

**Farm walk notes****STRATFORD DEMONSTRATION FARM****21st September 2009****Current situation and issues**

- The past week has been a real mix with some hard frost, some warm sunny days, some cold winds and some rain with 40mm falling in ½ an hour one day. Total rain for the week was 44 mm.
- Pasture growth for the past week has still been good at 63 kg and 64 kg DM/ha/day for the old and new pasture farmlets respectively.
- Pasture covers have generally been maintained. There is 16% of the old pasture farmlet out and 10% of the new pasture farmlet with more to come. The milkers are still leaving too much grass behind so we are already creating pasture quality problems but are starting to get on top of it.
- Have 5% of cows still left to calve at 8 weeks. Most of the remainder should calve this week.
- Soil temperatures dropped with the frost and wet soil but are still good at 10°C, which is above average.
- The overall rotation is now going onto 24 days over late September.
- Cows are milking well with minimal differences between the herds.
- The cell count is being maintained at good levels of around 120000 average.
- Pre-mating cycling is being recorded to assess any treatment needs before mating starts.

**Farmlet production and management summary****Old Pasture****New Pasture**

Date	week ending	21/7/09	21/7/09
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**Weather and pasture growth**

Rainfall mm	past week	44	44
	month total	96	96
	monthly average (Sept)	187	187
Soil temperature °C		10	10
	monthly average	8.7	8.7
Pasture growth	week	63	64
Kg DM/ha/day	monthly average (no N)	36	?

**Stock**

Cows milking		82	77
Cows dry		6	3
Cows/ha		3.3	3.3
Weight kg	(July 27th)	404	394
Condition score		5.0	5.0

### Milk production

kg ms/cow/day		1.7	1.68
kg ms/ha/day		5.1	5.1
cell count (000)		120	130
Days/cow		0	0
kg ms/cow to date		43	43
kg ms/ha to date		142	142

### Feeding

Average pasture cover	kg DM/ha	2534	2548
Pre grazing	kg DM/ha	3300	3200
Post grazing	kg DM/ha	2000	1900
Pasture intake est	kg DM/cow	15	15
Hay/silage/crop	kg DM/cow	0	0
Molasses	kg DM/cow	0.25	0.56

### Management

Rotation length (% of farm grazed/day)		2.7	2.7
Rotation length (days interval if all paddocks in)		28	27
Rotation length (days interval with paddocks out)		24	24
Supplements fed to date	kg DM/cow from June 1 <sup>st</sup>	219	183
Nitrogen applied to date	kg N/ha	45	45
% of farm shut		16	10
% of farm in crop		0	0
Supplements made to date	kg DM/cow	0	0
Supplements available	kg DM/cow	48	0