

Current situation and issues

- The past week has remained warm and dry and the soil is dry again. Pasture growth responded to the previous week's rain with pasture growth rates of 42 kg and 44 kg DM/ha/day for the old and new pasture farmlets respectively but it is now dry again and minimal rain is forecast for the coming week. Pasture covers have held but are still moderately low on the old pasture farmlet and quite low on the new pasture farmlet. Soil temperatures remain above average at 13°C.
- Current pasture covers are 300-400 kg DM/ha less than the same time last year or the year before. Supplement levels on hand are much higher, especially for the old pasture herd. Overall feed available on the new pasture farmlet is equal to last year but behind the previous year, while the overall feed situation on the old pasture farmlet is ahead of the two previous years.
- Silage feeding continued to the new pasture herd and started with the old pasture herd.
- More culls went early in the week then at the end of the week the rotation was reduced to near 38 days and both herds put on once/day milking.
- Milk production has reduced, with the change to once/day milking.
- The somatic cell count on both farmlets was at good levels, around 145,000, but has increased to 230,000 with once/day milking.
- The new pasture herd will be dried off over the end of this week, while the old pasture herd should be able to milk on for at least a week longer. This is much earlier than expected, due to the dry autumn weather.
- The calves continue to be breakfed on medium-long pasture and are doing well.
- A round of nitrogen fertilizer at 27 kg N/ha continues being applied behind the cows and then for a second round into early May on part of the farm.
- Pregnancy test resulted in 8% empty after 13 weeks mating and 3% due in weeks 10 to 13. Mating dates however suggest more late calving cows than this. The yearlings had a high 10% empty rate plus there has been one slip.

Farmlet production and management summary

<u>Date</u>	<u>week ending</u>	<u>Old pasture</u>	<u>New pasture</u>
		20/4/09	20/4/09
<u>Weather and pasture growth</u>			
Rainfall mm	past week	0	0
	month total	33	33
	monthly average	142	142
Soil temperature °C	monthly average	13	13
	monthly average	12.3	12.3
Pasture growth	week	42	44
Kg DM/ha/day	monthly average (no N)	30	?
<u>Stock</u>			
	Cows milking	68	71

Cows dry		4	0
Cows/ha		2.7	2.8
Weight kg	(April 9)	410	393
Condition score		4.58	4.55
<u>Milk production</u>			
kg ms/cow/day		0.92	0.97
kg ms/ha/day		2.43	2.7
cell count (000)		142	148
Days/cow		234	230
kg ms/cow to date		305	317
kg ms/ha to date		981	1019
<u>Feeding</u>			
Average pasture cover	kg DM/ha	2659	2442
Pre grazing	kg DM/ha	3200	3000
Post grazing	kg DM/ha	2100	1900
Pasture intake est	kg DM/cow	10	9
Hay/silage/crop	kg DM/cow	2.4	2.4
Molasses	kg DM/cow	0	0
<u>Management</u>			
Rotation length (% of farm grazed/day)		2.3	2.3
Rotation length (days interval if all paddocks in)		42	42
Rotation length (days interval with paddocks out)		38	35
Supplements fed to date	kg DM/cow from June 1	283	255
Nitrogen applied to date	kg N/ha	147	144
% of farm shut		0	0
% of farm in crop		0	4
Supplements made to date	kg DM/cow	421	278
Supplements available	kg DM/cow	375	236