

Inside Dairy

June 2019

Your levy in action

CALF REARING

Going for gold

FARMERS'
FORUM
Science at the
forefront

Calf Care
Toolkit

Farmer-tested:
available now

Farmers talk
wellbeing 
Tips for the busy season

DairyNZ 



over the fence...

I'm enormously proud that, in New Zealand, we're one of the best in the world at animal care.

In this issue of *Inside Dairy*, we focus on how you can best prepare for calving and calf rearing. What we do during the calf-rearing period can set calves up for life. We know that well-cared-for calves are more likely to become happy, productive and high-quality cows. I hope you enjoy this edition, including a great interview with Canterbury sharemilkers Jilly and Karl Haywood.

In the last few weeks, we've heard from the Ministry for Primary Industries about a backlog of farmers needing to be contacted about animal movements, and some will be placed under movement restrictions as part of the eradication programme for *Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*). We want to ensure you have all the information and support you need, so please have a read of the article on page 16. If you haven't heard from anyone within the *M. bovis* Programme, please keep farming as normal and make sure you're taking biosecurity precautions to protect your business.

Meanwhile, the Zero Carbon Bill was released last month, setting out targets for greenhouse gas reduction by 2030 and 2050. We're pleased the Government has considered the science regarding the short-term nature of methane, but we have significant concerns about the 2050 targets. We have not yet seen the Government's analysis behind the 2050 target range of reducing methane by 24 to 47 per cent. This range goes beyond expert scientific advice for what is necessary for New Zealand agriculture to limit global warming to no more than at 1.5°C. We'll continue developing tools to help you reduce emissions, and we'll be working closely with the Government to ensure your efforts are recognised and that you have access to advice and training.

Finally, to those of you who are moving on June 1, I hope the shift goes well.

Please email me with any feedback or questions –
tim.mackle@ceo.dairynz.co.nz

Tim Mackle

Chief executive DairyNZ



Contents

FEATURES...

2 **Worth their weight in gold**

Jilly and Karl Haywood have created a finely tuned calf-rearing system that supports their calves' health and wellbeing.

8 **Future-proofing at the fore**

We had a great turnout around the country for our Farmers' Forum events. Check out how 'science snapshots' were brought to life.

10 **Level up your calf care**

Even if you're doing a top job of calf care, there's always room to improve. Our new farmer-tested Calf Care Toolkit shows how.

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On the cover: Canterbury sharemilkers Jilly and Karl Haywood enjoy the dairying lifestyle near Methven with their children, Ella, Bert and Maisie. Jilly shares how she's refined her approach to keeping their calves in top condition, on pages 2-7.

TAKE 5... TIPS FOR FARMERS

1. Disease-free animals

If you're shifting stock soon, there are simple steps you can take to help protect your animals from disease. Avoid mixing stock during transport, quarantine returning animals and stagger your use of yards – to name a few. It's also important to update your NAIT account. Learn more at dairynz.co.nz/biosecurity



2. Eyes open for blind calves

Blind calves are difficult to spot, so take time to inspect their eyes before you put them on the truck. If both eyes are cloudy, the calf is not fit for transport. Remember, sending blind calves to the works will trigger a fine. Find out more at dairynz.co.nz/fit-for-transport

3. Find out with Fieldays

DairyNZ's team will be at the annual Mystery Creek Fieldays in Hamilton this month. It's your chance to chat with us about where we're investing your levy to get the most value for you and the dairy sector, get some expert advice face-to-face and tell us what's on your mind. Plus you could win a drone! Find out more page 21.



4. Farm accommodation know-how

Whether supplying or living in on-farm accommodation, it's a good idea to keep up with the latest Government Acts and requirements related to rental properties. New insulation regulations are coming into effect on July 1. Check out dairynz.co.nz/accommodation for the most up-to-date information.

5. SRP: useful in a crisis



If you've hit winter calving on the back foot in terms of pasture cover, it's not too late. Did you know our Spring Rotation Planner (see dairynz.co.nz/SRP) can also be used to solve short-term issues get you out of a pasture cover hole? Talk to your DairyNZ regional consulting officer and find out how – contact details at dairynz.co.nz/co

IN THIS ISSUE...

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Take 5 | 18 Science snapshot |
| 11 Accurate records breed success | 19 Education update |
| 12 Tips for wellbeing at calving | 20 Feed matters |
| 14 Down cows: upping our game | 21 All set for Fieldays 2019 |
| 15 It's all about the transition | 22 Just quickly |
| 16 <i>M. bovis</i> advice and support | 23 Regional update |
| 17 Meet DairyNZ's Scott Farm Team | |



We appreciate your feedback

Email insidedairy@dairynz.co.nz or call us on 0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969). Alternatively, post to: Inside Dairy, Private Bag 3221, Hamilton 3240. For information on DairyNZ visit dairynz.co.nz.



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The Haywoods run a low-cost calf-rearing system, which they've developed over many years.

FARM FACTS

SHAREMILKERS: Jilly and Karl Haywood

LOCATION: Methven, Canterbury

FARM SIZE: 290ha (effective)

HERD SIZE: 820 Kiwi-Cross

PRODUCTION: 330,000kg MS

WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD



When it comes to rearing calves, Methven dairy farmer Jilly Haywood knows a thing or two about the challenges involved. She rears about 250 calves each season and, over the years, has refined her approach to keeping them in tip-top condition.

Jilly and her husband Karl are 50:50 sharemilkers on Charles and Jan Whitehead's property at the foot of Mount Hutt. They run a low-cost calf-rearing system, which is the result of many years' effort to improve their practices, including introducing colostrum testing using a Brix refractometer.

"Caring for calves the right way from birth is about much more than getting good replacements for your herd. I think it's our moral obligation to care for all calves as best we can, whether they're heifers, beef calves or bobbies," says Jilly.

Ready to go

The Haywoods are grateful to their former vet, Nicola Neal from the Aspiring Calf Company, whose advice and guidance has been instrumental in helping them to establish a first-rate system for rearing great calves. They're also grateful for the excellent calving infrastructure established by the Whiteheads.

"Jan used to do the calves herself, so she knows what works well," says Jilly.

"We have four pens for bobbies, a converted woolshed with milk lines running to 14 pens, and another eight-bay calf shed that we use for the heifers. This means I don't have to put the calves outside until they're ready to go."



Jilly uses a flow meter on the colostrum pump to ensure calves get the precise amount of high-quality colostrum.

Jilly gets the calf pens ready in June before calving starts in August. She limes the floors, disinfects everything and pressure-washes the feeders and wooden rails separating the calf sheds. She puts down woodchip on the floors just before calving.



Once the calves are 10 days old, Jilly starts gradually transitioning them from twice-a-day feeding to once-a-day.



Jilly using a Brix refractometer: one simple and inexpensive way to make sure calves get high-quality colostrum.



Jilly feeds her calves within 24 hours of their birth.

Refractometer brings results

It's impossible to test colostrum quality by simply looking at it, and quality varies from cow to cow. Using a Brix refractometer is one simple and inexpensive way to make sure calves get high-quality colostrum.

Jilly and Karl started using a Brix refractometer three years ago, based on the advice of Nicola Neal. She told the Haywoods about the latest colostrum research and the importance of giving calves the best quality colostrum as soon as possible after birth.

"We were farming in North Otago at the time, and the local vets were discussing how to increase the absorption of antibodies, and testing colostrum using a refractometer was the advice they gave," says Jilly.

"This will be our fourth season using it, and from our records, we've definitely noticed huge improvements in the breeding stats of our heifers since we started testing the colostrum.

"... WE'VE NEVER LOST A CALF THROUGH ILLNESS AND THAT'S DIRECTLY RELATED TO GIVING THEM HIGH-QUALITY COLOSTRUM."

"For example, we've never lost a calf through illness and that's directly related to giving them high-quality colostrum. I can't say they never get sick, because we sometimes get scours, but the animals recover a lot quicker.

"It's also about other management practices like good hygiene and powers of observation, so that you pick up any problems quickly."

Testing regime

Two seasons ago, Jilly and Karl decided to do something differently. The Brix refractometer wasn't recording enough high-quality colostrum, so they began drafting and milking the newly calved cows twice a day (within 12 hours of calving). The sooner the colostrum is collected, the better the quality. Although this can be time-consuming, Jilly says the benefits are worth it.

When the colostrum cows come in for their first milking, each cow is milked into a test bucket.

"I have a line of buckets set up and we take a sample from each one using a pipette," says Jilly. "We put a drop on to the refractometer and check the Brix reading (a measure of the antibody content). If it's over 22 percent, it's good quality, so we pool that colostrum."

Storing colostrum

The Haywoods chill their cows' colostrum in a refrigerated vat. Using a flow meter, Jilly pumps out the precise daily amount she needs into 200-litre barrels in the calf shed and warms it up. She adds colostrum preservative to the remainder, which is stored in an unrefrigerated 15,000-litre tank with a stirrer. The Haywoods don't use milk from the vat or buy milk powder.

Jilly and Karl add potassium sorbate to any 'gold' colostrum (the best-quality colostrum that comes from a cow's first milking after calving) that's not used immediately. They then store this in clean buckets with lids for up to three days.

"I always have a store of 'gold' on hand and freeze it too," says Jilly. "Potassium sorbate helps to preserve the colostrum and reduces bacteria contamination."

Feeding newly collected calves

Jilly and Karl collect calves at least twice a day, and up to four times a day, depending on the weather and calf numbers. As soon as the calves come in, they're tubed with two litres of 'gold' colostrum. Jilly trains the calves at their next feed and they usually drink straight away but, if not, they're tubed again to ensure they get the full four litres of 'gold' colostrum.

"I ALWAYS HAVE A STORE OF 'GOLD' ON HAND AND FREEZE IT TOO."



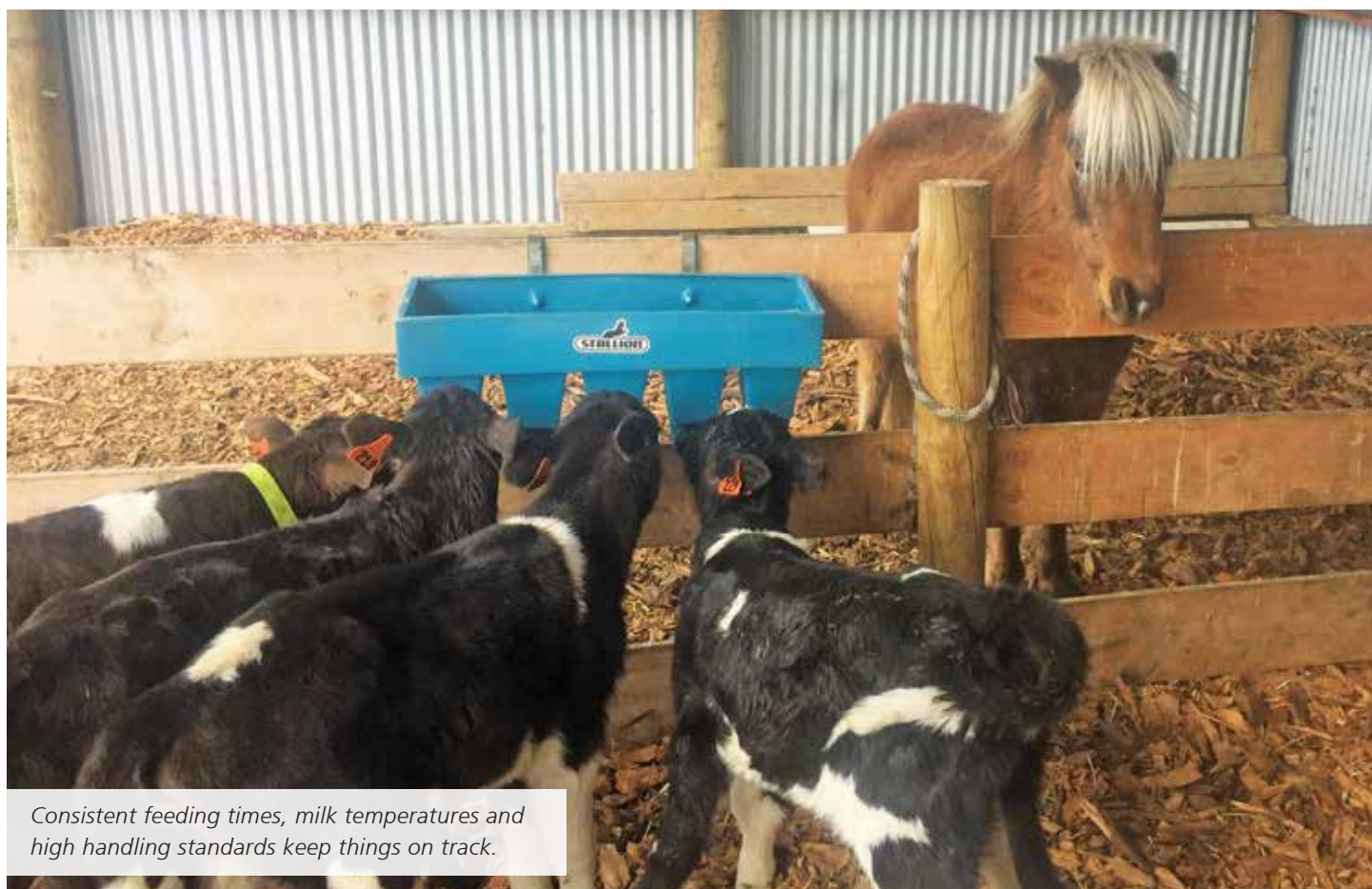
"Because I'm looking after so many calves, I give them about 30 seconds to feed when they first come in. If they don't feed, I tube them right away in order to guarantee every calf gets the right amount of gold as quickly as possible," says Jilly.

Stress-free changes

When the calves are 10 days old, Jilly starts transitioning them from twice-a-day feeding to once-a-day, but she does this gradually.

"It's not a case of 'here's double your breakfast; you're having no tea'. I'll increase the morning feed from two to four litres over four days, then feed them meal in the evening because I find that gets them eating meal really quickly. No two changes are made in the same week.

"It could be transitioning to once-a-day feeding one week, disbudding the next, or putting them outside another week. The order varies, depending on workload, but the idea is to keep the animals as stress-free as possible."



Consistent feeding times, milk temperatures and high handling standards keep things on track.



Jilly makes sure her calf-rearing approach keeps the animals as stress-free as possible.



Having the right calf-care tools ready makes a big difference when things get busy.



Rearing calves is a time-consuming task. This year, Jilly's making sure she gets in extra help when needed, so there's more time for family.

"ALL ANIMALS, INCLUDING CALVES, SHOULD BE VALUED AND TREATED WITH COMPASSION AND RESPECT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BEING PROFITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE."

End of season review

At the end of every season, the Haywoods review their farm performance, including calf rearing. They discuss what did and didn't work well, and what changes they'll make in the future.

"One thing that didn't work so well last season was my levels of fatigue," says Jilly. "We start calving at the end of July, and were still feeding the late-born calves until Christmas. Working at this level isn't sustainable, even though Karl takes over when the school holidays start, so this year I'll have help. It will be interesting to see how I go handing over some responsibility."

New Calf Care Toolkit

Jilly recently trialled and gave feedback on DairyNZ's new Calf Care Toolkit (see article on page 10 and visit dairynz.co.nz/calf-care-toolkit).

"I like that it's interactive and is personalised to your answers and gives you advice on areas that you're not doing well in, as well as giving you positive feedback on what you're doing well.

"One area we'd like to address is to stop feeding penicillin milk. We don't store it, but we do feed it as a cost-saving exercise. This is something we plan to stop doing in future."

Looking to the future

The Haywoods would like to see the New Zealand dairy sector maintaining its reputation as a world-leader in animal welfare.

"All animals, including calves, should be valued and treated with compassion and respect, while at the same time being profitable and sustainable," says Jilly.

"Our dream is that we can hold our heads high as a sector and say, yes, we take calves off their mums, but come and see everything we do to give them the best possible life."

To learn more about setting up a great calf-rearing system, go to dairynz.co.nz/calf-care

Words: Christine Hartley Photos: Tony Benny

JILLY AND KARL'S TOP CALF REARING TIPS



- ✓ **Preparation** – get everything ready early and have a detailed plan in place for what the team needs to do in the calf shed.
- ✓ **Gold colostrum** – ensure you're feeding the right quantity at the right quality, quickly.
- ✓ **Consistency** – stick to a daily routine: same feeding times, same milk temperature, same high handling standards.
- ✓ **Observation** – always monitor calves' behaviour and appearance so you can spot any issues and act quickly.
- ✓ **Environment** – ensure calves have a warm, dry and well-ventilated area with comfortable bedding and plenty of space.
- ✓ **Gradual changes** – prevent stress to calves by transitioning them slowly; make no more than one change per week.

THREE Qs OF COLOSTRUM

Follow these rules to ensure calves get what they need from their colostrum:

Quality

Colostrum quality is measured by the amount of protective antibodies it contains. Use a Brix refractometer to test if your colostrum measures 22 percent or more.



Quickly

Feed your calves as soon as you can – they can absorb antibodies only within their first 24 hours of birth. Every hour counts!



Quantity

Calves should be fed four to six litres of colostrum within their first 12 hours of life. A calf can hold only about 1.5 to two litres in its abomasum (fourth stomach), so the goal is two feeds in 12 hours.



Ella checks the colostrum using a Brix refractometer.



Jilly aims for the best life for her calves.



Jilly sets up the calf pens so they're ready in June before calving starts in August.

Future-proofing at the fore

There was plenty of discussion about the future of dairying and a strong focus on levy-funded science at the DairyNZ Farmers' Forum events.

The science that farmers and rural professionals want to know more about was presented at our six Farmers' Forum events in April and May. Event attendees were first to see these regionally relevant science snapshot videos presented by key scientists. Follow-up questions were answered by DairyNZ scientists.

At some events, farmers were able to vote for their top picks of nine possible science snapshots, all of which are online at dairynz.co.nz/farmers-forum

Here are just some of the findings presented.

Improving lifetime productivity

DairyNZ senior scientist Claire Phyn spoke about some promising results from the Pillars of a New Dairy System research programme. This research is investigating new ways to improve cow health, fertility and longevity.

A key finding from the research is that feeding cows synthetic zeolite pre-calving significantly reduces milk fever risk by

improving blood calcium concentrations at calving. There are also indications of positive effects on reproduction. Plans are underway to test this at a large scale.

Reducing nitrate leaching

DairyNZ senior scientist Ina Pinxterhuis spoke about the Forages for Reduced Nitrate Leaching (FRNL) research programme. This has been looking for practical and relatively easy options to help farmers reduce nitrate leaching by 20 percent through using pasture and crops.

The science has found that plantain and fodder beet can reduce the nitrogen loads in urine patches – the main pathway of nitrogen loss in grazed farm systems – by up to 50 percent. Catch crops also appear promising, reducing nitrate leaching by 20 to 40 percent. Some farmers involved in the programme have already shown this works on a farm scale and have managed to reduce nitrate leaching by 20 percent.



DairyNZ developer Maitland Manning (right) has a laugh with a farmer at the Timaru Farmers' Forum.



At some events, farmers voted for the science snapshots they most wanted to hear about.



Farmers' Forum Westport: Josh Wheeler from QCONZ presents on creating a sustainable motivated workforce through milking efficiency.



DairyNZ director Colin Glass welcomes farmers to the Timaru Farmers' Forum.

Fodder beet

DairyNZ senior scientists Dawn Dalley and Paul Edwards gave an update on the latest Southern Dairy Hub research into the cumulative effects of fodder beet on animal health.

That research has found that rising one-year-old heifers fed fodder beet over winter had a lower growth rate compared to those fed kale. The beet-fed cows were also deficient in phosphorous and calcium. Both herds were low in magnesium. Heifer calves born from cows wintered on beet were also lighter and smaller in stature than those from cows wintered on kale.

Powerful plantain

The latest plantain research shows this herb could be a game-changer in helping farmers reduce their environmental footprint.

DairyNZ principal scientist David Chapman presented findings from small-scale studies, which found plantain significantly reduced nitrate leaching compared to other pastures.

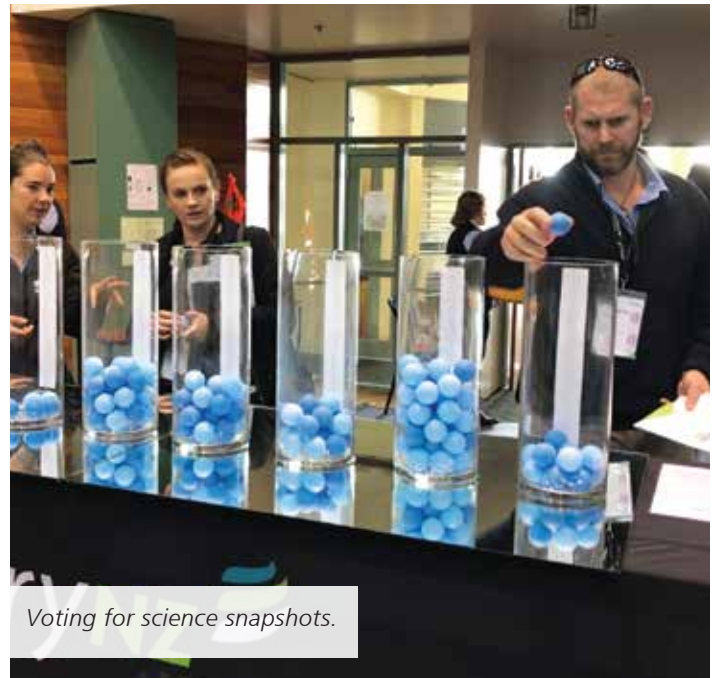
The next step is to test plantain's potential to reduce nitrate leaching on a farm scale. We expect, by incorporating plantain into pasture, farmers could reduce nitrate leaching by 20 to 30 percent.

Plantain also looks a positive option to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Promising new ryegrass

An update was given on a new genetically modified high metabolisable energy (HME) ryegrass that could help farmers reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Tests have found accelerated growth compared to conventional ryegrass, but the biggest benefits are that it is expected to decrease methane emissions by up to 23 percent



Voting for science snapshots.

and reduce nitrate leaching.

AgResearch principal scientist Greg Bryan said HME ryegrass has almost seven percent fat, while conventional ryegrass has around 3.5 percent.

Field trials are currently underway in the United States.

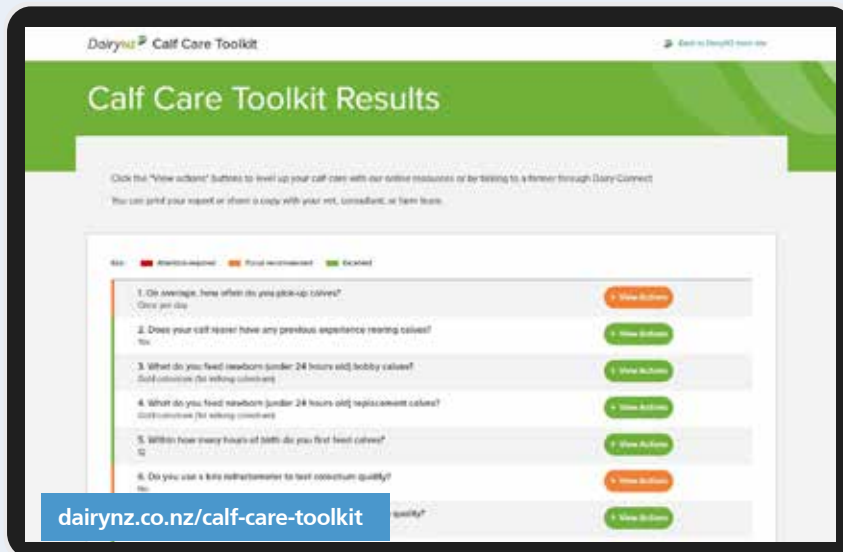
Videos online

Check out all the science snapshot videos at dairynz.co.nz/farmers-forum

Level up your calf care



New Zealand dairy farmers do a great job of calf care, but what if we could do even better? DairyNZ Animal Care Team member Katherine DeWitt introduces our new levy-funded Calf Care Toolkit.



“IT’S VERY EASY TO USE AND PEOPLE CAN MAKE INSTANT CHANGES.”

New knowledge gives everyone the opportunity to improve, whether you’re starting out in farming or have 20 years’ experience. To help you take your calf care systems to the next level, DairyNZ has developed what we’ve called the ‘Calf Care Toolkit’. And we’re launching it now so you can put it to use during this calving season.

We know farmers like hearing from other farmers, so we developed the Calf Care Toolkit with this in mind. We spoke with farmers around the country to get an understanding of the ‘how?’ and ‘why?’ behind their calf care systems. You’ll see their advice throughout the toolkit.

So how does the toolkit work? By answering 12 easy questions online, you receive instant, tailored feedback on ways to make your calf care even better. Once you’ve decided which areas to focus on, simply follow the web links for more advice and support. You can also share your results with your team, veterinarian or consultant.

Use the Calf Care Toolkit today – dairynz.co.nz/calf-care-toolkit

Tried and tested by farmers

After four seasons on-farm, Rhys Darby remains keen on seeking out new information. “I always want to have new and best-practice information, so the team is up to date.”

That hunger to learn led to Rhys’ involvement in the Calf Care Toolkit pilot. Using the toolkit helped Rhys to identify that preserving his gold colostrum would improve his calf care – a simple action he’s put into practice this season.

“We milk our colostrum cows in the evening and store some of our gold colostrum overnight. We’ve been mixing up the potassium sorbate daily and putting it in our gold colostrum to maintain its quality until we feed it the next morning. It was a really easy change to make and just required a change of mindset and setting up a system around it.”

Rhys reckons the Calf Care Toolkit is a winner and recommends other farmers give it a go.

“It’s very easy to use and people can make instant changes. It’s great to have information around what and why farmers are doing things.

The quotes from other farmers are fantastic.”



Rhys Darby has found the Calf Care Toolkit is a real winner.

Accurate records breed success



Are the heifers you choose to keep the ones you think they are? Save yourself time and money by using DNA testing to match calves to parents, writes DairyNZ genetic evaluation developer Melissa Stephen.

Mistakes can be costly

Accurate record keeping is essential if you want to avoid costly mistakes. Parentage errors can quickly add up to big losses, both within an individual herd and across the whole sector.

During a busy calving season, accurate record-keeping can be tricky. A 2011 study of 97 farms showed that about two in every 10 calves were incorrectly matched with their sires and/or dams. DNA testing can correct these errors before they cost you money. The compounding nature of genetic gain means the impact of low genetic merit heifers is perpetuated in their progeny long after the animal has left the herd. Mis-parentage in your herd also creates risk at mating time, as management of inbreeding is compromised.

In addition to within herd costs, incorrect parentage records mean a large proportion of daughters assigned to an individual sire will not actually be his. This undermines pedigree information which forms the foundation for genetic evaluation, ultimately hindering genetic progress in the national herd.

Worth the investment

For a relatively small investment (about \$30 per calf), DNA testing checks the genomic profile of a calf against its likely sire. If they don't match, the calf's profile is compared to other possible bulls, and the true sire determined.

Genetic progress worth big money

Genetic improvement has a direct economic value to farm profitability. Each year, genetically superior heifers enter the milking herd. These animals add value, initially through their own performance, and subsequently through the genetics passed on to their daughters.

Assuming the average rate of gain over the next 10 years will be \$11/cow/year, this value will accumulate to around \$250,000/ herd, or \$3 billion across the dairy sector.

► For details on how pedigree influences evaluations, visit dairynz.co.nz/parentage



Why DNA test?

- Provides peace of mind that sires for each replacement heifer is correct.
- Confirms the mothers of your heifers (note: this costs more than a standard DNA test).
- Ensures that the data generated by your herd adds value to national genetic evaluations.

Tips for wellbeing at calving

“We offer staff flexibility, a good leader to follow, a productive learning environment, respect and the opportunity to be part of something bigger.”

Stuart Taylor, farm owner

Communication/learning

- Provide induction, orientation, user guides and demos
- Set clear roles, goals, timings, expectations, provide training
- Meet regularly, explain the 'why' behind what's needed
- Lead by example, praise staff and celebrate successes

“It's not always easy to accept help, but there are options and support there if you're prepared to.”

Craig Gibbs, sharemilker

Mental health and support

- Keep an eye out for each other
- Ask for help/talk to someone
- Get in touch with a mental health support service (encourage others to, too)

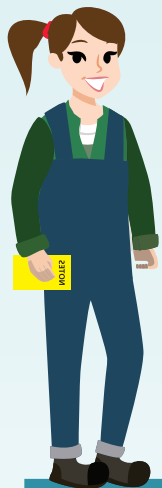


“Monitoring the hours worked during calving is important....it's all about sustaining the team. If I see the hours are creeping up, I can say 'time to go home': Greg and I will finish up.”

Robyn Boswell, contract milker

Work/life balance

- Get plenty of sleep
- Delegate/fairly share the workload
- Ensure rosters support work/life balance – drop non-urgent jobs and outsource others
- Take on-farm and off-farm breaks



Five key areas to help you keep calm and stay well

- Keep learning.
- Rest and take notice.
- Be active and eat well.
- Connect and give.
- Have a plan.

Learn more at dairynz.co.nz/stay-well



Health and safety

- Provide H&S inductions and safety gear
- Maintain on-farm tools and equipment
- Ensure everyone reports H&S issues

“Having a H&S plan is one of the best things we've done to protect our business. It was too much of a risk to carry on with the 'she'll be right attitude'.”

Nat and Dave Wilson, farm owners



Refuel the body



- Eat healthily and drink less coffee and alcohol
- Keep healthy food, drink and snacks on hand
- Include meal breaks in rosters, food in meetings

“Every morning my boss Jamie and I get together to have breakfast after milking.”

Casey Meiklejohn,
farm worker/2IC



Organise and prepare

- Set up sheds, calf kits, animal treatment needs and other gear and supplies
- Regularly meet to share farm, work and season-specific plans with your staff

“As long as you pay attention to detail, stick to the system that you know works and create contingencies for adversities, then you're pretty right.”

Craig Fulton, equity partnership farmer

Technology tips

Use apps and software to:

- record H&S and hazards info, update and manage timesheets, rosters, payroll and budgets
- record/track animal health records, paddock info, environmental info
- operate automated systems
- set up an online farm calendar and a 'closed' staff website

“Tech is your friend. We're constantly looking at improvements and finding ways to work smarter. We don't adopt apps for the fun of it: they have to make logical sense and add value.”

Tesha Gibson, equity partnership farmer

Get advice, share knowledge

- DairyConnect and DairyNZ COs
- Discussion and progression groups
- Rural professionals/farm consultants
- Sector organisations, e.g. Dairy Women's Network (DWN); Federated Farmers etc.
- Practical skills and wellbeing workshops

“The biggest thing is to have a network – that's the handiest thing. To be able to pick the phone up and talk to someone you know who's been through that sort of thing.”

Ged Arbuckle, previous farm owner



It's important to talk to someone if wellbeing or mental health becomes a concern. Check out our resources too:

- dairynz.co.nz/wellbeing
- dairynz.co.nz/healthandsafety
- dairynz.co.nz/people
- dairynz.co.nz/calves

Down cows: upping our game



Top-notch down cow care greatly increases an animal's chances of making a full recovery – but there's no room for shortcuts, explains DairyNZ Animal Care Team manager Helen Thoday.

Kiwi dairy farmers are raising the bar when it comes to down cow care. We know this because, over the last two years, vets have been speaking to farmers at DairyNZ's Calving Smart events about simple, practical and effective approaches to down cows. And it's evident that farmers are adopting these approaches and delivering better welfare outcomes for their cows.

DairyNZ's farmer survey shows nearly 20 percent of farms are now providing a dedicated down cow area, and 80 percent of farmers are moving down cows to shelter or providing shelter.

On one farm, down cows are transported to straw bedding that's laid on a heated concrete pad in a calf shed bay. This keeps the cows warm so they can use their energy elsewhere. We've also seen good alternatives to hip clamps, with slings and even a water bath being used to lift cows.

We also know preventative measures for down cows are now well established. Most farmers have a solid approach to pre- and post-calving supplementation and body condition score targets.

Going a step further

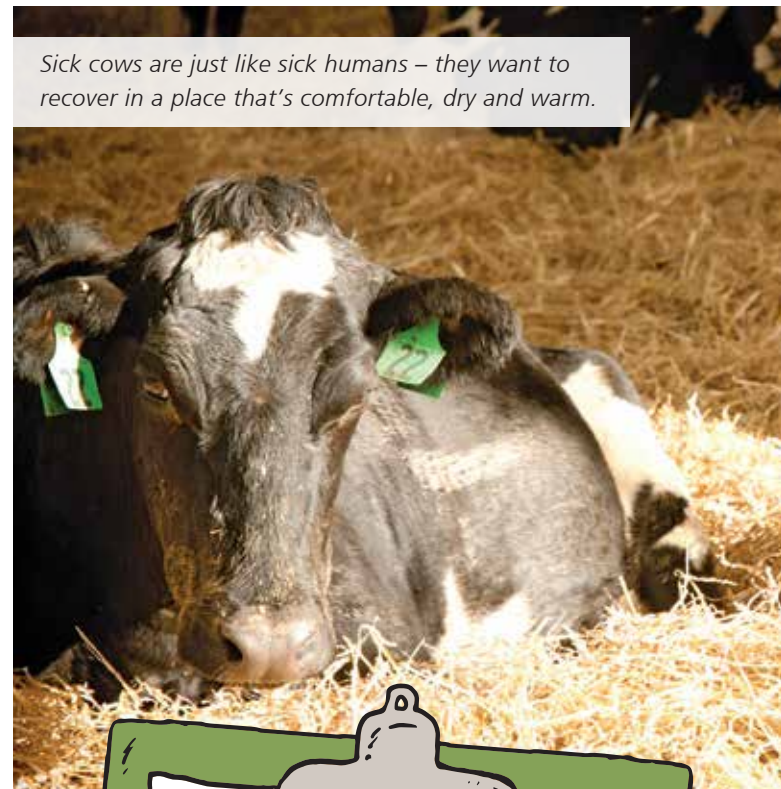
Research shows high-quality care significantly increases a down cow's chances of recovery from their initial cause of going down, and from further complications. However, research also shows that down cow care has little benefit unless we implement all the factors discussed in this article. In short, there's no point taking shortcuts.

Think about what we want when we're sick: somewhere to lie that's comfortable, dry and warm, some palatable food, and lots of fresh water. For cows, it's pretty much the same.

The best place for a down cow is under a roof or well-sheltered area. But if you can't provide a dedicated down cow area, some easy ways to care for cows in the paddock include using cow covers, putting out a few hay bales to provide shelter from the weather, and regularly rolling the animal to shift sides.

Another important care factor is the use of anti-inflammatories alongside standard treatment procedures. Half of farmers have indicated they're administering anti-inflammatories to down cows, which makes cows feel much better. If you haven't considered this practice, have a chat with your vet for more information.

Down cows should always be a priority, even in spring when your farm team's time is stretched. Putting in that little bit extra will give your cows a much better chance of making it back to milking.



Sick cows are just like sick humans – they want to recover in a place that's comfortable, dry and warm.



Learn more about preventing and managing down cows at dairynz.co.nz/down-cows

It's all about the transition



The transition period, three weeks pre- until three weeks post-calving, is one of the most important periods of a dairy cow's life, as DairyNZ senior scientist Jane Kay explains.

Dairy cows face many physiological challenges during this time. Appropriate management is vital to ensure a successful transition from late pregnancy to early lactation. This will optimise performance (health, milk production and reproduction) in the season ahead. Use the checklist below to stay on track.

1. Ensure all cows are at target body condition score (BCS) two to three weeks before calving.

- Aim for 5.5 BCS units for first- and second-calvers and 5.0 for mixed-age cows.
- It's very difficult to change BCS in the last month before calving, as the cow partitions much of her energy and nutrient intake to her growing calf.
- Use a certified assessor to BCS your cows.

2. Identify at-risk animals.

- This includes all animals that are 'above' or 'below' BCS targets.
- The risk of metabolic disorders (e.g. milk fever and ketosis) increases in cows above BCS targets. The risk of infectious diseases (e.g. metritis and mastitis) increases in cows below their target BCS.

3. Allocate feed to cows according to their BCS (see table, top right).

- Cows at or above target BCS should be fed 90 percent of their daily energy requirements for two to three weeks before calving.
- Cows that are below target BCS should be fed 100 percent of their daily energy requirements.

4. Supplement all cows with magnesium pre- and post-calving.

- Dry cows require 0.4 percent of dry matter (DM) magnesium in the diet for two to three weeks pre-calving.
- Lactating cows require 0.3 percent of DM magnesium for four months post-calving.

5. Keep dietary calcium levels low pre-calving.

- The risk of milk fever is reduced if dietary calcium levels can be maintained below 0.5 percent of DM before calving.

LWT	COWS LESS THAN BCS 5.0 100% of daily requirement		COWS AT OR GREATER THAN BCS 5.0 90% of daily requirement LWT	
	ME requirements	DMI requirements**	ME requirements	DMI requirements**
350	85	7.7	76	6.9
400	94	8.5	84	7.6
450	102	9.3	92	8.4
500	111	10.1	100	9.1
550	119	10.8	107	9.7

*These are eaten figures. Allowance needs to include feed wastage
** ME = 11 MJ ME/kg DM

6. Supplement all colostrum cows with calcium.

- All cows should receive at least 100 grams (g) of lime flour daily during the colostrum period.
- Give more (300g) to at-risk cows, e.g. older cows, Jerseys, or those above BCS 5.5 at calving.

7. Maintain dietary phosphorus between 0.25 and 0.45 percent of DM pre-calving.

- Avoid pre-calving feeds high in phosphorus (e.g. palm kernel extract).
- Supplement with phosphorus if cows have a diet consisting of low-phosphorus feeds (e.g. fodder beet).

8. Avoid grazing effluent or recently fertilised paddocks as these can contain high levels of potassium.

- Research shows that potassium levels in pasture ranging from 1.0 to 4.5 percent of DM do not increase the risk of milk fever.
- However, effluent or fertilised paddocks can have higher potassium levels and increase the incidence of milk fever.

Details at dairynz.co.nz/transition and FeedRight Technotes 12 and 13 at dairynz.co.nz/feedright (resources).

Keeping your NAIT records up to date is an important part of biosecurity on your farm.

M. bovis advice and support

Find out what you need to know and do – and how to get support – as the work continues to eradicate *Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*) from New Zealand.

At DairyNZ, we understand the pressure the *M. bovis* Programme can put on some farmers. That's why we want to re-emphasise the importance of supporting one another and outline how to get help and advice if you need it.

Protecting your business

The best way to protect your business from *M. bovis*, and other diseases, pests and weeds is to make sure you're taking biosecurity precautions.

For example, quarantining new or returning stock, asking questions about animal health before purchasing stock and giving young calves special protection.

Read more at dairynz.co.nz/biosecurity

If you think you may have animals from a farm that has (or has had) *M. bovis* – but you've not been contacted by the *M. bovis* Programme – please call the *M. bovis* Liaison Team on **04 894 5656**.

Grazing and stock movements

Talk with your grazier about protecting your animals. This includes keeping your mobs separate to others, having agreed processes for sick animals and maintaining clean yards. Read more at dairynz.co.nz/biosecurity-at-grazing

NAIT is non-negotiable

The tracing of animals is key to knowing where the disease lies – that's why it's a legal requirement. Keep your NAIT records up to date and record all animal movements. This helps to speed up the process for farmers whose animals are undergoing testing. It also ensures the *M. bovis* Programme is alerted to your property only if the animals are actually there.

Support

Please look out for one another. Farmers whose stock have been affected by this disease will need support from the community to recover from this. Advice and help is also available from the Rural Support Trust at

rural-support.org.nz or your local DairyNZ consulting officer – details at dairynz.co.nz/co

If you have been contacted by the *M. bovis* Programme to arrange testing animals on your farm, please get in touch with us on our freephone **0800 4 3247969**. We can connect you with DairyNZ staff on the ground who are working in the *M. bovis* Recovery

Team. They'll help you to continue to farm as close to normal as possible.

“[NAIT] tracing of animals is key to knowing where the disease lies – that's why it's a legal requirement.”

Get the latest news updates, guides, tips, advice and resources on *M. bovis* at dairynz.co.nz/mbovis

Key points

- Protect your business: put biosecurity precautions in place.
- Talk with your grazier about protecting your animals.
- Keep your NAIT records up to date.

Meet DairyNZ's Scott Farm Team



We talk to Ben Fisher, farm manager at DairyNZ's Scott Farm near Hamilton. The team's combined focus on farming and research provides them with unique challenges and rewards.

What does the Scott Farm Team do overall?

I get people looking wide-eyed at me when I say we're a team of seven managing a 360-cow farm – normally you'd only need two, maybe three people. We do everything commercial dairy farmers do, but on a research farm, it's at a more intense level. For example, we herd-test every week and check liveweights and body condition scores every fortnight.

While we do all the usual farm jobs, we also get to be a part of the research side, taking what farmers have told us they want investigated and making that happen.

What are the specific roles in the team?

I have two senior farm assistants and a group of four farm assistants who are school leavers and university graduates. It's a great team with lots of different strengths.

We all work across the different projects and I try to share the farm duties around the team as much as possible so everyone is learning what it takes to run a dairy farm.

How does the farm team's work fit in with the research being done on the farm?

We're a key part of putting the research theory into practice. We have multiple research projects running on the farm at any one time. The largest project currently underway is the three-year *Forage Value Index Validation (FVIV)* project. It involves 10 individual herds of 14 cows per herd; each herd is managed as its own independent farmlet and the paddocks are spread around the farm.

It takes three to four people every day to get all the groups of cows to and from the cowshed and then back to their specific paddocks. Then there's all the break fencing and feeding out needed to ensure each herd gets its specific needs. During calving we have lactating and dry cows, so we can have up to 30 herds to manage, in and around all the project work.

What are you and your team most proud of in relation to your achievements recently?

We're most proud of the way we work together and our team culture – everyone gets on really well and works hard to support each other. We're also really proud to be part of the hands-on side of research that is working towards positive change for New Zealand's dairy farmers.



The Scott Farm Team - left to right:
Back row: Johannes Nagel, Lachlan Bishop, Brendan Graham, Ben Fisher. Front row: Grace Gibberd, Odette Chauncy, Emma Rauhala.

HOW CAN PEOPLE FIND OUT MORE?



- ➔ DairyNZ has multiple projects underway at Scott Farm and its neighbour Lye Farm – you can find out more at dairynz.co.nz/research
- ➔ Where possible, DairyNZ also occasionally hosts visits for groups of farmers (by arrangement) and we hold open days at our research farms.
- ➔ It's also worth looking at dairynz.co.nz/careers – working on our research farms provides a great stepping stone into dairying.



How does your calf survival rate?



Calf survival rates are an important indicator of health and welfare, according to a recent study providing valuable reference data from 30 farms. DairyNZ's senior scientist Claire Phyn explains.

Increasing evaluation of dairy cattle welfare is placing greater emphasis on ensuring every animal is valued and treated with care and respect. As one of its six key commitments, New Zealand's dairy sector strategy *Dairy Tomorrow* states that "we will be world leading in on-farm animal care". This includes the world-leading care of all calves regardless of their destination.

Poor calf survival rates (or high mortality rates) can indicate problems with springer cow management, calving difficulties and calf rearing practices.

Research findings

Pillars of New Dairy System* research has provided highly accurate reference data on calf survival/mortality rates. The survey, led by Dr Emma Cuttance from VetEnt Research, tracked more than 18,000 calf births and subsequent animal movements on 17 herds in Waikato and 13 herds in Canterbury.

In the study herds, 94 percent of births resulted in a successful live calf pick-up for transport to the rearing shed. Five percent of female calves and 6.5 percent of male calves didn't survive birth, or died/were euthanised within 24 hours before they were brought to the rearing shed.

Despite our different production system, figures were similar to international data, but ranged from two to nine percent between farms. Top operators achieved live calf pick-up rates greater than 96 percent.

Poorer survival rates in male calves were likely due to dystocia (blocked labour), associated with their greater size. Calves born at the very start of the calving season also had the greatest risk of mortality, possibly due to late-term abortions, less farmer observation and difficult calvings in heifers.

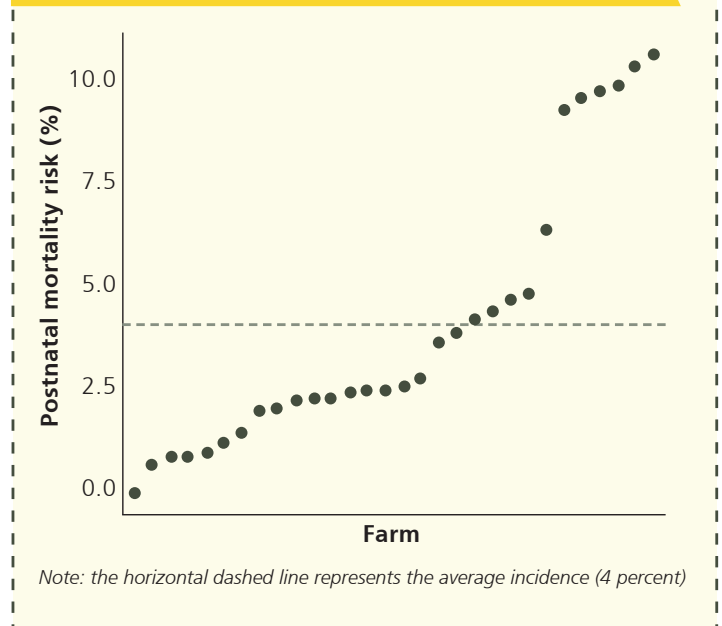
Mortality risk increased again at end of the calving season. This may have been related to increased risk of dystocia in over-conditioned cows and farmer fatigue. Greater attention to these periods, at least twice-daily calf pick-ups and regular checking of calving cows during bad weather will help increase the number of successful births.

Rearing shed issues

The remaining calves were tracked entering the rearing shed until end of weaning (on average, 13 weeks old). There was an average rearing shed mortality rate of four percent, but with a large range of 0 to 11 percent between farms (see Figure 1).

Results indicate opportunities to increase postnatal calf

Figure 1:
Calf mortality rates in the rearing shed across 30 farms



survival, especially for farms with mortality rates greater than five percent. The best operators had mortality rates of less than three percent.

Improving calf health is key during the first week of life, as is ensuring excellent colostrum quality and management in setting calves up for a healthy and productive life.

To determine how your calf survival compares, record all births and deaths. For more information on calf care, visit dairynz.co.nz/calves

Key points

1. On average, 94 percent of births result in a live calf transported to the rearing shed, but top operators achieve over 96 percent.
2. Aim to have calf mortality rates below three percent in the rearing shed.
3. Best practice colostrum management and disease control improves calf survival and health.

*funded by dairy farmers through DairyNZ and by the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment.



Rosie takes to new technology

DairyNZ's cowbassador Rosie and her best mate Nate recently fronted a new six-week-long campaign for kids.



DairyNZ is always looking for new ways to share the positive dairying story with children. That's why we ran a levy-funded campaign called *Good to Know* on our Rosie's World website in April and May. This campaign was designed with a specific focus: to help primary school children (and their parents) learn more about 'cool cows, smart farmers, clever technology and amazing dairy science – and what makes them unique'.

Rosie the cow and co-star Nate led *Good to Know*, using creative approaches and interactive dialogue to capture children's attention. The tech-savvy duo shared 'farmtastic' cow, science and technology facts with their young fans via Rosie's 'cow cam', giving kids a sense of what Rosie sees when she's on the job.

Children could also watch three entertaining short videos: Cow Facts, Science Facts and Technology Facts. These and a series of online 'Did you Know?' statements proved popular.

We also ran a competition and the winner, nine-year-old Max Cosgrove from Christchurch/Avonhead, was announced on TVNZ's *What Now* on May 12.

Good to Know was created under DairyNZ's 'Dairy Doing Good' banner, and followed on from three earlier campaigns: *Good for Me*, *Good for Us* and *Good for NZ*. Driving these campaign is a goal to increase Kiwi children's knowledge of the 'good things' in our dairy sector. We want to inspire a future generation of dairy farmers, and these campaigns help sow the seeds of interest.

Key points

- DairyNZ's *Good to Know* campaign ran on Rosie's World through April and May 2019.
- The key campaign focus was facts, science and technology for primary school children.
- Visit rosiesworld.co.nz to view the videos.

Did you know?

Here are a few of the 'did you know?' questions Rosie and Nate shared with their online fans during the campaign.

Did you know cows' spots are like fingerprints?

Holstein-Friesian cows have their own special set of spots – no two animals are the same. Humans have their own special fingerprints – no two humans are the same either.

Did you know a cow's body temperature is higher than ours?

A cow's normal body temperature is 38.6°C. A human's is 36.5 to 37.5 °C. If your temperature rose to the same as a cow's, you'd have a fever – and might need to see your doctor!

Pasture: use it or lose it



DairyNZ farm systems specialist Chris Glassey explains how better managing post-residual grazing can increase grass growth rates and improve profit.

The saying 'grass grows grass' is often misinterpreted. It should be used only in the context of keeping average pasture cover above minimum levels across the whole farm from start of calving to balance date. That's when growth rate is more closely related to the days between grazing, not the intensity of grazing events. 'Grass grows grass' does not mean leaving high grazing residuals to promote pasture growth.

In fact, leaving too much grass behind after grazing can be wasteful and reduce subsequent growth rates. That's because ungrazed grass blades die before the next grazing. This means, in conservatively grazed pastures, net dry matter (DM) accumulation is reduced because the amount of pasture lost to decay is greater than the rate of new emerging growth.

The purpose of a spring rotation plan is to ensure that area allocation of pasture (rotation length) from start of calving is planned at a rate that's not too fast or too slow for retaining pasture cover, pasture growth and pasture quality. This should result in sufficient grazing intensity to set target grazing residuals at 3.5 to 4.0 centimetres (1500 kilograms of DM per hectare – or kg DM/ha).

Consistency is important too: don't force cows to graze lower than at the last grazing. They won't want to, and eating old pasture results in lower quality feed and likely reduced production.



First-rotation grazing residual should be similar to the photo: 1300kg DM/ha, or 6 clicks. 'Grass grows grass' is not an excuse to leave grass behind.

Residual grazing: research

In the late 1990s the effect of leaving higher post-grazing residuals in winter on subsequent pasture growth rates was tested.

- In early and late July, pastures were grazed for two, four, eight or 24 hours, then protected from further grazing using cages. Post-grazing residuals ranged from 864kg DM/ha to 1773kg DM/ha. Regrowth from each was measured over the next 52 days (see *Table 1*).
- Even though the 24-hour areas were grazed much harder than the two-hour areas, their accumulated growth after 52 days was 38 percent higher. The area with the lightest grazing had the lowest regrowth, although it maintained the highest pasture cover at the next grazing.

Table 1 : Average pre- and post-grazing and accumulated pasture cover (kg DM/ha) for areas grazed for 2, 4, 8 and 24 hours in July.

HOURS	2	4	8	24
Post-grazing cover (July)	1773	1425	1155	864
Pre-grazing cover (September)	3264	3030	3000	2916
Accumulated growth (52 days)	1491	1605	1845	2052
Net pasture growth (kg DM/ha/day)	29	31	35	39

More extensive research in 2006 identified that grazing intensity resulting in a post-grazing residual of 3.5 to 4.0 centimetres (compressed height):

- maintains sufficient plant energy reserves
- maximises pasture regrowth and quality
- encourages tiller initiation (through increased light penetration)
- minimises pasture wastage.

Find out more about using the Spring Rotation Planner at dairynz.co.nz/SRP



All set for Fieldays 2019

Thousands of people from around the world will converge at Mystery Creek in Hamilton for the annual National Agricultural Fieldays in June. We'll be part of the action in four different areas.

Main pavilion: sites PC 44, 46 and 48

This year's Fieldays theme is *Cultivating Value*. Come and have a chat with us about where we're investing your levy and the value that investment is returning for you and the dairy sector.

Show us your Farm Gauge results and win

At last year's Mystery Creek Fieldays we launched DairyNZ's Farm Gauge (dairynz.co.nz/farm-gauge) – an online tool to help assess your farm business, identify opportunities and create an action plan. It's now been updated so you can access your results from anywhere, any time.

To mark this milestone, we're giving you the opportunity to win a drone, so you can get another kind of picture of your whole farm business.

How to win

Discuss your Farm Gauge results with a DairyNZ specialist at Mystery Creek Fieldays in Hamilton (and South Island Dairy Event, SIDE, in Invercargill later in June). They'll help you hone in on any areas of opportunity. After your chat, you'll receive a handy Farm Gauge magnet to record your focus areas on and we'll put you in the draw to win the drone.

It's easy to enter:

- ✓ Complete at least one section in Farm Gauge.
- ✓ Save your results.
- ✓ Head to our stand at Mystery Creek Fieldays or SIDE.
- ✓ Show us your results.

Careers and Education Hub

We're part of the Careers and Education Hub where school groups, teachers, students, their parents and anyone interested can learn more about careers, rewards and training opportunities available in the primary sector.

Health Hub

At the Health Hub, we're taking people through the Five Ways of Wellbeing – Give, Take Notice, Be Active, Connect and Keep Learning – research shows that together, these five actions into day-to-day lives provide important physical and mental wellbeing benefits for individuals, families, communities and organisations.



The Rosie Show

Rosie, our 'cowbassador', will again be starring in her own show about life on a dairy farm, staged on the Village Green outside the main pavilion. When Rosie's not performing, you'll find her at the Old School Classroom in the Heritage Village.



National Fieldays

Mystery Creek, Hamilton

Wednesday 12 to 15 June, 2019

For more about what's on and to buy tickets, visit fieldays.co.nz



Did you know?

- The first Fieldays event was held in 1968.
- Last year, its 50th event, Fieldays welcomed 130,866 visitors over four days.
- There were 1051 exhibitors across 1460 sites in 2018.
- It's now the largest agricultural event in the Southern Hemisphere.

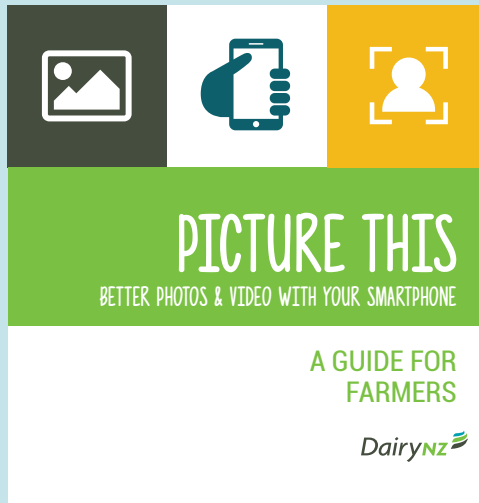


Snap happy

Although everyone knows that the smartphone in their pocket can take photos and video, DairyNZ has published a guide book that provides tips and techniques to turn the 'good' into 'great'.

The guide has been authored by professional photographer John Slater, whose work you'll recognise from *Inside Dairy* and other DairyNZ publications.

You can download the *Picture This* booklet free from dairynz.co.nz/picture-this – although limited printed copies are available to order from info@dairynz.co.nz



How are top farmers spending their money?

DairyNZ's Budget Case Study farmers have shared their forecast budget for 2019/20. The Budget Case Study pages detail the financial spending of top-performing dairy farms to help other farmers plan their own budgets and respond to challenges throughout the year.



Information includes how the farmers are spending their money on animal health, feed management and breeding and herd improvement.

See how dairying's top operators are spending their money, and get some ideas on where you can make savings in your own business – dairynz.co.nz/budgetcasestudies

Latest DNZ Economic Survey

Our latest survey shows farmers increased their spending in relation to on-farm working expenses, tax payments and drawings during 2017/18.

DairyNZ's senior economist Matt Newman says the largest increases in spend were on feed, repairs, maintenance and labour.

"Prices were higher for fuel, electricity, breeding and insurance during that time, but it could also reflect deferred expenses from the lower milk price seasons prior to this period. Unfortunately, this swallowed up a significant portion of the improved incomes that had partly been achieved through better milk payouts during 2017/18."

The 2017/18 period also followed a dry spring/early summer, says Matt.

"That affected pasture growth and peak milk production. It's also the season that *Mycoplasma bovis* was discovered. The survey also showed a decrease in Fonterra share values and livestock values that negatively affected owner-operator farms.

"Overall, 13.1 percent of farms had debt-to-asset ratios over 80 percent. The key message from this survey is that as a sector, we need to maintain our competitiveness by striving to produce milk at profitable margins and being prepared for the next downturn in milk prices."

You can view or download a free copy of the survey at dairynz.co.nz/economicsurvey



Meeting cow lying time needs

Winter conditions can affect cows' ability to get the minimum amount of daily lying time they need to be healthy and comfortable.



Research has shown that cows prefer lying down to feeding during challenging conditions. Cow lying time is driven by surface conditions and space. On a winter break-fed paddock, cows need access to enough dry area to lie down and meet lying time requirements (a minimum of eight hours a day).

Studies show lying times are reduced during and shortly after prolonged wet weather events. That's because, from a cow's point of view, wet surfaces are less comfortable to lie on. If wet weather continues for even longer, a cow's lying time will reduce to very little at all.

DairyNZ Southern Wintering Project leader Nick Tait says, during bad weather, farmers can increase their herds' opportunity to lie down. For example, have a long feeding 'face' (a minimum of one metre of the overall exposed feed area per cow) and provide plenty of supplement in bale feeders. Some farmers prefer block feeding which comes at a cost around utilisation and can be unsuitable for fodder beet.

"Having a long feeding face means the cows have more space," says Nick. "Less crowding means soils don't get as pugged and damaged." He adds that moving the break more regularly also helps to keep the cows presented with a drier strip. "Be careful though if you're doing this with fodder beet, as it may impact allocation."



Cow lying time is driven by surface conditions and space.

Have a Plan B

Southland farmers told us about how they prepare for and manage this issue during extreme wet periods.

- Create more space by opening the paddock next to the crop paddock.
- Move stock to drier paddocks elsewhere on farm.
- Have a break with a hedge 'up your sleeve' for when it snows or a storm is due.
- Move or drop the back fence back out to allow access to drier areas.
- Provide a stand-off facility to reduce treading damage (although concrete surfaces are no more preferable than wet mud for lying down).

None of the Plan B options should prevent access to water, as cows on crops will still drink a lot of water.

Key points



Set your Plan B 'trigger point' (how muddy is too muddy?) and cover the following:

1. Ensure cows have access to a drier lying spot most days.
2. Quickly split off individual sick cows to be cared for elsewhere.
3. Provide your team with the skills, time and resources to do these tasks.

June events

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3	04 TARANAKI Join the Oanonui discussion group's visit to a local piggery run by ex-dairy farmers. Contact Sarah Dirks to book your place.		06 SOUTH WAIKATO Arohena discussion group gets together from 11.00am at Brad and Laura Lewis's farm in Pukeatua.			9
10	11	12-15 WAIKATO National Fieldays, Mystery Creek, Hamilton, held Wed to Sat 12-15 June 2019. Come and see DairyNZ's people at our stands while you're there. Fieldays info and tickets at fieldays.co.nz				16
17	18	19 BAY OF PLENTY Waimana/Opotiki discussion group meets at Bryon Osborne's property in Waimana, using DairyBase as a benchmarking tool to find out more about the farm's system and how it's working.			22	23
24	25	26	27 LOWER NORTH ISLAND The Foxton/Moutoa discussion group meets between 10.30am and 1.30pm to examine a host farm's goals and objectives. Venue to be confirmed.			30

FOR A FULL LIST OF WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH, VISIT DAIRYNZ.CO.NZ/EVENTS

NORTHLAND

Get in touch with Dairy Connect to receive advice from one of our support farmers. Whether you're thinking of trying something new on-farm, or you're facing challenges and would just like to talk to someone with experience, sign up and we'll connect you with a support farmer who best suits your situation. Email Northland Dairy Connect coordinator Sheila Russell at sheila.russell@dairynz.co.nz or find out more at dairynz.co.nz/dairyconnect

WAIKATO

DairyNZ will be at Fieldays (June 12 to 15) once again and you can catch up with us at four sites across Mystery Creek in Hamilton.

Farm Gauge (with the chance to win a drone) will be a key focus. We're also part of Fieldays' Careers and Education Hub and Health Hub. Don't forget the Rosie Show on the Village Green either – fun for the whole family!

Get more details on DairyNZ's Fieldays activities and how to buy tickets to Fieldays on page 21.

BAY OF PLENTY

Approach the calving season with confidence. Come along to a CalvingSmart event in Whakatane, Te Puke or Reporoa early this month and ensure your team is prepared for the busiest time of the year.

Register now at dairynz.co.nz/events

TARANAKI

Dairy Connect is a great DairyNZ resource worth tapping into. If you're thinking of trying something new on-farm, or facing challenges and you'd like to talk to someone with experience, sign up now. We'll put you in touch with a support farmer matched to what you need. Email Taranaki Dairy Connect coordinator Nicola Bryant at nicola.bryant@dairynz.co.nz or find out more at dairynz.co.nz/dairyconnect

LOWER NORTH ISLAND

Calving season will soon be underway, so why not improve your calving skills by attending a CalvingSmart event in your area. To ensure your team is prepared for the busiest time of the year, sign up for an event in either Dannevirke or Rongotea this month.

Register now at dairynz.co.nz/events

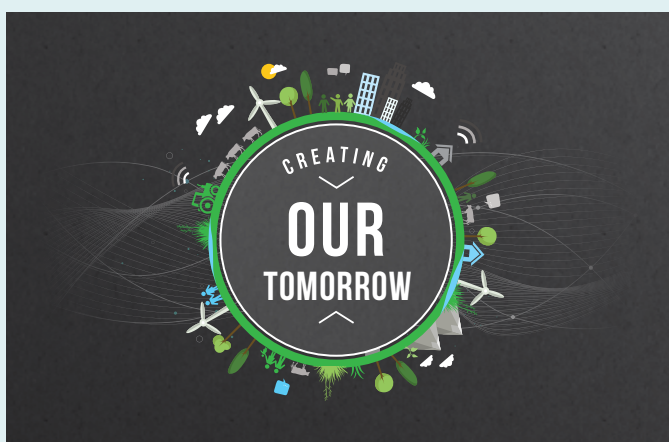
TOP OF THE SOUTH/WEST COAST

It's one of the busiest times of the year on the dairying calendar. Calving season is on its way so it's a good idea to get your team prepared for it now. Come along to a CalvingSmart event in Hokitika, Reefton or Takaka this month and get calving with confidence.

Register now at dairynz.co.nz/events

CANTERBURY/NORTH OTAGO

If you're thinking of trying something new on-farm or facing challenges and need some help and advice, get in touch with Dairy Connect. You'll be matched with one of our support farmers who's best suited to advising you on your situation – sometimes it's just a case of talking to someone with experience. Sign up now – email Canterbury/North Otago Dairy Connect coordinator Tania Burrows at tania.burrows@dairynz.co.nz or find out more at dairynz.co.nz/dairyconnect



SOUTHLAND/SOUTH OTAGO

This year's South Island Dairy Event (SIDE) in Invercargill on June 25/26 offers an inspiring line-up of world-renowned keynote speakers and presentations. Come along to find out what you need to know to 'create your tomorrow'.

Get the full event details, including networking sessions and practical workshops, and book your ticket now at side.org.nz

DairyNZ consulting officers

Upper North Island – Head: Sharon Morrell 027 492 2907

Northland

Regional Leader	Tareen Ellis	027 499 9021
Far North	Amy Weston	027 288 6460
Lower Northland	Tareen Ellis	027 499 9021
Whangarei West	Ryan Baxter	021 809 569

Waikato

Arapuni	Kirsty Dickens	027 483 2205
Otorohanga/King Country	Denise Knop	027 807 9686
Pirongia	Steve Canton	027 475 0918
Matamata/Kereone	Frank Portegys	027 807 9685
Orini/Tatuanui	Brigitte Ravera	027 288 1244
Cambridge/Hamilton	Lizzie Moore	021 242 2127
Te Aroha/Waihi	Euan Lock	027 293 4401
Hauraki Plains/Coromandel	Jaimee Morgan	021 245 8055
South Auckland	Mike Bramley	027 486 4344

Bay of Plenty

Eastern Bay of Plenty	Ross Bishop	027 563 1785
Central Bay of Plenty	Kevin McKinley	027 288 8238
Tokoroa	Andrew Reid	027 292 3682
Central Plateau	Colin Grainger-Allen	021 225 8345

Lower North Island – Head: Rob Brazendale 021 683 139

Taranaki

Regional Leader	Rob Brazendale	021 683 139
South Taranaki	Nathan Clough	021 246 5663
Central Taranaki	Rob Brazendale	021 683 139
Coastal Taranaki	Rob Brazendale	021 683 139
North Taranaki	Lauren McDowney	027 593 4122

Lower North Island

Horowhenua/Coastal and Southern Manawatu	Kate Stewart	027 702 3760
Wairarapa/Tararua	Abby Scott	021 244 3428
Hawke's Bay	Gray Beagley	021 286 4346
Northern Manawatu/Wanganui/Woodville	Jo Back	021 222 9023
Central Manawatu/Rangitikei	Richard Greaves	027 244 8016

South Island – Head: Tony Finch 027 706 6183

Top of South Island/West Coast

Nelson/Marlborough	Mark Shadwick	021 287 7057
West Coast	Angela Leslie	021 277 2894

Canterbury/North Otago

Regional Leader	Rachael Russell	027 261 3250
North Canterbury	Amy Chamberlain	027 243 0943
Central Canterbury	Natalia Benquet	021 287 7059
Mid Canterbury	Stuart Moorhouse	027 513 7200
South Canterbury	Heather Donaldson	027 593 4124
North Otago	Alana Hall	027 290 5988

Southland/South Otago

Regional Leader	Tony Finch	027 706 6183
South/West Otago	Lucy Hall	027 524 5890
Central and Northern Southland	Nicole E Hammond	021 240 8529
Eastern Southland	Nathan Nelson	021 225 6931
Western Southland	Leo Pekar	027 211 1389



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