

Local Data - Northland farm data for previous 7 days as at Monday 30th November

	System	% In milk	Soil Temp	Growth	APC	BCS	KgMS Cow	Rain mm
Awanui	2	100	16	60	2289	3.7	1.5	0
Maungaturoto	1	100	17	50	2100	4.2	1.4	0
Whangarei	2	100	17	49	2150	4.1	1.4	0

Note: Figures are from the 3 Northland Tight Management farms

* For definitions of Systems and abbreviations visit Farm Watch @ DairyNZ website

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

	System	Soil Temp	Growth	APC	BCS	MS Cow	MS/ha YTD	Rain mm
Control 2009	1	16.3	96	2510	4.5	1.35	633	5
Control 2008	1	13.9	78	2300	4.2	1.54	650	14

The herd is on a 26 day round with 7% of the farm shut for silage. 80 kg of urea per ha has been applied across the farm. At the same time last year the herd was on a 25 day round, with no paddocks shut for silage. Production has improved and the cows are gaining weight.

DairyNZ Comment

On ryegrass dominant farms it is important to extend rotation length to 28-30 days to ensure pasture cover is sufficient heading into summer. A summer management plan that includes a feed budget for your farm is important to analyse what the options are. Reducing demand and increasing supply on farm is a priority. Two examples are to cull early and the application of N in early December at up to 50Kg N. This will help keep the plant in a vegetative state and grow better quality and extra feed. Bull management and bull health is a priority now AB is finished. Lamé bulls can become an issue on farm, jeopardising performance, therefore it is important to monitor bull health and replace them immediately if they become lame or ill.