

## Dexcel Super P Farmlot, Scott Farm, Newstead- Farm Walk Notes

For the week 29<sup>th</sup> November – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006

**Target:** 1750 kg MS/per total ha used. 200,000 MJME harvested per ha  
All feed grown within the milking area, 8ha, 29 cows. Herd \$BW 211.  
3.6 cows per ha.

### Milksolids Compared to Target:

For the season to Dec 1st we are 80 kg MS per ha behind our target or -8.5% (see Graph). Year to date we have produced 858 kg MS per ha and 236 kg MS per cow. During this last week the cows held production at 1.71 kg MS per cow per day which is right on our target line.

### **Climate :**

**Soil Moisture:** Our records show we are drying out rapidly. For the last week ET levels were 24 mm and rainfall was 17.8 mm. We currently estimate we need 25 mm rainfall to return soils to field capacity  
10cm soil temperature 9am, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 20.8 °C. An increase from last week.

### **Current Situation:**

- Stocking rate remains 4.83 cows per ha on 6 ha. (Dry cow and yearlings removed from herd)
- Pasture growth over the past week has averaged 100 kg DM per ha per day. Average pasture cover has increased to 2680 kg DM per ha. on current grazable area and has increased to 2016 kg DM over the whole farm.
- We require pasture growth of 77 kg DM per ha per day to maintain the 18 day rotation.
- The aim is pre-grazing of no more than 3000 kg DM per ha.
- Residual targets are no more than 8 on the RPM but this height now has considerably more DM per unit of height. We are now scoring this RPM height as 1800 kg DM per ha. (based on calibration cuts)
- For November we averaged a grazing residual of 8.6 on Rising Plate metre.
- A graph of pre and post grazing heights for the season to date is available on [www.dexcel.co.nz/farms/prototypefarms/additionalmeasurements](http://www.dexcel.co.nz/farms/prototypefarms/additionalmeasurements)
- Maize silage offered during the last week was 2.5 kg DM per cow per day. At this stage we have not had to increase it.
- Production has recovered to 1.71 kg MS per cow and 6.20 kg MS per ha.
- 94% submission rate in 21 days of mating.
- 100 % submission rate in 42 days .
- At 49 days we have 17 cows out of 32 mated that have not returned.
- 53% NRR. (14 cows have returned and 1 cow mated too late to be included)
- 45% NRR for 11 CIDR treated cows.
- We have booked a scan on Dec 18<sup>th</sup> to determine 6 week in calf rate

### **Critical Issues for the Short Term (Super P Farmlet)**

- Maintain pasture pre-grazing herbage mass at approximately 3000 kg DM per ha.
- Maintain milksolids production per cow at current levels.
- Look for opportunities to lengthen rotation towards 24 days. This can occur when we have paddocks that have higher pregrazing mass and/or feed higher amounts of maize silage.

### **Summary of Key Indicators for Grazing Management and Animal Performance**

- Pasture Growth for last week is estimated at 100 kg DM/ha/day.
- The rotation length is 18-20 days or 1/18 th of the grazable area. On two days in the last rotation we fed 1/24<sup>th</sup> of the grazeable area.
- Milksolids production per cow is 1.71 kg MS/cow/day.
- Milksolids production per ha is 6.20 kg MS/ha /day
- Cow liveweight and body condition score 6th December.  
477 kg and 4.0 Body Condition Score, 4 kg lighter in last fortnight.

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