	63.96	10,234	Dairy Shed Operating Expenses	13,783	-3,549	0.05	25.06	86.14	8
0.13	64.22	218.75	35,000	Electricity - Other	30,181	4,819	0.12	54.87	188.63	
0.26	128.44	437.50	70,000	Electricity - Irrigation	50,946	19,054	0.20	92.63	318.41	
0.44	212.48	723.75	115,800	Feed Made/Purchased	194,996	-79,196	0.75	354.54	1,218.73	9
0.73	355.31	1,210.28	193,644	Grazing - Winter	181,631	12,013	0.70	330.24	1,135.19	10
0.03	14.75	50.26	8,041	Freight - Livestock	16,355	-8,314	0.06	29.74	102.22	11
0.34	167.52	570.60	91,296	Youngstock Grazing	94,133	-2,837	0.36	171.15	588.33	12
0.38	184.28	627.69	100,431	Calf Rearing	102,506	-2,075	0.40	186.37	640.66	13
0.17	84.94	289.34	46,295	Fertiliser -Nitrogen	73,280	-26,985	0.28	133.24	458.00	14
0.11	52.63	179.28	28,685	Fertiliser - Other	30,438	-1,753	0.12	55.34	190.24	
0.06	28.42	96.80	15,487	Fertiliser - Spreading	19,962	-4,475	0.08	36.29	124.76	15
0.04	21.65	73.75	11,800	Seed	19,400	-7,600	0.08	35.27	121.25	16
0.09	43.16	147.00	23,520	Contractors - Regrassing	38,917	-15,397	0.15	70.76	243.23	17
0.01	3.67	12.50	2,000	Weed & Pest Control	600	1,400	0.00	1.09	3.75	
0.07	33.32	113.50	18,160	Vehicle Expenses	72,468	-54,308	0.28	131.76	452.93	18
0.08	36.77	125.25	20,040	Vehicle - Fuel	17,803	2,237	0.07	32.37	111.27	
0.15	74.31	253.13	40,500	R&M - Land & Buildings	60,303	-19,803	0.23	109.64	376.89	19
0.09	45.87	156.25	25,000	R & M - Irrigation	24,916	84	0.10	45.30	155.73	
0.15	73.39	250.00	40,000	R & M - Plant, Machinery, Other	80,049	-40,049	0.31	145.54	500.31	
0.01	4.59	15.63	2,500	R & M - Farm Houses	0	2,500	0.00	0.00	0.00	
0.00	0.92	3.13	500	Freight	209	291	0.00	0.38	1.31	
0.04	18.35	62.50	10,000	EcoPond	0	10,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	20
0.15	75.12	255.86	40,938	Administration	32,454	8,484	0.13	59.01	202.84	
0.05	22.02	75.00	12,000	Consultant	7,500	4,500	0.03	13.64	46.88	
0.05	23.49	80.00	12,800	Fixed Charges - Rates	16,007	-3,207	0.06	29.10	100.04	21
0.00	0.00	0.00	0	Fixed Charges - Land Rent	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
0.09	44.42	151.31	24,209	Lease - Technology (Collars)	24,288	-79	0.09	44.16	151.80	
0.05	25.83	87.99	14,079	DairyNZ Levy	13,643	436	0.05	24.81	85.27	
5.36	**2,614.12**	**8,904.33**	**1,424,693**	**TOTAL FARM WORKING EXPENSES**	**1,684,166**	**-259,473**	**6.51**	**3,062.12**	**10,526.04**	**-18.2%**
5.20	**2,534.41**	**8,632.85**	**1,381,255**	**CONTRIBUTION PROFIT**	**1,062,214**	**-319,042**	**4.11**	**1,931.30**	**6,638.84**	**-23.1%**
0.00	0.00	0.00	0	*less* East Block Adjustment - Support	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	22
5.36	**2,614.12**	**8,904.33**	**1,424,693**	**Total Operating Expenses inc East**	**1,684,166**	**-259,473**	**6.51**	**3,062.12**	**10,526.04**	**-18.2%**
				Financial Ratios						
$10.00	$4,874	$16,602	$2,656,330	Milk Gross income	$2,508,362	-$147,968	$9.70	$4,561	$15,677	-5.6%
$0.56	$275	$935	$149,619	Stock Gross income	$233,506	$83,887	$0.90	$425	$1,459	56.1%
$10.56	$5,149	$17,537	$2,805,949	Total Gross income	$2,746,380	-$59,569	$10.62	$4,993	$17,165	-2.1%
$5.36	$2,614	$8,904	$1,424,693	Less Farm Operating Expenditure	$1,684,166	-$259,473	$6.51	$3,062	$10,526	-18.2%
$5.20	**$2,534**	**$8,633**	**$1,381,255**	**EBIT**	**$1,062,214**	**-$319,042**	**$4.11**	**$1,931**	**$6,639**	**-23.1%**

LUDF 2026/27 BUDGET REFORECAST

Description	2026/27 Reforecast	Variance	261,250 $/kg MS	160 $/ha	550 $/cow	2026/27 Budget	Notes
Income							
Sales - 4 day old calves	$ 12,938	$ 8,288	$ 0.05	$ 81	$ 24	$ 4,650	1
Sales - R2 Heifers	$ 10,500		$ 0.04	$ 66	$ 19	$ 10,500	
Sales - Bulls							
Sales - Cows	$ 105,600		$ 0.40	$ 660	$ 192	$ 105,600	
Sales - Surplus replacement heifer calves	$ 20,900		$ 0.08	$ 131	$ 38	$ 20,900	2
Sales - Beef calf Sales	$ 20,000	$ 14,000	$ 0.08	$ 125	$ 36	$ 6,000	3
Total Stock Sales	**$ 169,938**	**$ 22,288**	**$ 0.65**	**$ 1,062**	**$ 309**	**$ 147,650**	
Sales - Milk Solids Current Season	$ 2,481,878	$ 65,315	$ 9.50	$ 15,512	$ 4,513	$ 2,416,563	4
Sales - Co-operative Difference			$ -	$ -	$ -		
Sales - Feed, Silage, Other Crops			$ -	$ -	$ -		
Income - Other							
TOTAL REVENUE	**$ 2,651,816**	**$ 87,603**	**$ 10.15**	**$ 16,574**	**$ 4,821**	**$ 2,564,213**	
Expenses							
Labour - Perm & Fixed Term	$ 284,872	$ 1,731	$ 1.09	$ 1,780	$ 518	$ 286,603	5 & 6
Other labour: ACC, Super, H&S, Clothing	$ 12,282	$ 615	$ 0.05	$ 77	$ 22	$ 12,897	
Total Labour Expenses	**$ 297,154**	**$ 2,346**	**$ 1.14**	**$ 1,857**	**$ 540**	**$ 299,500**	
Animal Health	$ 68,655	-$ 2,225	$ 0.26	$ 429	$ 125	$ 66,430	7
Breeding	$ 55,235	-$ 160	$ 0.21	$ 345	$ 100	$ 55,075	8
Dairy Shed Operating Expenses	$ 11,600	$ 500	$ 0.04	$ 73	$ 21	$ 12,100	
Electricity - Other	$ 33,710	-$ 1,210	$ 0.13	$ 211	$ 61	$ 32,500	
Electricity - Irrigation	$ 65,341	-$ 341	$ 0.25	$ 408	$ 119	$ 65,000	9
Feed Made/Purchased	$ 110,929	$ 0	$ 0.42	$ 693	$ 202	$ 110,929	10
Grazing - Winter	$ 230,214	$ 12,594	$ 0.88	$ 1,439	$ 419	$ 242,808	11 & 12
Freight - Livestock	$ 20,860	$ 994	$ 0.08	$ 130	$ 38	$ 21,854	
Youngstock Grazing	$ 121,800	$ -	$ 0.47	$ 761	$ 221	$ 121,800	13
Calf Rearing	$ 60,000	-$ 5,126	$ 0.23	$ 375	$ 109	$ 54,874	14
Fertiliser - Nitrogen	$ 86,755	-$ 465	$ 0.33	$ 542	$ 158	$ 86,290	15
Fertiliser - Other	$ 47,574	-$ 534	$ 0.18	$ 297	$ 86	$ 47,040	
Fertiliser - Spreading	$ 30,432	-$ 3,692	$ 0.12	$ 190	$ 55	$ 26,740	
Seed	$ 29,765	-$ 10,175	$ 0.11	$ 186	$ 54	$ 19,590	16
Contractors - Regrassing	$ 42,300	-$ 15,000	$ 0.16	$ 264	$ 77	$ 27,300	17
Weed & Pest Control	$ 2,160	$ -	$ 0.01	$ 14	$ 4	$ 2,160	
Vehicle Expenses	$ 25,513	-$ 753	$ 0.10	$ 159	$ 46	$ 24,760	
Vehicle - Fuel	$ 37,480	-$ 480	$ 0.14	$ 234	$ 68	$ 37,000	
R&M - Land & Buildings	$ 44,777	-$ 1,577	$ 0.17	$ 280	$ 81	$ 43,200	
R & M - Irrigation	$ 25,409	$ 1,591	$ 0.10	$ 159	$ 46	$ 27,000	
R & M - Plant, Machinery, Other	$ 50,919	-$ 919	$ 0.19	$ 318	$ 93	$ 50,000	
R & M - Farm Houses	$ 2,250	$ 250	$ 0.01	$ 14	$ 4	$ 2,500	
Freight	$ 500	$ -	$ 0.00	$ 3	$ 1	$ 500	
EcoPond	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	18
Administration inc Insurance	$ 38,439	$ 2,961	$ 0.15	$ 240	$ 70	$ 41,400	
Consultant	$ 12,000	$ -	$ 0.05	$ 75	$ 22	$ 12,000	
Fixed Charges - Rates	$ 16,815	$ 185	$ 0.06	$ 105	$ 31	$ 17,000	
Fixed Charges - Land Rent	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Lease - Technology (Collars)	$ 25,000	$ -	$ 0.10	$ 156	$ 45	$ 25,000	
DairyNZ Levy	$ 13,908	$ -	$ 0.05	$ 87	$ 25	$ 13,908	
TOTAL FARM WORKING EXPENSES	**$ 1,607,494**	**-$ 21,236**	**$ 6.15**	**$ 10,047**	**$ 2,923**	**$ 1,586,258**	19
CONTRIBUTION PROFIT	**$ 1,044,322**	**$ 66,368**	**$ 4.00**	**$ 6,527**	**$ 1,899**	**$ 977,954**	
Less East Block Adjustment - Support block	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	20
Total Operating Expenses inc East Block	**$ 1,607,494**	**-$ 20,144**	**$ 6.15**	**$ 10,047**	**$ 2,923**	**$ 1,587,350**	
Financial Ratios							
Milk Gross income	$ 2,481,878	$ 65,315	$ 9.50	$ 15,512	$ 4,513	$ 2,416,563	
Stock Gross income	$ 169,938	$ 22,288	$ 0.65	$ 1,062	$ 309	$ 147,650	
Total Gross income	$ 2,651,816	$ 87,603	$ 10.15	$ 16,574	$ 4,821	$ 2,564,213	
Less Farm Operating Expenditure	$ 1,607,494	-$ 20,144	$ 6.15	$ 10,047	$ 2,923	$ 1,587,350	
EBIT	**$ 1,044,322**	**$ 67,460**	**$4.00**	**$ 6,527**	**$ 1,899**	**$ 976,862**	

Notes to 26/27 Budget:

1. Includes 4 day old beef calf sales
2. Surplus heifers calves are reared through breeding top to sex semen
3. Weaned beef calves
4. Milk price lift $0.25/kg MS to $9.50
5. Labour is calculated based on Federated Farmers report
6. New employee started in July
7. Animal health - mastitis treatments 8%, lameness 14%, Mastatest used, 1 BCS charged to LUDF balance removed due to demonstration, anti-inflammatory used, vaccines - Lepto, BVD & IBR for all stock (MA cows included), Salmonella for R2's and Clostridial for R1's
8. Breeding - DNA testing for heifer replacements, 4 herd test and heifer AI
9. Irrigation - based on annual rainfall of 660mm
10. Supplement purchased at $110/bale landed due to internally sourced, supplement made on farm - 60t (estimated)
11. Winter Grazing - based on 122 R2's, 230 Lights, 200 Mids & 40 Fats
12. Cows home early from grazing
13. Young stock grazing is internal 122 R2's & 140 R1's
14. Calf rearing - only heifer replacements reared to 100 kgs, all other sold at 4 days old - 23 beef calves reared
15. Ammo at $1,014/t & N-Protect at $1,450/t
16. Total 40ha to be regrassed - additional 17.5ha
17. Total 40ha to be regrassed - additional 17.5ha
18. EcoPond is currently being researched and not in opex due to pilot
19. Budget FWE was $6.08/kg MS, reforecast is $6.15/kg MS
20. Lease Blocks - a total 78 ha is leased for youngstock grazing and supplement - lease costs are paid via grazing and purchase of supplement at market rates

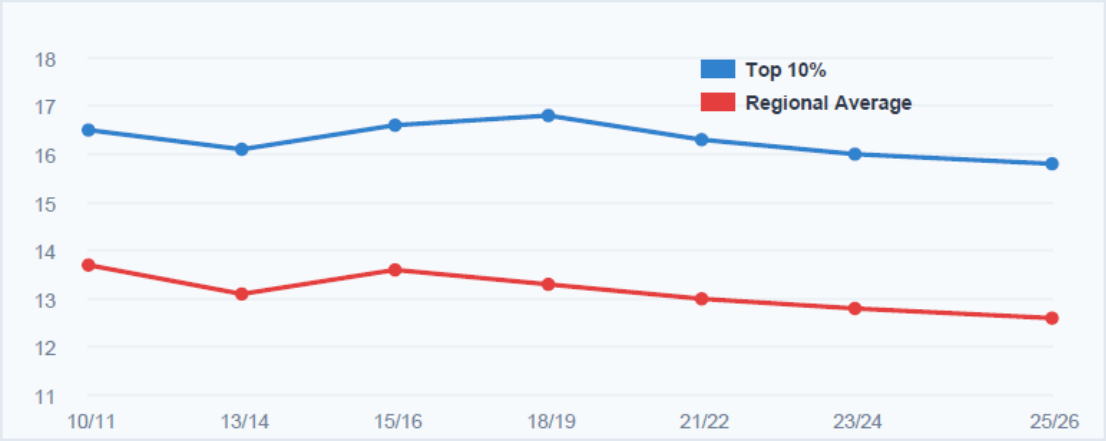
Regrassing: Our 25% Renewal for 2026/27

Pasture is the foundation of our system. LUDF's pasture harvested has changed as our farm system has evolved. It was around 17 t DM/ha under our earlier high-input, high-output system, around 15.6 t DM/ha after the shift to the P21 system (lower stocking rate, lower nitrogen and less imported feed), and has in recent years sat at 14 t DM/ha.

Over recent years we have also seen weed pressure increase, including dock, dandelion and grass weeds such as *Poa annua*. Managing weeds in a mixed sward of ryegrass, clover and plantain is more complex, due to fewer options around herbicides that are safe on every species. However, over this time we have learnt a lot, and there are now more options and knowledge we can apply, particularly during establishment.

We are not alone in seeing this. Across New Zealand there appears to be a drop in pasture harvested and a recent national review (Chapman et al., 2025) found that annual growth in the pasture eaten on dairy farms across New Zealand fell from about 1.5% to 0.3% after the early 2000s, even though fertiliser, stocking rate, irrigation and plant breeding inputs all continued to increase.

DairyBase data for pasture and crop eaten



Season Benchmark	Regional Average	Top 10%	The Gap (Premium)
2010/11	13.7 t DM	16.5 t DM	+2.8 t DM/ha
2013/14	13.1 t DM	16.1 t DM	+3.0 t DM/ha
2018/19	13.3 t DM	16.8 t DM	+3.5 t DM/ha
2025/26	12.6 t DM	15.8 t DM	+3.2 t DM/ha

DairyNZ DairyBase data

Our goal is to lift pasture harvested, and renewing paddocks with weed control built in is one of the most direct ways to do that.

What we're doing

This season we are renewing 25% of the farm. We modelled a range of renewal rates, and 25% gave the best balance of speed of renewal, financial return, feed supply and demand, and risk. The plan is backed by Farmax modelling and a revised feed budget, covering the temporary gap while paddocks are out of production, however we should see a lift in pasture production and utilisation for the balance of the season. We will review the programme and paddock performance at the end of the season to plan for next year, noting we are prepared for this to be a 2-3 season strategy, if required.

Regrassing is only one part of the solution. It will be combined with targeted regrassing, a focus on weed control at pre and post emergence, selecting the right species based on current weed content and weed control requirements, with a continued focus on grazing management for pasture quality and utilisation.

What to expect

- In the short term: profit will likely dip during the transition while paddocks are out of production.
- Over time: we expect more pasture grown and an improvement in pasture harvested, which should reduce our imported feed and improve environmental efficiency and profitability.
- A realistic outlook: regrassing alone is unlikely to return us to our best production years. That will also depend on how well we manage the new pasture once it's established.

Reference: Chapman, D., Mackay, A., Caradus, J., Clark, D. & Goldson, S. (2025). Pasture productivity in New Zealand 1990-2020: trends, expectations, and key factors. New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Research.

Regrassing Summary	**Current**	**Pasture only**			**Post Regrassing**
Feed		**10%**	**25%**	**33%**	**Status Quo**
Pasture silage	348.5	371	440	492	196
Pasture silage grown	39.5	24			36
Total TDM fed	**388**	**395**	**440**	**492**	**232**
Kg DM/cow	700	713	794	888	426.0
Environmental					
GHG Emissions (kg CO_2e / kg MS)	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.6
GHG Emissions (T CO_2e / ha)	12.9	13	13	13	13
Purchased Nitrogen Surplus (kg N/ha)	127	122	136	148	84
Feed Conversion Efficiency (kg DM/kg MS)	11.4	11.3	11.4	11.4	11.0
Financial					
OPEX $/ha	$10,370	$10,392	$10,817	$11,107	$9,860
OPEX $/kg MS	$6.35	$6.26	$6.54	$6.77	$5.78
EBIT $/ha	$6,226	$6,400	$5,893	$5,485	$7,342
EBIT $/kg MS	$3.81	$3.86	$3.56	$3.34	$4.30

Farmax Modelling Summary

We use the data captured last season, current weed content, paddock history and soil types to help select the paddocks for renewal.

This season the plan is to regrass N10 (currently an Italian), N5, N6, S5 and S3.

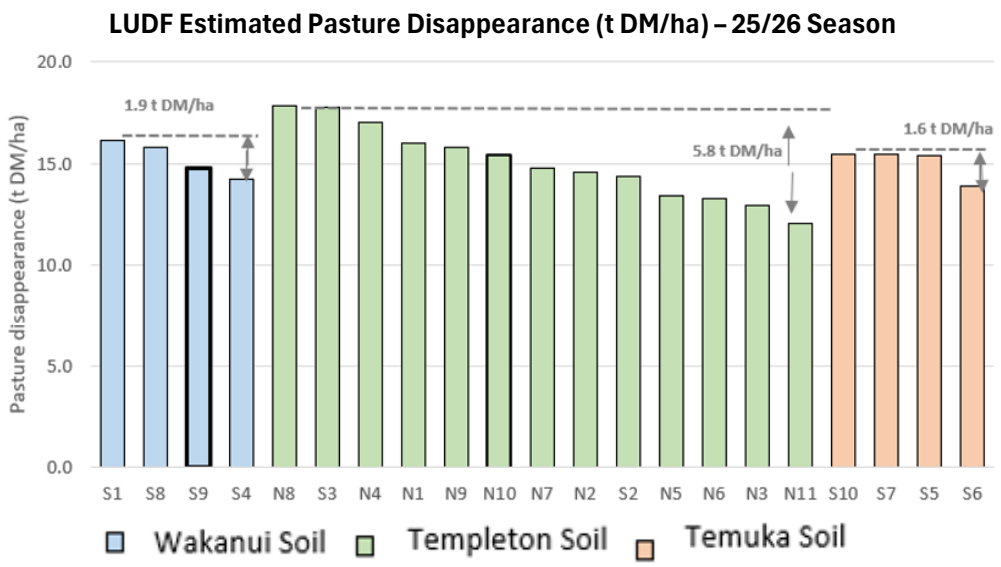


Figure 1: Estimated pasture disappearance at LUDF in the 2025/26 season according to soil type. Dashed lines show the potential yield benefit (t DM/ha) of renewal for the lowest performing paddock for each soil type. Bars outlined in black show paddocks renewed in the 2025/26 season. *Source: Barenbrug*

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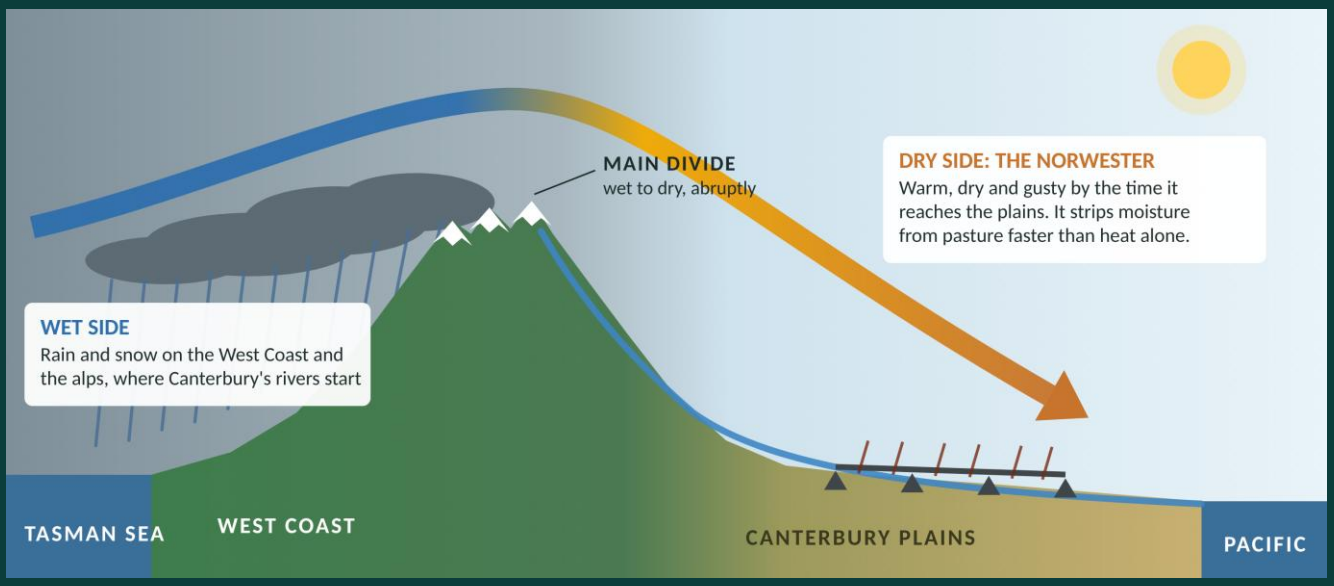
Staying ahead of El Niño

The climate outlook for Canterbury dairy, spring to autumn 2026–27

Tony Trewinnard · Meteorologist · Blue Skies Weather & Climate Services



THE SEASON IN THREE LINES

1. This is a **record-class El Niño**, still strengthening, and it is arriving as a **windy** one, but **late**: high pressure has held October. The westerly is due back from the end of the month and should then run to the end of March.

2. The alps are on the wet side of that wind and the plains are on the dry side. Alpine-fed water should hold up better than plains rainfall suggests, **as long as the westerly is raining on the alps**. **The harder job will be keeping up with demand.**

3. **Wind, warmth and high-pressure spells will all dry the plains.** The decisions that pay off are made days to weeks ahead, before the probe reading drops.

INSIDE

2 · How big, and why it won't be 1997/98
3 · How the season unfolds on the plains
4 · The irrigated drought
5 · What it means on a dairy platform
6 · Looking six weeks ahead
7 · The daily irrigation brief
8 · Bottom line, signposts, free trial

Updated 7 October. Two things have changed since our September outlook. October has turned quiet, warm and dry under high pressure, not the windy month we forecast, and the latest models have dropped the cool southern summer. The windy summer itself is still on track. Keep this booklet: the signposts on page 8 tell you whether the season is running to script.

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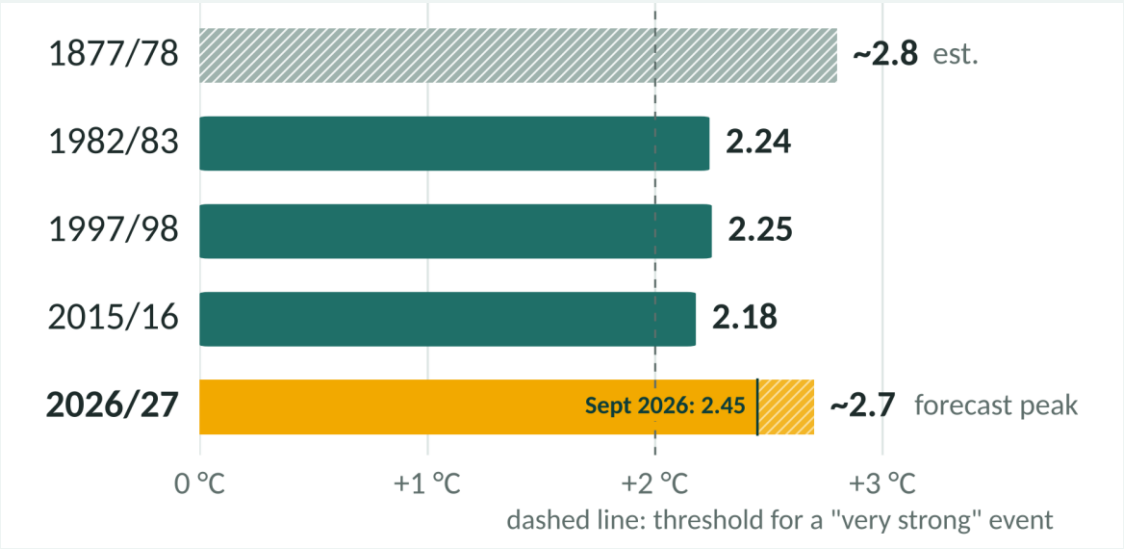
THE EVENT

How big is it, and why won't it just be another 1997/98?

September's relative Niño 3.4 index, the measure forecasters now use, averaged **+2.45 °C**, and the last week of September (+2.72 °C) was the second-highest weekly reading in the Australian Bureau of Meteorology's record, which starts in 2008. US forecasters put the odds of a "historic" event, stronger than any since 1950, at 75%. The peak is now expected around December, and the event will still be strong at the end of summer and present (but weakening) in autumn.

The strongest El Niños on record



Peak strength, three-month relative Niño 3.4 index (°C above the tropical average). 1877/78 is a reconstruction from historical records. 2026/27: the solid bar is September 2026 alone (one month, observed); the hatched end is the forecast three-month peak from the international models.

Four reasons a record ocean does not mean a record drought here

1 We're a long way from the engine
El Niño reaches New Zealand indirectly, through changes in the wind. What arrives here is a weather pattern, not the ocean's heat. This event is also concentrated far to the east: the western Pacific, the side nearest us, is cooler than normal.

2 The Pacific's slow background is in its cool phase
That takes the edge off. The El Niños that hurt most, 1982/83 and 1997/98, came when that background was in its warm phase.

3 This one is windy, not blocked
Record droughts come from a high parked over the country. For summer the models still show a strong, changeable westerly instead, with fronts every few days. October's high is a reminder that settled spells can still come in between.

4 The alps are on the wet side
The wind that dries the plains drops its rain on the main divide, where the rivers that feed Canterbury irrigation begin.

Worth remembering: New Zealand's three most expensive recent droughts (2012/13, 2014/15 and 2019/20) were not El Niño years. And two of the last three El Niños delivered less than expected. Prepare, but keep your options open.

YOUR NOTES

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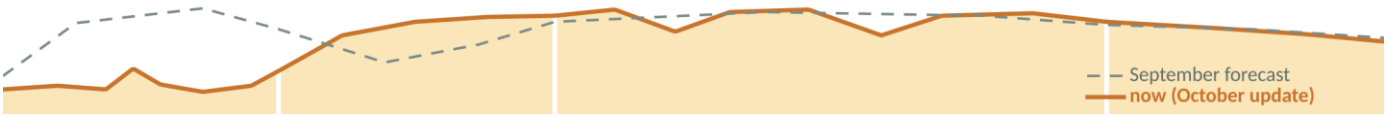
THE SEASON

How the season unfolds on the central plains

Knowing which phase you are in matters more than any monthly average. The orange line is a sketch of how hard the westerly runs; the dashed line is what we expected in September. The difference is October.



OCTOBER

The pause came first

High pressure has held most of October: about 2 °C warmer than normal, dry, light winds, with the westerlies pushed south. Soils are drying as spring growth peaks, and water demand is already at 21–32 mm a week.

LATE OCT – NOV

The wind arrives

The westerlies are forecast back from about the last week of October: norwest days, cold south-west changes behind them, rain back on the alps. Water demand peaks around the turn of the month. The timing is still moving.

DECEMBER – FEBRUARY

The windy summer

Westerly most days, a south-west change every four or five days, and norwest days two to three a week. Expect some warm high-pressure spells between the windy runs, more than we said in September. Temperatures near normal to warm on the plains: the cool southern summer the models were flagging has faded. Hot norwest afternoons, bigger day-to-day swings.

MARCH

Still running in the south

The westerly still runs over the South Island to the end of March; high pressure settles the North Island first. Accumulated dryness peaks in February–March, in a warmer late summer than first forecast.

This season against a normal one: central plains, summer

	Normal season	This season
Norwest-type days, per month	9	**13**
Warm, dry, windy 'drying days', per month	6	**9**
South-west changes, per summer	10	**15**
Settled spells of 4+ days, per summer	2–6	**Fewer and shorter than usual**
Rain in the alps (headwaters)	Normal	Below normal in early October under the high; above normal once the westerlies return; around 40% more in late summer
Rain on the plains	Normal	Spring below normal (October already well short). Summer a little below normal in total, but as light falls behind fronts rather than soakings, onto ground drying much harder
Darfield: a 35°C afternoon	About one summer in three	More than half the model runs this time

Lincoln and the coastal side

The afternoon sea breeze hides many norwest days near the coast, but the drying still happens. Inland at Darfield, Hororata and Methven the norwester hits harder.

Source: Blue Skies seasonal outlook (September 2026), updated 7 October with the 1 October European seasonal run and the 5 October six-week outlook, and "How the season will feel" (51 runs of the European seasonal model, translated to the plains through station records). Summer day-counts are from the September runs and are being re-run on the October data. The model has a proven record on how westerly a season will be; rain-day and dry-spell detail is less certain.

Tony Trewinnard · Blue Skies Weather & Climate Services · tony@blueskies.co.nz · 021 224 7767

THE RISK FOR IRRIGATED DAIRY

The irrigated drought: when the wind outruns the pivot

In a windy El Niño the risk for irrigated dairy is less about running out of water and more about **falling behind**. On a hot norwest day pasture can use 7–9 mm. Most Canterbury spray systems are designed to put back about 5 mm a day, and a strong wind blows away part of what leaves the nozzle. Three norwest days in a row and you are behind. You can't catch up during the run, only after it. This spring the pressure has started early: under October's high, demand on the plains is already near summer rates, with little rain to help.

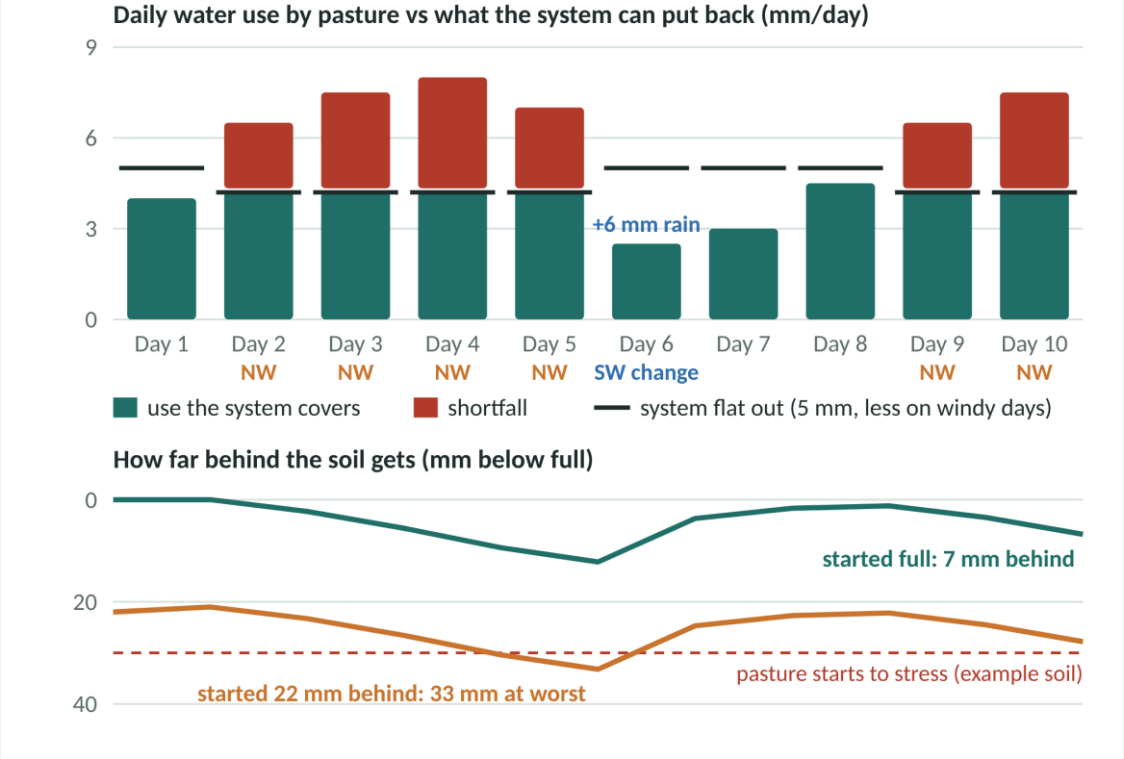


Illustration of a typical spring sequence: two norwest runs either side of a south-west change. Figures are typical for Canterbury plains systems, not a forecast. The same week costs very different amounts depending on where the soil starts.

Which water are you on?

WET SIDE

Alpine-fed rivers and storage

Rakaia, Waimakariri, Lake Coleridge, and the schemes that draw on them. Headwater rain and snow should keep these better supplied than plains rainfall suggests, but only while the westerly is raining on the alps. Under high pressure, as in early October, the West Coast is dry and warm days melt the snow early.

DRY SIDE

Foothill rivers and plains groundwater

Takes that depend on rain over the foothills and plains, which is the rain this pattern takes away. Know your consent's restriction triggers, and where you sit against them, before January.

Go into each norwest run full

Top up ahead of the run. Finding out when it is coming is what the forecast is for.

Water when the wind drops

Nights and early mornings lose far less to drift and evaporation on windy days.

Write the triggers down now

Rotation changes, priority blocks and stand-down rules, agreed before the busy weeks.

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ON THE FARM

What it means on a dairy platform

The same few weather features run through every part of the business this season: frequent norwest days, a cold change every four or five days, and warm, dry high-pressure spells in between that keep drawing the soil down.

PASTURE

Quality will slip before cover does

October's warmth is growing irrigated grass fast, while dryland and light soils slow from mid-month. Warm, windy, drying days push grasses to seed head early, and every moisture check under the pivot does the same. Expect quality to fall sooner than the paddock looks.

More on this from Barenbrug, next

FEED

Buy from the wet side, and early

The West Coast and Southland are likely to grow more than they need while the east runs short. Supplement contracts made in spring cost less than ones made when everyone needs feed at once.

WATER

Budget for demand from October

Demand has started early: about 21 mm a week now, rising to around 32 mm in late October. Size the season's budget on higher-than-normal demand from here. On alpine-fed water the likely limit is how fast you can apply it, not how much you're allowed.

COWS

Feed ahead of the cold changes

From late October, cold, windy south-west changes every four or five days into mating, the first possibly around 27–29 October. Each can cut intake and production for a day or two. Shelter and feed ahead of them.

MACHINERY

Norwest gusts are a pivot hazard

Gusts above about 80 km/h are a concern and above 110 km/h can do damage. Know which days are coming so pivots can be parked safely and contractors planned around them.

FIRE

The danger days won't feel dangerous

A warm, dry October has started the curing early. Cured grass on runoffs, lane margins and shelterbelts, plus a norwester, is among the most dangerous fire combinations in the country this season, often on mild, breezy days.

More on this from FENZ, next

A dairy calendar for this season

October	Irrigation running at summer rates under the high; triggers in writing; supplement contracts placed; pivots checked before the westerly returns.
Late Oct – November	The westerly returns and demand peaks. Go into each norwest run full, and feed ahead of the first cold south-west changes in mating.
December – February	Go into each norwest run full. Water when the wind drops. Use the high-pressure spells to catch up. Watch pasture quality and fire risk.
February – March	The peak pinch, in a warmer late summer than first forecast. Plan autumn feed knowing the westerly is still running in the south at the end of summer.

YOUR NOTES

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THE TOOLS · 1

Looking six weeks ahead

Every Monday the Canterbury irrigation advisory adds a six-week irrigation outlook for the plains: how windy, how settled, how long the dry spells could run, and how much water your irrigation will have to find. Built from the full spread of the European six-week forecast, it says how likely each outcome is, not just what is most likely.

Example: the issue of 5 October 2026

Hinds district · 11 October – 14 November (35 days)

WINDY DAYS

~25 windy days of 35

Usual: 21

9 in 10 forecasts agree it will be windier than usual

SETTLED DAYS

~3 settled days

Usual: 6

LONGEST DRY STRETCH

~15 days

Usual: 16 · 1 in 5 chance of 22 days or more

DRYING NORWEST DAYS

~9 days

Usual: 8

64% of forecasts have a run of 4 or more in a row

WATER THE IRRIGATION MUST FIND

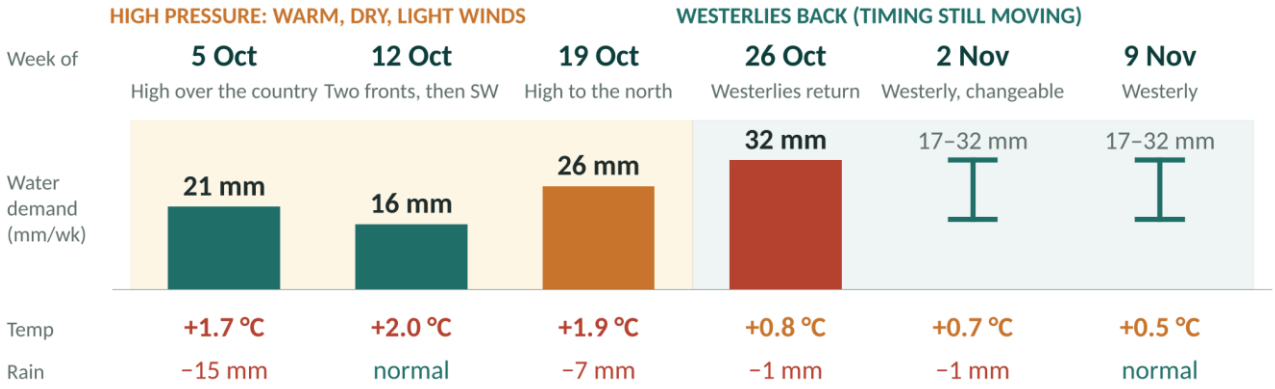
~80 mm

Demand not met by rain over the five weeks. Likely range 72–95 mm, with a 1 in 5 chance of more than 96 mm. That is a number you can budget water, power and labour against.

Each issue also sets out two or three storylines for how the weeks could play out, with odds (5 October: 55%, 35% and 10%), so you can plan for the likely one and check you can live with the others.

Week by week: the high comes first

The regional outlook issued the same day shows the order of events: warm, dry, light-wind weeks under high pressure first, then the westerlies from about 26 October, with demand peaking in the last week of October (temperature and rain vs normal).



What you would do with it

Size the next month

Water, power and labour budgeted against a range rather than a guess.

Book around the settled days

Silage, spraying, fertiliser and contractors, timed to the windows that exist.

See the long dry stretch coming

And start it with the soil full, not half-empty.

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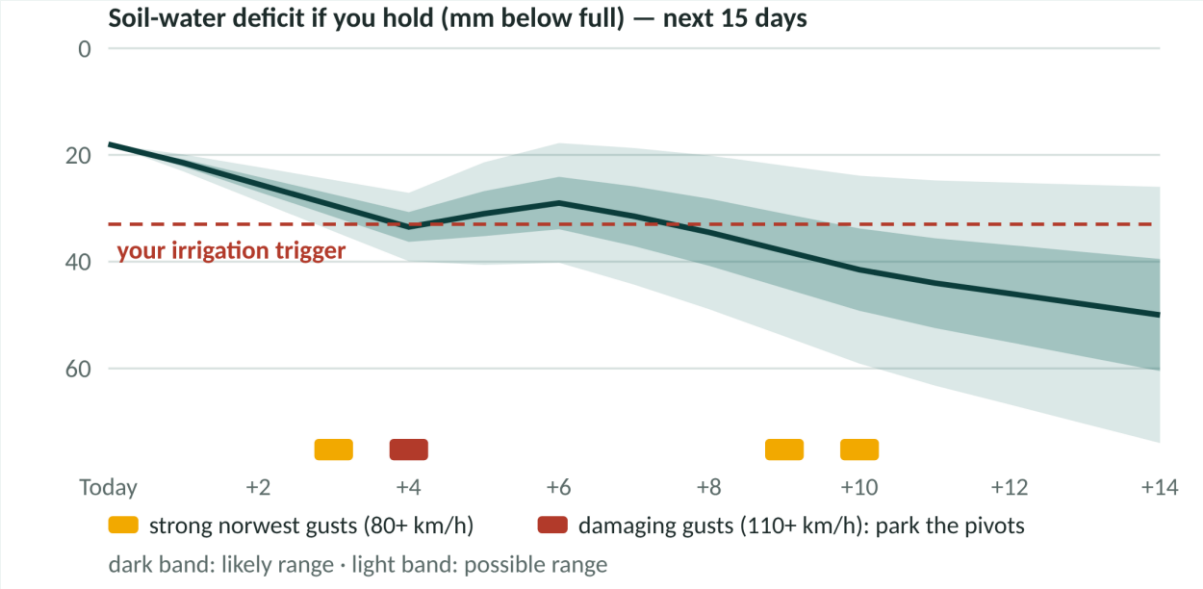
THE TOOLS · 2

The daily irrigation brief

One email each morning covering nine Canterbury irrigation districts. It is built from the European ensemble forecast and checked against local weather stations, and it is designed to move irrigation decisions from reacting to the probe to planning ahead on the odds.



How the brief shows the fortnight ahead: the likely path of your soil-water deficit if you hold off, with the range of outcomes shaded, against your trigger, and the norwest gust days marked below. **Illustration of the format, not a forecast.**

What's in it

Today and the week	Demand, rain chances and norwest days, district by district
Nor'wester hazard line	Days with strong or damaging gusts flagged ahead, so pivots can be parked
The fortnight	The soil-water range above, against your trigger
Beyond the fortnight	Weeks three to six: the reasons behind this week's call

Three calls it helps you make

HOLD · Rain is likely enough and soon enough. Save the pumping.

PUSH · A norwest run is coming. Go in full.

WAIT · The odds are close to 50/50. Check tomorrow's update before committing.

The brief does not replace your probes or your judgement. It tells you what the next fortnight is likely to do to the number your probe will show, so **you can act before it gets there.**

Two products, two subscriptions

FOR IRRIGATORS

The Canterbury irrigation advisory

The daily brief and the Monday six-week irrigation outlook on these two pages. Built for one job: running irrigation on the Canterbury plains, district by district, through the irrigation season. Free trial to the end of November.

FOR THE WHOLE FARM

Six-week and seasonal outlooks

A separate subscription, all year round, for 13 farming regions of NZ: rain, temperature, wind, frost, soil moisture, pasture growth: the season ahead. For farmers who don't irrigate, it is the main source of farm-wide weather intelligence; for those who do, it is the year-round background behind the irrigation brief. **blueskies.co.nz/join**

El Nino Preparedness Report: The final edition of the 35+ page Blue Skies El Nino Preparedness report will drop later in October (first published in May). You can purchase a copy at **blueskies.co.nz/elnino**

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TO TAKE AWAY

The bottom line

1. Plan for a **windy, changeable summer to the end of March**, with warm high-pressure spells in between, not a hot, settled drought. October's quiet start is the pause, not the pattern.

2. On alpine-fed water the likely limit is **keeping up**, not allocation, as long as the westerly is raining on the alps. On foothill or groundwater takes, check your restriction triggers now.

3. **Pasture quality and fire risk** will move faster than the paddock looks.

4. **Get ahead of each norwest run**, and keep decisions reversible: two of the last three El Niños under-delivered, and forecasts get revised. We will tell you when they do.

Signposts: how you'll know the season is on script

WHEN	WATCH FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Late October	High pressure easing and the westerlies arriving around the last week of October	On script for expected start. If the high hangs on into November, the windy season is starting later than forecast
November	West Coast rain well above normal (over about 130%)	The westerly pattern is in place; alpine supply is being topped up again after a dry October
Nov – Dec	Norwest days three or more a week inland, with cold south-west changes every few days	The windy summer pattern is running
Dec – Feb	A northerly or settled spell lasting more than 10 days	The first real sign of an early break. Shorter high-pressure spells are expected; don't unwind decisions on those
All summer	Alpine river flows holding up while the plains dry	The wet-side supply story is working. If flows sag in long warm, dry spells, the snowpack is being used early

Your season plan in five lines

My water: alpine-fed / foothill river / groundwater

My restriction trigger, and where I sit against it

My first rotation-change trigger

Supplement secured to:

The signpost that would make me change course

FREE TRIAL TO THE END OF NOVEMBER

The daily Canterbury irrigation brief and the Monday six-week irrigation outlook

Email **tony@blueskies.co.nz** with "irrigation trial", or scan the code to open the email.
Six-week and seasonal outlooks for 13 farming regions are a separate, year-round subscription:

blueskies.co.nz/join

Tony Trewinnard · a meteorologist with 35 years experience forecasting for farmers · Amberley · ph 021 224 7767
Forecasts are probabilities, not promises. Use them alongside your own monitoring and advice.

High MS from pasture – the why, what & how

Means combining feed quality and quantity. We measure and allocate feed quantity, but understanding *feed quality* is the key.

❶ Why ME's important

ME has a multiplier effect. A higher ME diet has more energy per kgDM, and passes through the rumen more quickly so cows can eat more. 1 ME = 42% more milk!

FOR COW - ME IS IMPORTANT

Estimated effect of pasture ME on a 500 kg cow

Pasture ME	**11 ME**	**12 ME**	**+9%**
Cow intake/day	15 kgDM	17 kgDM	**+13%**
Energy eaten (ME x intake)	165 MJ	204 MJ	**+24%**
Subtract cow maintenance	60 MJ	60 MJ	**same**
Energy for milk	105 MJ	144 MJ	**+37%**
MILKSOLIDS / COW / DAY	**1.3 kgMS**	**1.9 kgMS**	**+42%**

(Note: feed conversion efficiency of ME into milk is slightly better for the higher ME)

FARM SCALE - ADDS UP

200ha farm

+0.2 ME

across pasture eaten

↓

+500,000 MJ ME eaten

↓

+6,400 kgMS = ~$64,000

At a farm scale.

Assuming 200ha farm, 695 cows, 333,000kgMS, 12.5 t DM/ha eaten.

Increasing pasture ME by just 0.2 (which is tiny) is worth about $64,000!

Calculation: 200ha x 12.5t DM/ha eaten = 2500 t DM pasture eaten; Each kgDM extra 02 ME = +500,000 ME eaten. This Produces +6400 kgMS, assumed value of $10/kgMS.

How about buying in the ME?

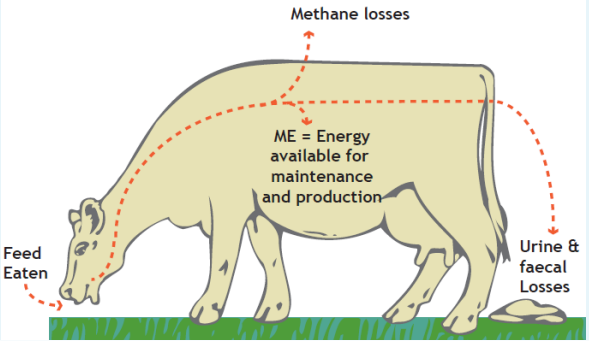
If you buy in the 500,000 MJ of ME not been grazed, that's 50t of PKE* at a cost of $23,000. Sounds like a bargain!?!

The issue is that the PKE will help cow MS production in the short term. But if reduced pasture quality isn't addressed, cow intakes of pasture drop further over multiple grazings. Result can easily be greater costs, production goes sideways, and profits are squeezed.

** Calculation: Assumes PKE at 11 MJ ME, 90% dry matter and $450/t. Doesn't include feeding costs.*

❷ What is ME

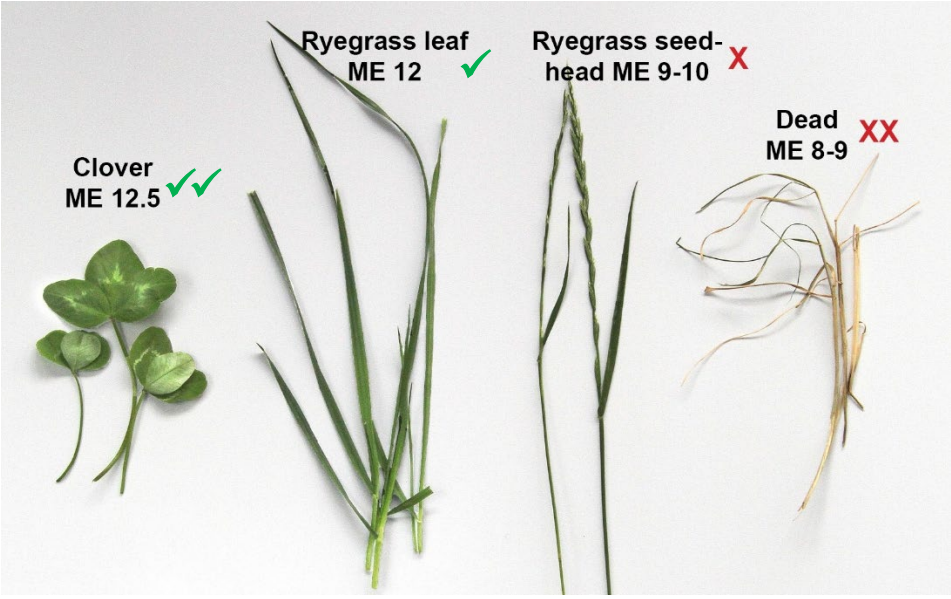
Metabolisable Energy (ME) is the energy in a feed available to the animal after faecal, urine and methane losses. Measured in megajoules per kilogram of dry matter (MJ/kgDM).



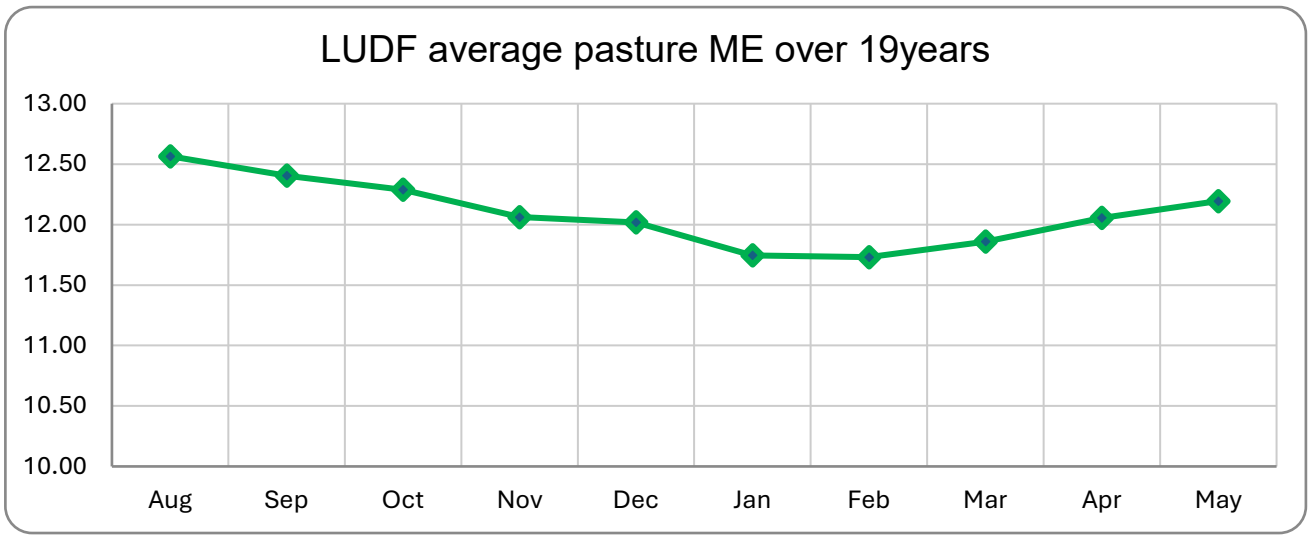
Typical ME's

Pasture in summer		Other	
Irrigated – good tetraploid rygrass pasture	12.5+	Chicory	12.5+
Irrigated – good or new diploid pasture	12-12.5	Plaintain	12
Irrigated – old pasture (cocksfoot, browntop etc)	10.5-11	Rape/Leafy turnip	12
Dryland - good pasture	10-11	Maize silage	10-10.5
Dryland – old pasture	9-10	Barley grain	12.5
White clover	12.5+	PKE	11

Visually assessing pasture quality isn't that hard.



At the LUDF each month two pastures about to be grazed are tested, below are the results.



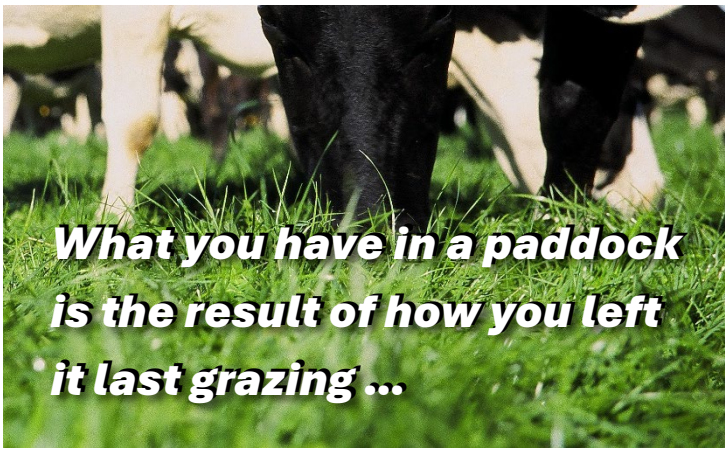
❸ How you improve ME

Great news you don't need to buy anything! Here's what you need to do.

Daily things

1. **Consistence post-grazing residual**
2. **Graze right time (to achieve 1)**
3. **Repeat 1 and 2 every day !**

If it's wet, the priority moves to looking after pastures and soil. But when the rains over, focus on residuals again.



Tips for residuals

1. Define target residual – Does your whole farm team know this?
2. Have a photo of right residual – So everyone can compare to it
3. Use a plate meter – A great way to discuss if a residual is right/wrong
5. 24 hour grazings – Only half as many residuals to get right (as 12 hour grazings)
6. Make it a KPI for those shifting cows.
7. Act quickly – If residuals aren't achieved quickly reset them (e.g. mow or graze earlier)

Weekly things

1. **Monitor pastures – so you pick up growth changes 2 weeks before you see them.**
2. **React quickly to growth changes (e.g. shut paddocks up, feed supplement etc)**

We mostly lose pasture ME in periods of high pasture growth. Particularly November-December, when grasses also put up seedhead.

Monitoring means you ***know pasture growth has taken off before you see anything***. So can act to maintain better pasture ME.

A FOCUS ON ME ADDS UP

↑ 43% MS/cow | ↑ $64k milk | GHG emissions efficiency | ↑ resilience

Irrigation start up tips:

1. Know your compliance limits and plan for a long irrigation season.
2. If you need to rationalise your water, make decisions early and adjust inputs on sacrifice crops accordingly.
3. Know where to safely park and secure your irrigators during high winds, and pay close attention to wind warnings.
4. Do your maintenance ***before*** you need to irrigate. Mid-season breakdowns can be costly, and so can leaks.
5. Inspect nozzles for wear, as this can significantly increase water use and reduce uniformity.
6. Carry out a bucket test to identify and correct any issues before they become bigger problems.
7. Target irrigation during the morning and evening on very hot or windy days.
8. Make sure the team knows exactly where irrigators need to be positioned to maximise coverage and efficiency.
9. Application uniformity of sprinklers, K-lines and travelling irrigators can be severely affected by high winds. Think twice before you apply irrigation, ensuring limited water goes where you need it most.
10. Check your soil moisture sensors are working, and that everyone is using the information they provide and reviewing them regularly.

Images from previous El Niño event:

The nozzle effect

K-line placement

Practical Fire Tips

Protecting your property
Whether it is a bonfire, burn off or crop residue burn, it is important you manage the risk.

- Visit www.checkitsalright.nz to see if it's safe to light a fire, and if you'll need a fire permit.
- Plan your fire
- Set up your fire – make sure your fire is set up in a safe place on your property, well away from anything flammable like hedges.
- Extinguish your fire completely – regularly check in on the days and weeks after your burn for embers, smouldering, smoke or heat.

Property maintenance
It is important to keep the area around your buildings well maintained, especially during the drier months.

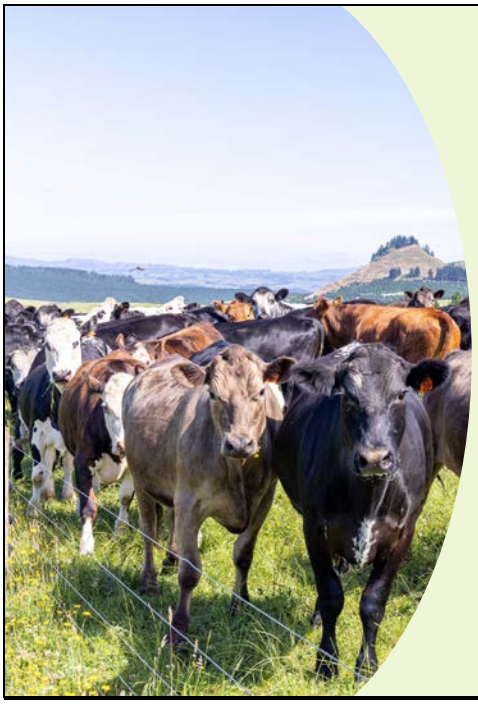
- Maintain trees and plants within 10 meters of buildings
- Keep grass short.
- Avoid mowing on Very High and Extreme Fire Danger days.
- Where possible, plant low flammability plant species within 10 meters of buildings.
- Reduce wildfire risk on your property by trimming trees within 20 meters of buildings.
- Remove branches two meters from the ground.
- Avoid parking vehicles in long dry grass as the heat from the exhaust can cause a fire to start.

Check your water tanks
Fire and Emergency New Zealand need a specific coupling that is compliant with our hoses. We recommend checking your water tanks to ensure they have the correct attachment for our hoses.
If your tank does not have the right coupling, we are still able to access the water through the top of the tank, however it is quicker for us when there is a coupling.

Staying safe in a wildfire
If in doubt, get out!
Wildfires move quickly. If you can see smoke or flames from a wildfire and you feel unsafe, don't wait for an official warning to leave. Evacuate immediately. Call 111 if your life or property is threatened, or you can't evacuate on your own.
If you have time before you evacuate:

- Turn on sprinklers
- Fill gutters with water
- Wet down materials like firewood that may fuel the fire
- Move vehicles to a safe location
- Move lightweight outdoor items inside
- Wet down the sides of buildings, decks and plants close to your home

For more information head to www.fireandemergency.nz



beef+lamb new zealand

Beef-on-Dairy at Beef+Lamb NZ

Duncan Elliott
October 2026

By farmers. For farmers

Dairy Beef Opportunities

Competitive dairy and beef sectors maximising their value through dairy-beef integration underpinned by ethical, resilient and responsible farm systems

DairyNZ | beef+lamb new zealand | mia Meat Industry Association | DCANZ | Ministry for Primary Industries Manatū Ahu Matua

Dairy Beef Opportunities

Pillar 1 –
Maximising efficiency gains via genetics and systems

Increase carrying capacity by increasing feed conversion efficiency

Lead: B+LNZ

- Improved sires
- Rearing and finishing systems
- Greater integration of farm businesses into a supply chain

Pillar 2 –
Increase the proportion of calves suited to beef production

Dairy mating strategies to deliver value for dairy and beef systems

Lead: DNZ

- Extended lactation systems
- Mating programs

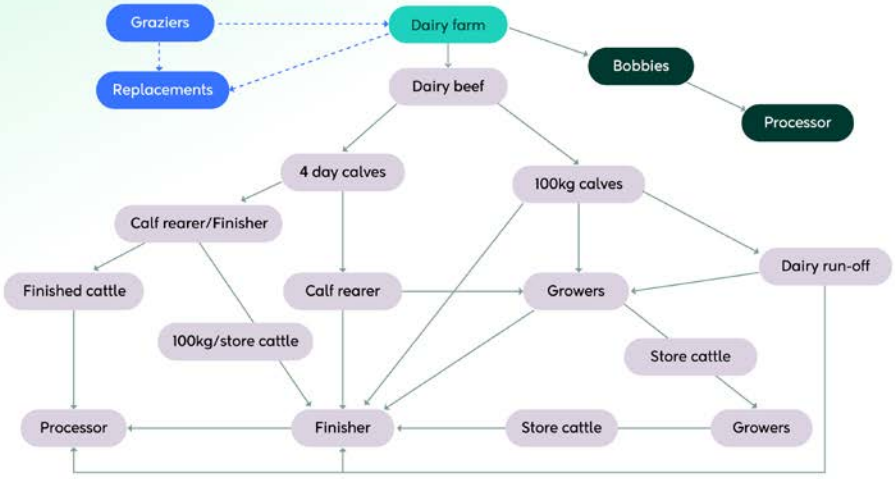
Pillar 3 –
New products and value chains

More calves become viable by new products

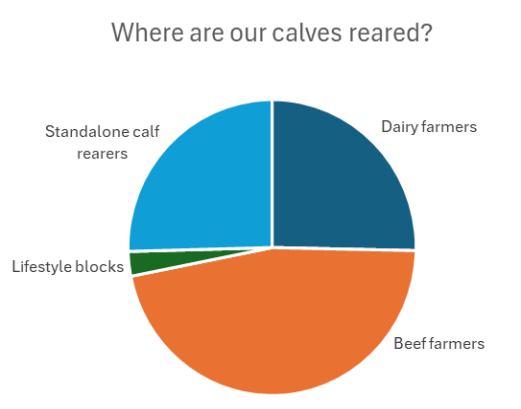
Lead: MIA

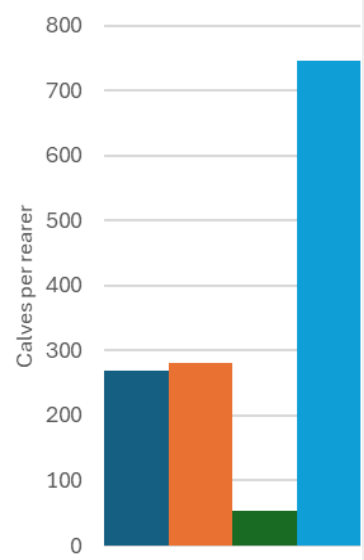
- New products (earlier finishing)
- Differentiated to create value
- Processing system preparedness

Calf supply chain: current state



Calf Rearer Survey >97,000 calves





By farmers. For farmers

Alan McDermott a 2025 Nuffield Scholar recipient and a Beef+Lamb New Zealand Northern South Island Farmer Councillor, and the founder of Pearl Pastures.

Alan works alongside dairy farmers to produce rose veal sold to premier restaurants in New Zealand, as well as internationally.

Alan has recently been in market in Europe and North America and will share his thoughts.

Alan McDermott

0274 778236
alan@pearlpastures.com
https://www.pearlveal.nz/

NEW ZEALAND
PEARL VEAL
RAISED ON MILK & PASTURE

Beef-on-Dairy Demand

Beef sector drivers

- Greater confidence in dairy-beef genetics
- New product opportunities
- Partnered dairy-beef rearing / finishing opportunities
- Land use changes

Dairy sector drivers

- Wearables extending AB
- 'No bull policies'
- Desire to increased genetic gain
- As well as a desire to reduce low value non-replacement calves

Aligning Breeding Goals

Trait	Dairy	Beef
Calving ease	✓	
Gestation length	✓	
Colour markings	✓	
Days to weaning		✓
Feed efficiency		✓
Live weight / gain		✓
Carcase weight		✓
Red meat yield		✓
Marbling, tenderness, meat & fat colour		✓

Focus on maternal traits for the dairy famer as well as a focus on terminal traits to improve beef-on-dairy outcomes.

Tailoring genetics across the value chain

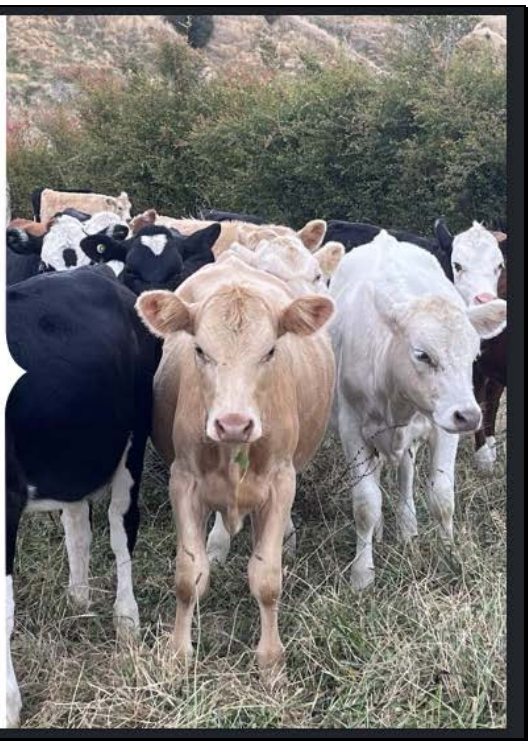
Crossbred cows can produce good beef calves

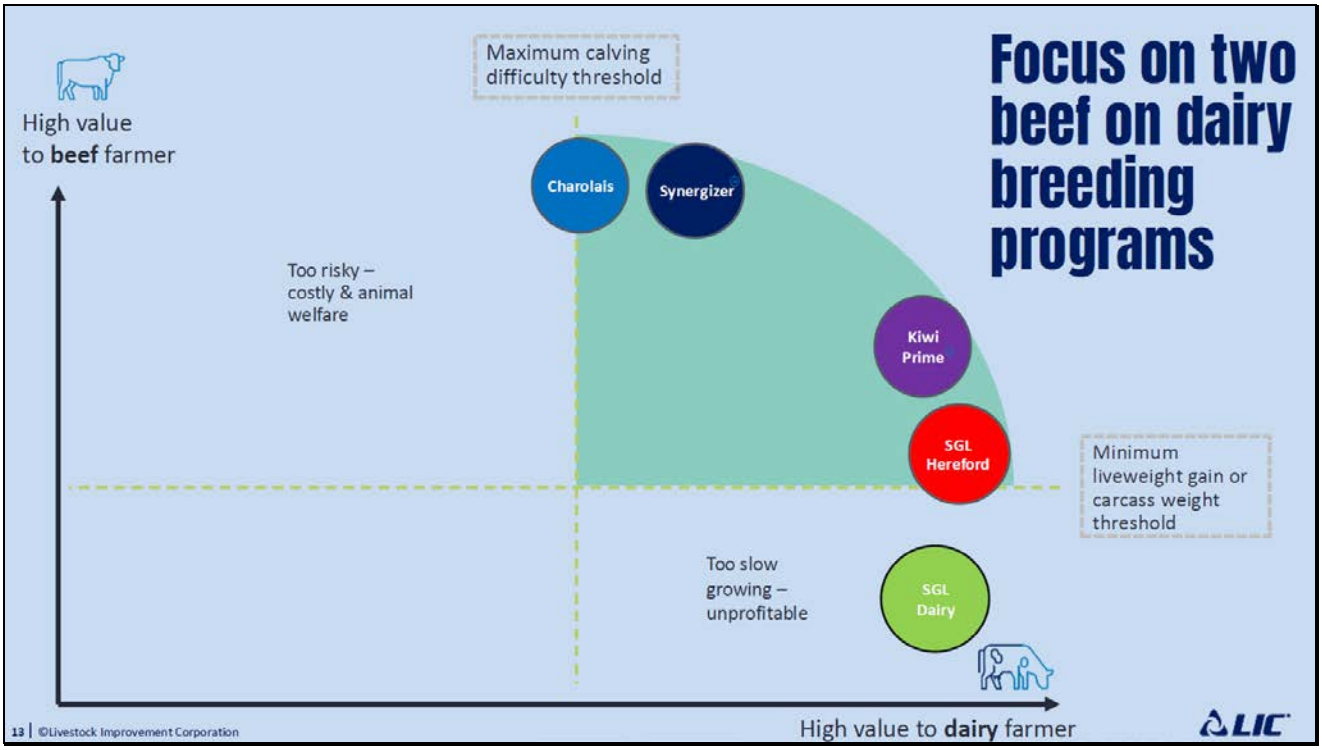
	Friesian	Crossbred	Jersey
Typical beef-on-dairy bull	Baseline	-11	-31
Good beef semen	+34	+23	+3

We have so much scope to improve beef-on-dairy calves without messing with dairy performance. Look harder at the beef sire selection.

The more Jersey your herd, the better your sire needs to be. Crossbred herds have lots of options.

8





KiwiPrime™

- 7/8 Angus 1/8 Hereford.
- Growth attributes, gestation length, black coat of the Angus
- White-faced calves of the Hereford
- Better growth and carcass attribute than SGL Hereford
- Supported by data when mated over dairy cows
- Limited Frozen semen sales - Spring 2026
- Fresh semen sales - Spring 2027

Homozygous polled
Homozygous white face
Homozygous non-splotchy
Black coat colour

LIC

Synergizer™

- LIC partnership with Focus Genetics / Pamu
- 50% Charolais : 50% Stabilizer
- Two copies of Charolais dilution gene
- Focus on calving ease, excellent growth and meat quality
- Breed will be progeny tested on Pamu dairy cows
- Spring 2026 – limited release frozen straws
- Spring 2027 – fresh semen launch

PĀMU™ LANDCORP FARMING LIMITED

FOCUS GENETICS

LIC

Strengthening Beef Genetics Through Data

Collect more phenotypes to drive genetic progress

Develop partnerships with farms willing to record and share key data

Encouraging **on-farm data capture** is critical to building value

Better beef genetics rely on **accurate liveweight and growth data**

Connected Mating Plans

Right cows – right straw

MINDA

Farmer selects:

- low BW cows to go to beef
- top 50% of cows to go to sexed semen

LIC

AB Technician

Cow IDs and mating groups sent to the LIC AB Technician via DataMate

All mating are recorded and sent to MINDA

BEEF-ON-DAIRY

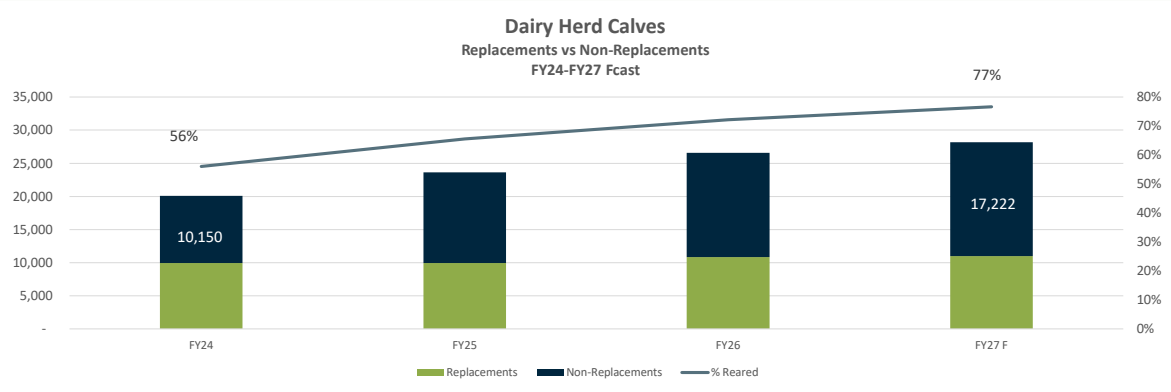
Building value from every calf

Pāmu aims to integrate our dairy and livestock businesses, rearing all dairy-born animals for meat and milk production.

The value is created through genetics, calf rearing, feed efficiency, finishing performance and market alignment, all working together.

Aiming to rear all dairy-born calves by 2030

Forecasting to rear 7,072 more non-replacement calves than FY24, reaching 77% reared.



Non-replacement numbers have grown from **10,150 calves in FY24 to 17,222 in FY27** (forecast), surpassing replacement calves reared.
Most calf-rearing is within Pāmu, supported by external and contracted calf-rearers.

Five stages from dairy calf to finished beef

Beef genetics over dairy cows, supported by an integrated rearing and finishing system.

PĀMU™ LANDCORP FARMING LIMITED

1 Mating
Easy calving | short gestation

2 Calf rearing
Health | survival | early growth

3 Growing
100 kg to 200 kg+

4 Finishing
Prime | bull | heifer

5 Market
Traceable, grass-fed beef

What changes on farm?

Mating plans • genetics • rearing practices • animal health • nutrition • forage • liveweight data • stock policy • workload

Dairy beef creates a lower-emissions opportunity

AgResearch lifecycle assessment and Cape Foulwind farm-system modelling

22%
more efficient
than traditional beef systems

38–42%
lower GHG intensity
possible in fast-finishing systems

30.5 → 17.9
kg CO_2e / kg product
Cape Foulwind modelled change

WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE
Feed efficiency + finishing time
Managing both together is key.

Pāmu Cape Foulwind Farm system change

Modelled GHG efficiency per kilogram of product

OLD SYSTEM | NEW SYSTEM

Wider farm-system opportunities

- More kilograms of product per hectare
- A productive pathway for dairy-beef calves
- Better dairy-herd quality through breeding from the highest genetic-merit cows
- More pasture production through improved rotational grazing
- Lower waterway-fencing capital needs where stock-class changes allow

Source: AgResearch lifecycle assessment; FarmIQ modelling for Cape Foulwind Farm.

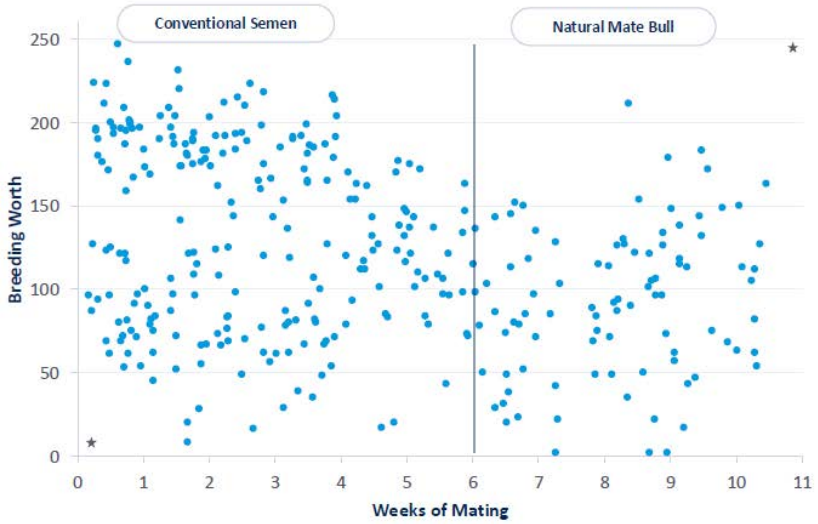
Synergizer™ genetics arrive from 2026

The next step in the beef-on-dairy programme.

The Synergizer offer

PARTNERSHIP	Pāmu and Focus Genetics, with LIC
FEATURES	Distinctive coat colour and polled genetics. Improvements in feed efficiency and methane profile Short gestation length and calving ease Strong liveweight gain Eating quality
2026	Selected frozen release
2027	Liquid launch

The Evolution of Mating Plans..... The Start



- Sexed semen
- Wearable technology
- Short Gestation Length Dairy

The Evolution of Mating Plans

BENEFITS

- Additional genetic gain
- More valuable beef on dairy
- Additional days in milk

LIC

Match breeding decisions to cow merit

Three cow groups, followed by a staged 12-week mating programme (10-week calving)

BREEDING OBJECTIVE

26% **Dairy replacement target**

West Coast / Canterbury

Select the right cows for replacement, dairy and beef outcomes.

TOP 20% BW	**Sexed XBreed semen**	Selected from the top 30% BW
MID 50% BW	**Friesian AI**	Conventional dairy replacements
BOTTOM 30% BW	**Beef sires**	Buller: Angus bulls from day 1 | Weka & Canterbury: Stabiliser / Synergiser if available

12-WEEK MATING PROGRAMME

R2s
Double PG AI
5 days AI, then 10 weeks natural mating

WEEKS 1–4
Artificial insemination
Sexed XBreed, Friesian and beef

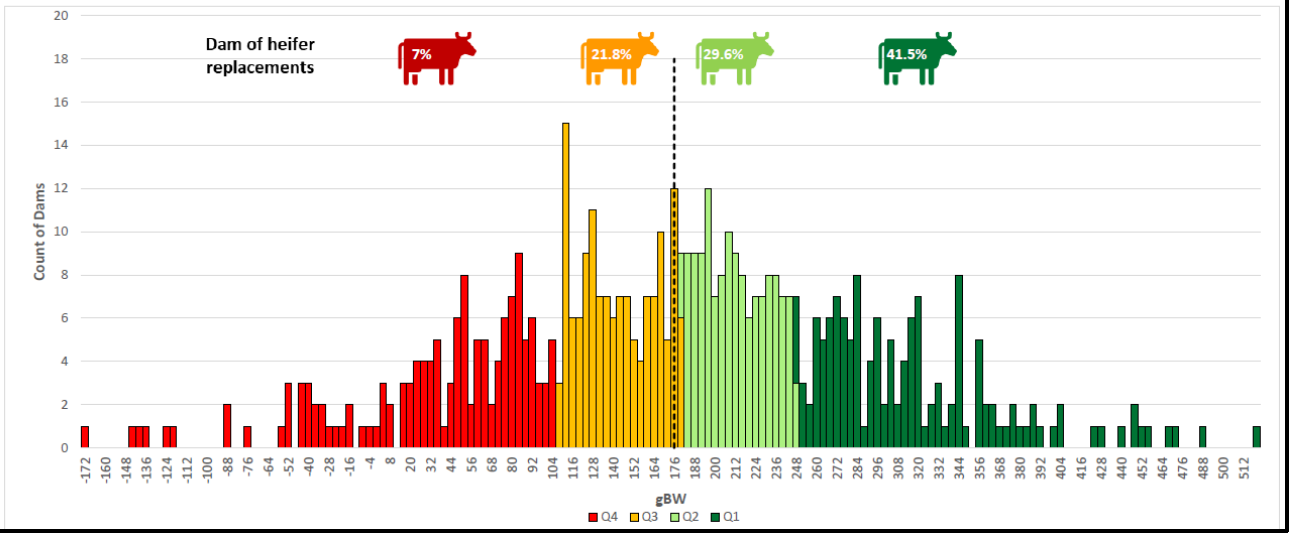
WEEKS 5–10
Naturally mated
WC: Angus | Canterbury: Hereford / Angus

WEEKS 11–12
Short gestation AI
Dairy

LUDF Mating Plan

Herd gBW Distribution of Dams at Time of Mating

Herd Avg gBW = 177
Total Dam Count = 555



LIC

Genetic Gains Report 2026

Participant code	BQCY
AG BP Nbr	5202030
Herd name	Lincoln University
Avg. BW/Rel	208/61
Avg. PW/Rel	227/70
Recorded Ancestry	100%

Dam gBW Split – 2025-born Replacements Reared

Dam Rank	Yrlngs Retained	Avg. Dam gBW	Avg. Sire gBW	Yrlngs gBW	Percentage
gBW Q1	59	292.3	383.2	379.1	47.6%
gBW Q2	40	191.5	385.6	309.9	32.3%
gBW Q3	20	121.6	400.9	305.6	16.1%
gBW Q4	5	45.9	339.4	217.6	4%
Yearlings	10	217.4	448.7	340.2	-

Dam gBW Split – 2026-born Replacements Reared

Dam Rank	Calves Retained	Avg. Dam gBW	Avg. Sire gBW	Calves gBW	Percentage
gBW Q1	59	329.4	422.5	374	41.5%
gBW Q2	42	213.8	407.8	315.1	29.6%
gBW Q3	31	140.8	405.4	271.8	21.8%
gBW Q4	10	35.7	418	231.7	7%
Yearlings	30	315.8	392.3	296	-

Dam Age Group Split – 2025-born Replacements Reared

Dam Age Group	Yrlngs Retained	Avg. Dam gBW	Avg. Sire gBW	Yrlngs gBW	Percentage
Yearlings	10	217.4	448.7	340.2	7.5%
2 year olds	48	257.3	375.7	356.2	35.8%
3 year olds	31	192.8	402.6	333.5	23.1%
4-8 year olds	43	210	384.8	323.9	32.1%
9 years +	2	104.4	343.1	297.8	1.5%

Dam Age Group Split – 2026-born Replacements Reared

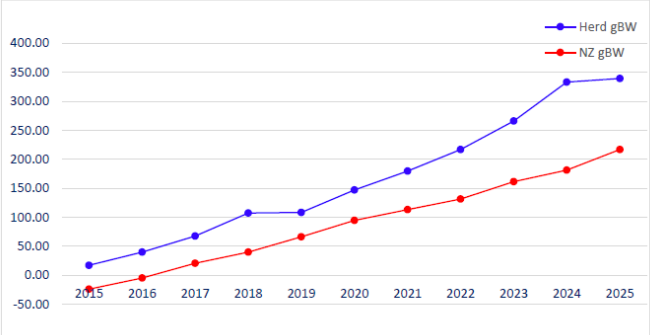
Dam Age Group	Calves Retained	Avg. Dam gBW	Avg. Sire gBW	Calves gBW	Percentage
Yearlings	30	315.8	392.3	296	17.4%
2 year olds	43	293.7	424.4	355	25%
3 year olds	39	253.1	409.8	332.9	22.7%
4-8 year olds	56	182.1	409.1	298.7	32.6%
9 years +	4	109.7	414.5	267.2	2.3%

Note: This report excludes reared replacements from beef or SGL sires and replacements missing a sire.
Yearling and/or Calves BW may not represent average of sire and dam due to yearlings and/or calves themselves being genotyped.

Replacement BW by Birth Year

Birth Year	Count	Avg. gBW	gBW Diff.
2015	136	17.3	
2016	138	40	22.7
2017	105	67.7	27.7
2018	143	107.3	39.6
2019	156	108.4	1.1
2020	149	147.3	38.9
2021	134	179.8	32.5
2022	141	216.9	37.1
2023	114	266.1	49.2
2024	104	333.1	67
2025	135	339.4	6.3
2026	**171**		**-19.9**
Last 5Y Avg. Gains			**27.9**

Genetic Gain Trends



Culls - 2025

Dam Rank	Cull Cause	Count	Avg. PW
PW Q1	EMPTY	11	499.72
PW Q2	EMPTY	14	276.36
PW Q2	LOW PRODUCTION	1	247.6
PW Q2	UDDER BREAKDOWN	1	330.8
PW Q3	EMPTY	18	142.93
PW Q3	UDDER BREAKDOWN	1	74.7
PW Q4	EMPTY	24	-90.55
PW Q4	LOW PRODUCTION	1	-126.6
PW Q4	UDDER BREAKDOWN	1	-49.5
Yearlings	EMPTY	2	301.7

Culls - 2026

Dam Rank	Cull Cause	Count	Avg. PW
PW Q1	EMPTY	9	522.76
PW Q2	EMPTY	15	291.15
PW Q2	HIGH CELL COUNT	2	256.05
PW Q3	EMPTY	12	158.9
PW Q3	HIGH CELL COUNT	1	153.4
PW Q3	UNSUITABLE TEMPERAME	1	79.6
PW Q4	EMPTY	18	-69.71
PW Q4	HIGH CELL COUNT	3	-34.87
PW Q4	UNSUITABLE UDDER/TEAT	1	-10.3
Yearlings	EMPTY	1	359.4

Challenges equal opportunity

Repurposing old woolsheds / covered yards for calf rearing facilities

PĀMU | BEEF-ON-DAIRY

September 2026

Hanmer Farm

Cattle finishing focus: about 2,700 head reported in June 2026

Farm footprint (Nov 2026 baseline)
1,494 ha total, 1,245 ha effective across three blocks.
- Toshi 943 ha (781 effective)
- Rollesby 330 ha (314 effective)
- Bull Farm 221 ha (150 effective)

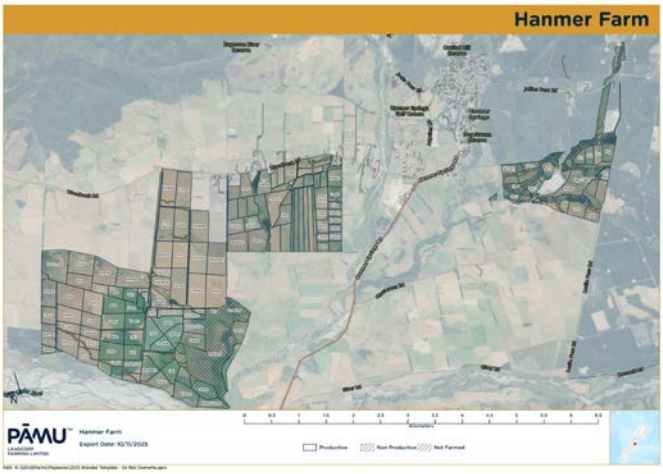
200 ha irrigated, 193 ha lucerne and 35 ha forestry/native bush.
Mainly land classes 2–4.

People
Farm Manager Ben Fahey.
October 2026 team list: Stock Manager Cody Tayles, Shepherd Morgan Duigan.

Livestock system (Nov 2025 baseline)
Molesworth beef calves arrive Apr/May and finish as R2 at ~260 kg carcass weight.
Dairy beef arrives in December at <100 kg liveweight, finishing before its second winter.
Historically, lambs arrived in December and leave by mid-April.
The Nov 2025 plan anticipated no lamb finishing in 26/27 season.

Feed programme (Nov 2025 baseline)
Grass, lucerne and silage, plus 50 ha kale.
- Kale: 30 ha irrigated at 12 t DM/ha and 20 ha dryland at 6 t DM/ha.
- ~900 R2 cattle on kale.

Lucerne renewal: 15–20 ha/year.
On-farm feed: 300 t lucerne and 450 t silage.



Historical livestock snapshot: 1 July 2026				
	HEAD		SU	SU%
CATTLE (Angus)	3,071	2yr stock – 1,532 Yearlings – 1539	9,192 6,156	89%
DAIRY BEEF	445	2yr stock – 226 Yearlings – 219	1,130 767	11%
Total	**3,516**		**17,245**	

29

Once-wintered animals deliver the strongest margins

Economics vary by animal class; once-wintered animals show the most compelling economics

$/Head	One Wintered Bull	One Wintered Steer	One Wintered Heifer	Two Wintered Bull	Two Wintered Steer	Two Wintered Heifer
Rearer Margin	$245	$245	$245	$245	$245	$245
Grower Margin	$461	$301	$344	$1,271	$1,062	$562
Finisher Margin	$661	$649	$494	($174)	($167)	$82
Total Margin to Farmgate	**$1,367**	**$1,195**	**$1,083**	**$1,342**	**$1,139**	**$890**

Once-wintered animals generate consistently positive margins across all classes, while twice-wintered economics are more dependent on the growing phase, with R2 bull and steer finishing margins negative under current assumptions.

Thank you for coming along to our Focus Day.

We welcome your feedback and recommendations for future topics of interest,

let us know by emailing office@siddc.org.nz, we would love to hear from you.

Our thanks to our partners: