

Backtrack Dairies

Week ending 1st March 2017

Backtrack Dairies

Two farming systems. One Kinsey-Albrecht (Whakapono) and one conventional (Waiora). Both farms have a stocking rate of 3.1 cows/ha at peak.

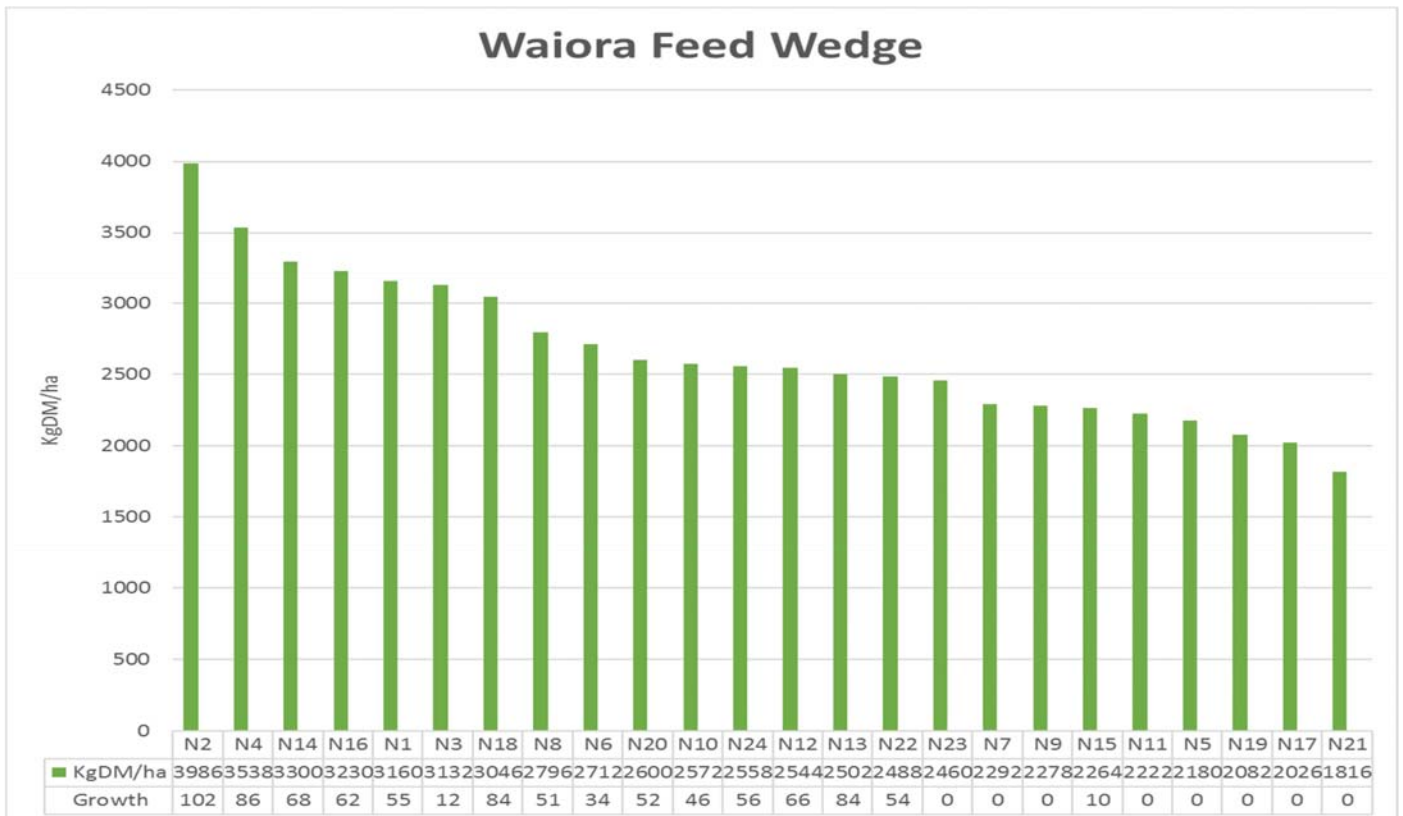
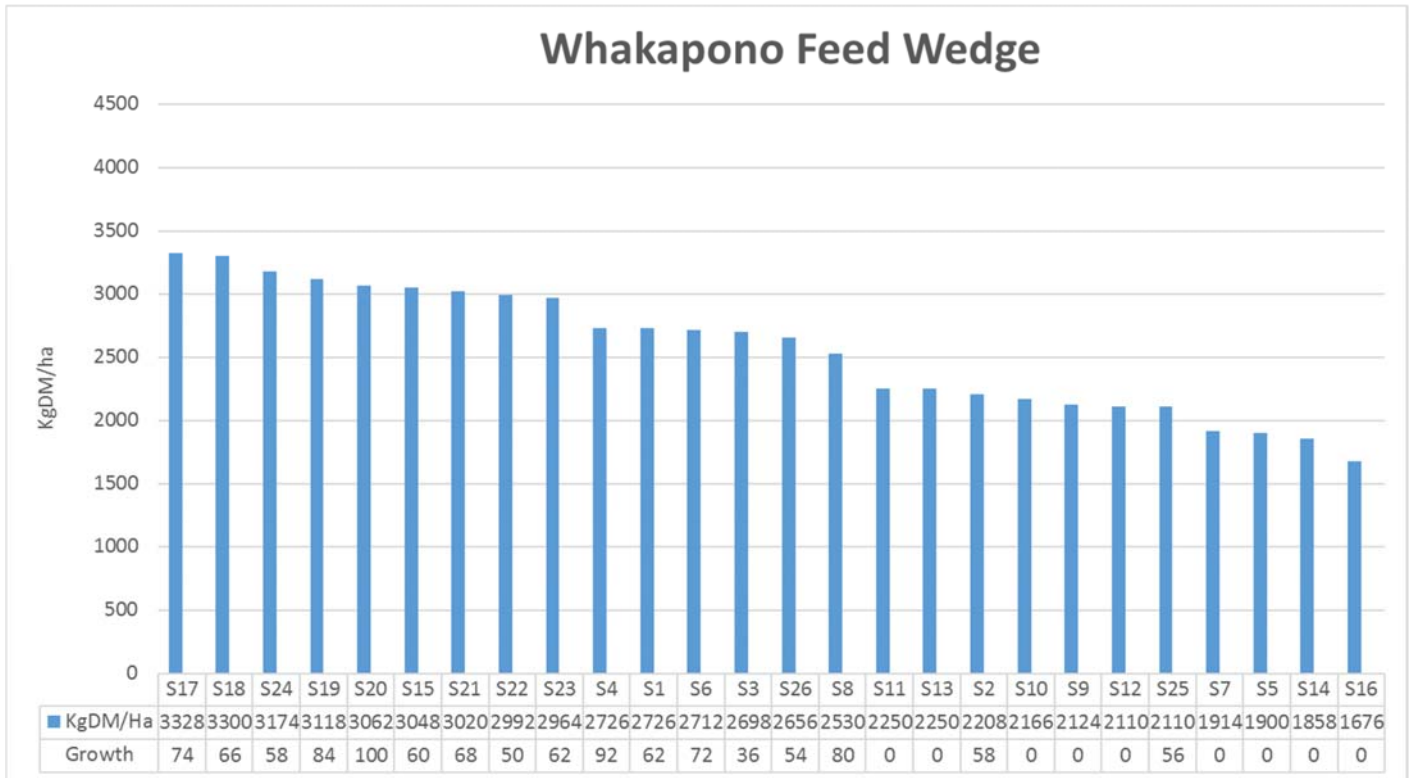
| Week Ending | 22/2/17 | | 1/3/17 | |
|---|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| | Whakapono | Waiora | Whakapono | Waiora |
| Backtrack Dairies | | | | |
| Farm grazing ha | 155 | 210 | 155 | 210 |
| Peak Cows | 483 | 639 | 483 | 639 |
| Stocking Rate (cows in milk/ha) | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| Cows in Milk | 481 | 632 | 481 | 630 |
| % of cows in Sick Herd | 1.0 | 0.4 | 1.1 | 0.5 |
| Cows in Vat | 476 | 629 | 476 | 627 |
| Ave. Pasture Cover | 2502 | 2664 | 2548 | 2706 |
| Ave. Pasture Growth | 52 | 60 | 63 | 54 |
| Area Grazed | 6.97 | 9.75 | 6.57 | 8.23 |
| Grazing Interval | 22 | 22 | 24 | 26 |
| Pasture Intake (est kgDM/cow) | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Grass Silage Fed (kgDM/cow) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grain/PKE Fed (kgDM/cow) | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Total Fed KgDM/cow | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| Milk Solids (Kg/cow/day)(inclu calf milk) | 1.89 | 1.65 | 1.81 | 1.70 |
| MS/ha/day | 5.85 | 4.97 | 5.62 | 5.09 |
| Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainfall (mm for week) | 0 | 0 | 13 | 13 |
| Irrigation applied (mm for week) | 32 | 34 | 33 | 33 |
| Soil Temperature at 9am | 16 | 16 | 16 | 17 |
| Soil Moisture (between 65-76%) | 98 | 85 | 106 | 88 |
| Cell count (000's) | 135 | 130 | 136 | 148 |
| Mastitis Cases (%) | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Lameness Cases (%) | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Body Condition Score | | | | |
| Totals To Date | | | | |
| Milk Solids to factory | 178780 | 215838 | 184876 | 223324 |
| Milk Solids inclu calf milk | 185247 | 225337 | 191343 | 232823 |
| MS/ha | 1152 | 1026 | 1191 | 1062 |
| MS/cow (peak cows)(inclu calf milk) | 384 | 353 | 396 | 364 |
| Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha) | 84 | 101 | 84 | 117 |
| Supplements Fed (kg/cow) | 288 | 300 | 295 | 307 |
| Deaths % | 1.0 | 2.8 | 1.0 | 3.0 |
| Culls % | 3.5 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 2.8 |

Summary

- Average pasture cover on Whakapono on the 15th February was 2502 kgDM/ha has increased to 2548kgDM/ha.
- Waiora had a cover of 2664 KgDM/ha and has increased to 2706 KgDM/ha.
- Growth rates on Whakapono are right on demand (60) at 60 but below on Waiora at 54 which seems strange as covers have increased.
- Cover still above ideal with plate meter reading extremely high +400 so having the same problems as Lincoln interpreting the data. Could be measuring technique also.
- So just have to accept that with the higher residuals that the plate will give readings 300-500 higher than the eye and the cows are telling us let alone production.
- Looking to increase round length from 24 days to 30 days in March.
- 13mm rainfall and hot temperatures and wind has meant irrigation is full on this week.
- Milk production remains stable with production at 1.81 kgMS/cow on Whakapono and lower on Waiora at 1.70 kgMS/cow.
- Extra clover and crude protein on Whakapono will be making a difference in per cow production which has showed up in previous summers in the second half of the season.
- Cooler soil temperatures have stifled this advantage to Whakapono until now and are reflected in the weekly pasture samples that record DM and ryegrass/clover % of sward.
- Pasture samples taken each week on the next two paddocks are about to graze a weighed and dried for DM% typically similar at 18 - 20 % but clover is typically 30% on Whakapono and 20% on Waiora.
- Per cow production starting to come back into line with last season but still have a lot of ground to make up with 7% lower cow numbers so currently 7% down on Whakapono and 11% down on Waiora. We also calved one week later and took more calf milk out of both vats proportionally.
- Grain/PKE back up to 2.0 kg/cow as growth rates below demand at 18 KgDM/cow.
- Pastures appear stalky with DM around 18%.
- NDF closer to 40% on Waiora restricting intake, 35% on Whakapono.
- Round length similar on Whakapono at 24 days with Waiora 26 days.
- 45 Hereford X calves sold averaged \$541 at Temuka sale leaving 25 Jersey bull calves.
- 100 R2 year heifers came back from grazing from foothills as too dry so are following cows who are still leaving too much behind. Split 55/45 to each farm.
- Whakapono is received another round of fertiliser 250 kg/ha containing N 17, P 11, K 24, S 24 kg/ha. Lime and Dolomite followed in Feb at 450kg/ha giving 13 kg Mg/ha and 245 kgCa/ha.
- Whakapono total N to date 84 kg/ha to date with total spend on fertiliser \$602/ha including lime and dolomite and extra fert put on silage paddocks.
- Waiora is about to receive 50 kg/ha of Sustain N giving 23kg N/ha.
- Waiora total N will be 123 kg/ha t and total spend on fertiliser \$435/ha with no lime and no extra fert to silage paddocks
- Preg test results look similar to last year with 17% to recheck on both farms.
- What was interesting was that Whakapono had 62 % in calf early (August calving) compared to Waiora's 58%.

- Final MT rate 13% on Whakapono and 14% on Waiora so 1% better o both farms than last season but still disappointing. Heifer results good at 4% out of 420 total.

Feed Wedges – 28th Feb



Animal Health

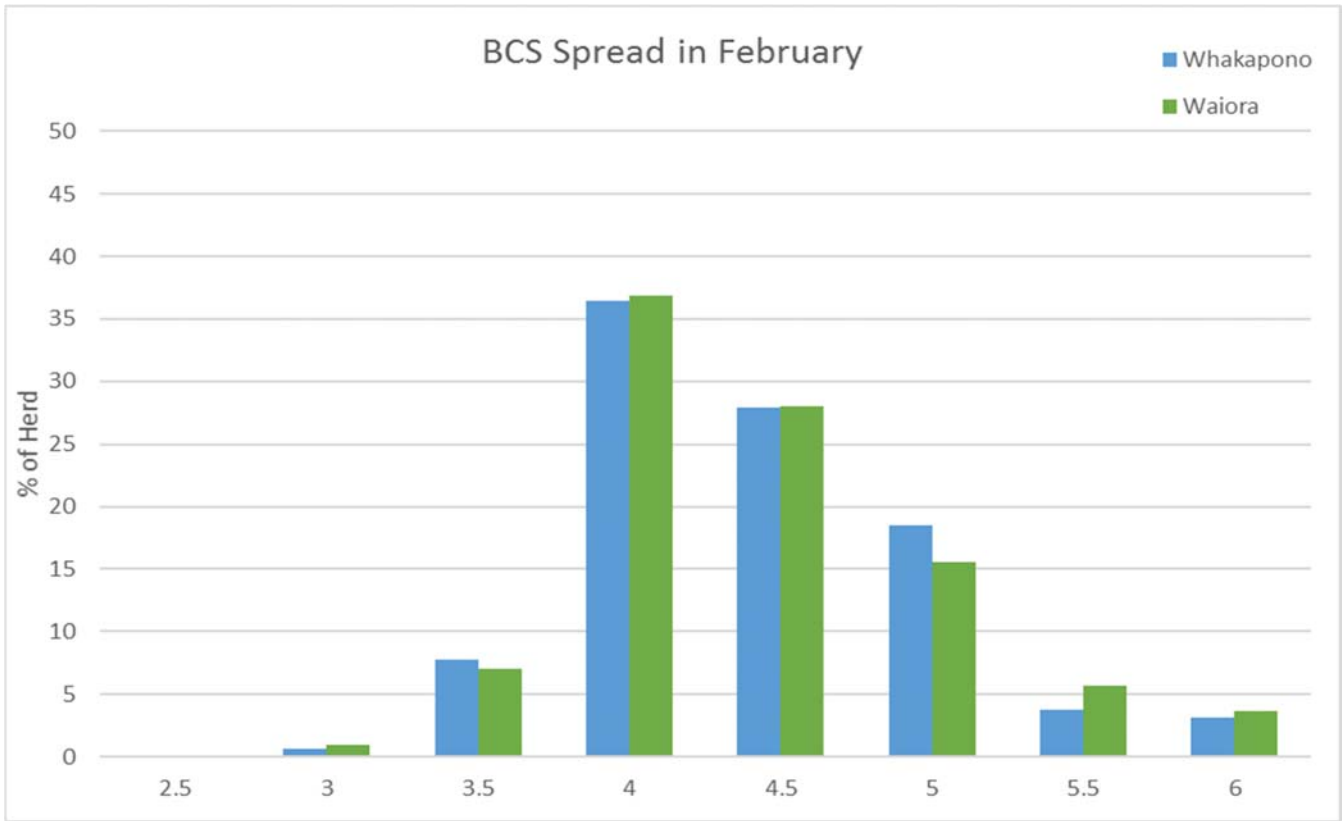
| | Whakapono | Waiora |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|
| No of Mastitis Cows | 1 | 1 |
| No of Lambe Cows | 1 | 2 |
| Sick Herd % | 1.1 | 0.5 |

Mating

| | Whakapono | Waiora |
|------------------|--|--|
| Submission Rate | 91% | 87% |
| Non-cyclers | 43 cows | 77 cows |
| AI length | 6.5 weeks | 6.5 weeks |
| Mating length | 10 weeks | 10 weeks |
| Detection Method | Manager/2IC checking cows every morning and tail paint | Manager/2IC checking cows every afternoon and tail paint |

| Timeframe of Mating | Dates |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Planned Start of Mating | 30 th October |
| Metri-checking & PG 1 | 21 st November |
| PG 2 | 1 st December |
| AI Finished | 15 th December |
| Bulls entered herd | 8 th December |
| Bulls removed from herd | 9 th January |
| Pregnancy Scanning 1 | 31 st January |
| Pregnancy Scanning 2 | 28 th February |

Cow Condition



Average cow condition for Whakapono is 4.5 and for Waiora is 4.5. The percentage of cows below CS 4.0 for Whakapono and Waiora is 8%.

Industry targets are 4.3 and no more than 15% below CS 4.0.