Northland Summer Dry Farmer Panel

DairyNZ Farmers Forum & NDDT Conference
18 February 2020
Farm Description and Context:

- 97 ha effective, 310 cows 240 wintered
- Spring calving, 28/6 PSC
- Calves till weaning
- TAD
Usual Summer Management:

- Pit grass silage made on farm and 35ha grass silage imported from runoff
- No cropping
- Contract PKE
- Reduce stocking rate from February from y month
- Usual dry off early May
This summer’s actions:

- No less than a 30 day round
- Contract extra PKE add DDG, Soy H
- Culls leaving now
- Keep core cows going to reach autumn rain
- Have 20 day grass silage available for after autumn rain
- Stretch existing silage to last till end April
- Ring fence drought to this season
- PKE and silage young stock

Peter Flood
Farm Description and Context:

- 160 ha platform 390 cows, 30ha runoff
- 12\textsuperscript{th} July Calving
- 80\% R1’s on runoff (2kg blend/head/day)
- 100\% R2’s off farm
- 150 full season OAD, 240 OAD 1\textsuperscript{st} December
- Currently milking 342
Usual Summer Management:

- 42 T Turnips
- 165 T Grass Silage Fed, 2/3 grown on platform
- 60T Blend feed (Nov- 4 weeks after rain)
- Reduce stock from February
- 170T Maize Silage Grown on Platform (8h)
This summer’s actions:

• Extra 80T Silage made- Higher Utilisation
• Extra 60T supplement = $25k
• Only 10 cows left to greener pastures
• Took punt on culling early
• 38 T Turnips grown- last feed 30th Jan, 8T SSS
• Extra ha maize grown= same yield 170T

Season-to-date (KgMS) 122,173 ↑ 0.4%
Month-to-date (KgMS) 6,944 ↑ 9.3%
NARF Decision Rules
Summary

• Protect next season’s production and reproduction

• Prioritise future milkers - calves, heifers and R3yr animals

• If possible, have a proportion of the herd still milking for when it does rain to help maintain cashflow
Actions when you leave

• Assess the situation and develop a plan, including a feed budget - use your networks for help

• Create Plan A, B, and C - using different dates for rain, drying off etc

• Set weekly trigger points for making changes

• Share plan with others - especially farmer colleagues, family, staff and the bank manager
Your actions after today

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