

Local Data - A summary of on-farm situations on Waikato farms collected Friday 4th September

	System	% In milk	Soil Temp	Growth	APC	BCS	MS Cow	Rain mm
Gordonton	2	96	13	58	2104	3.7	1.58	28
Matamata	2	94	10	59	2387	4.5	1.85	29
Otorohanga	2	92	11	53	2370	4.2	1.76	32
Te Aroha	2	82	11	46	2250	4.3	1.77	17
Te Awamutu	3	96	9	69	2200	4.5	1.95	12
Tokoroa	1	77	5	40	1900	4.2	1.6	8

DairyNZ Control Farm – Research control farmlet at Scott Farm, Hamilton

	System	% In milk	Soil Temp	Growth	APC	BCS	MS Cow	Rain mm
Control 2009	1	96	10.8	65	2450	4.3	1.90	30
Control 2008	1	95	9.6	42	2300	4.2	1.97	1

The herd is currently grazing 109m² per cow per day, fed solely pasture. This is a 26 day rotation (with 7% of the farm shut for silage). The longest paddock was 3300 kg DM per ha so it is out of the rotation. The quickest turn around from winter to spring in 10 years?

DairyNZ Comment

Put the feed- out wagon away and oil the mower. The herd will control future grass quality by grazing to the target residual of 1500 kg DM per ha but will need your assistance if pre-grazing covers get above 3000 kg DM per ha. There are no shortcuts and few dollars to be saved when getting the herd mated and in calf. Short term savings can mean long term pain. For example, reducing AB matings requires more bull power and fewer quality replacements in 3 years time. To determine if there is a problem looming start taking pre-mating heats 28-35 days before mating and condition score at least 70 cows in the next fortnight to determine the % of cows less than BCS 4.0. Options for non- cyclers and low BCS cows might include; 1x/day milking for separate herd, preferential feeding for separate herd (24 hour v 12 hour grazing), hormonal intervention. EFFORT = REWARD