

## Local Data - A summary of on-farm situations on Waikato farms collected Friday 5th February

	Sys	Soil Temp	Growth	APC	BCS	MS Cow	MS/ha YTD	Rain mm
Gordonton <sup>#</sup>	2	24	74	2151	4.2	1.17	826	95
Matamata <sup>#</sup>	2	22	39	2028	4.3	1.16	-	70
Otorohanga <sup>#</sup>	2	24	58	2320	4.0	1.27	927	20
Te Aroha <sup>#</sup>	2	20	44	1769	4.1	1.08	770	133
Te Awamutu	3	-	43	1980	4.5	1.40	1130	-
Tokoroa	1	20	70	2200	4.3	1.20	690	23

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

# Now milking once a day

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

	Sys	Soil Temp	Growth	APC	BCS	MS Cow	MS/ha YTD	Rain mm
Control 2010	1	18.9	48	2480	4.6	1.02	928	69
Control 2009	1	16.7	40	2390	4.0	1.11	923	0

The herd remains on a 28 day round with all paddocks in the rotation.

At the same time last year the herd was on a 35 day round, with 14% of the farm area back in the rotation after being cut for silage. MS production/ha/day is disappointingly low at 3.62kgMS/ha/day. Cow condition is improving but one fat cow is inflating the average.

### DairyNZ Comment

Expect growth to match or exceed feed demand this week in most districts. The situation is variable. For some it's a break from a significant dry spell and for others it could be the start of a period of "surplus" pasture growth.

There is confusion on how aggressive or cautious to be with feeding supplement right now. Supplement should be aimed at a farm management target and not just trickled out in small amounts to satisfy the cow's needs today. Look ahead. Its uses now could include lengthening the rotation and increasing farm cover while pasture is growing. This has to be balanced against the planned requirement for supplement later in the autumn and winter and the need to keep pastures well grazed and not accumulating uneaten grass. It's difficult to get value right now from trickling in 2-3 kg grass silage or PKE and staying on the same rotation. Review the need frequently.

Facial eczema spore counts have increased from 5,000 to 30,000 at Scott Farm which means a slight risk of clinical FE. 40,000 is considered the toxic level.