

## Backtrack Dairies

Week ending 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### Backtrack Dairies

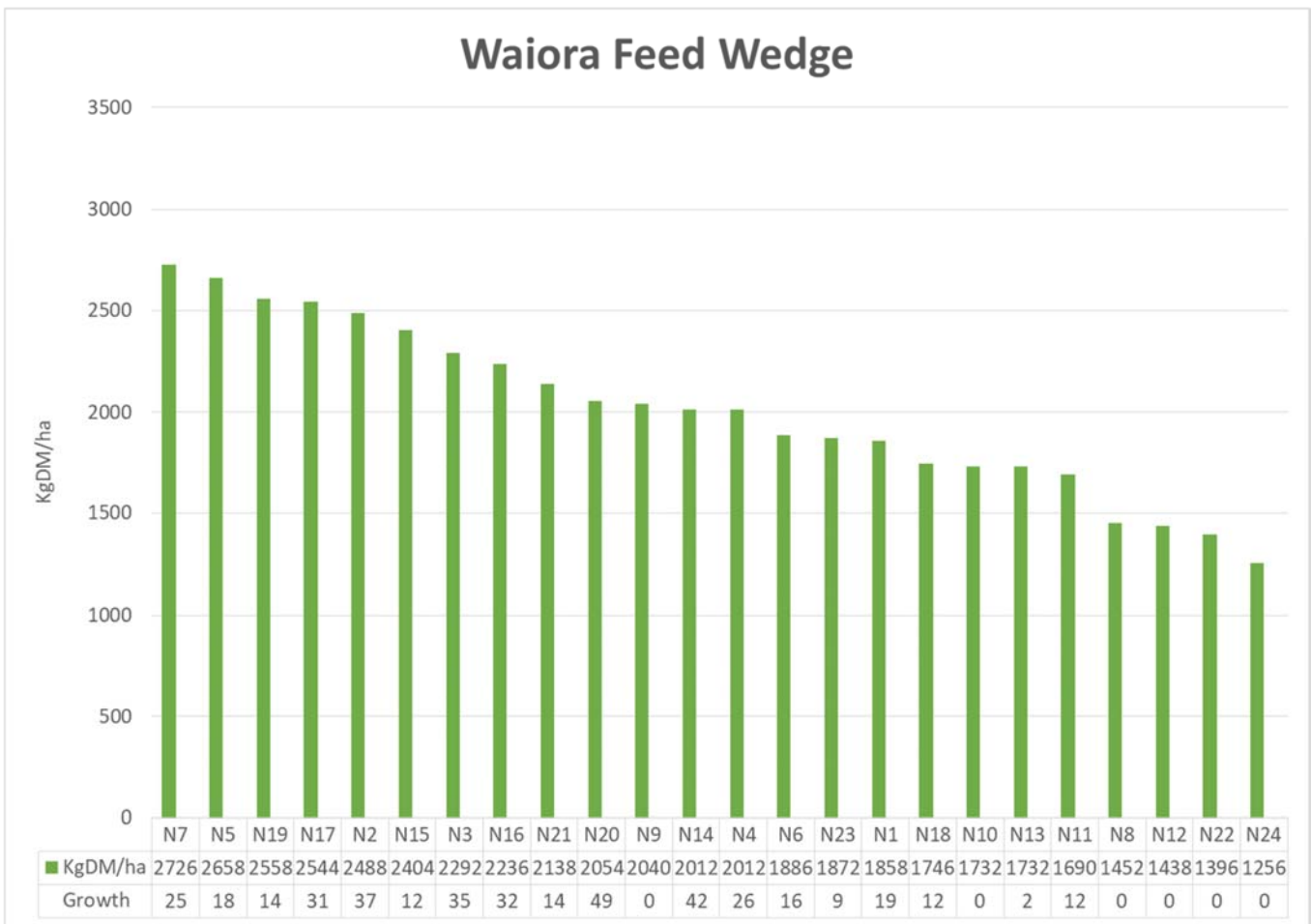
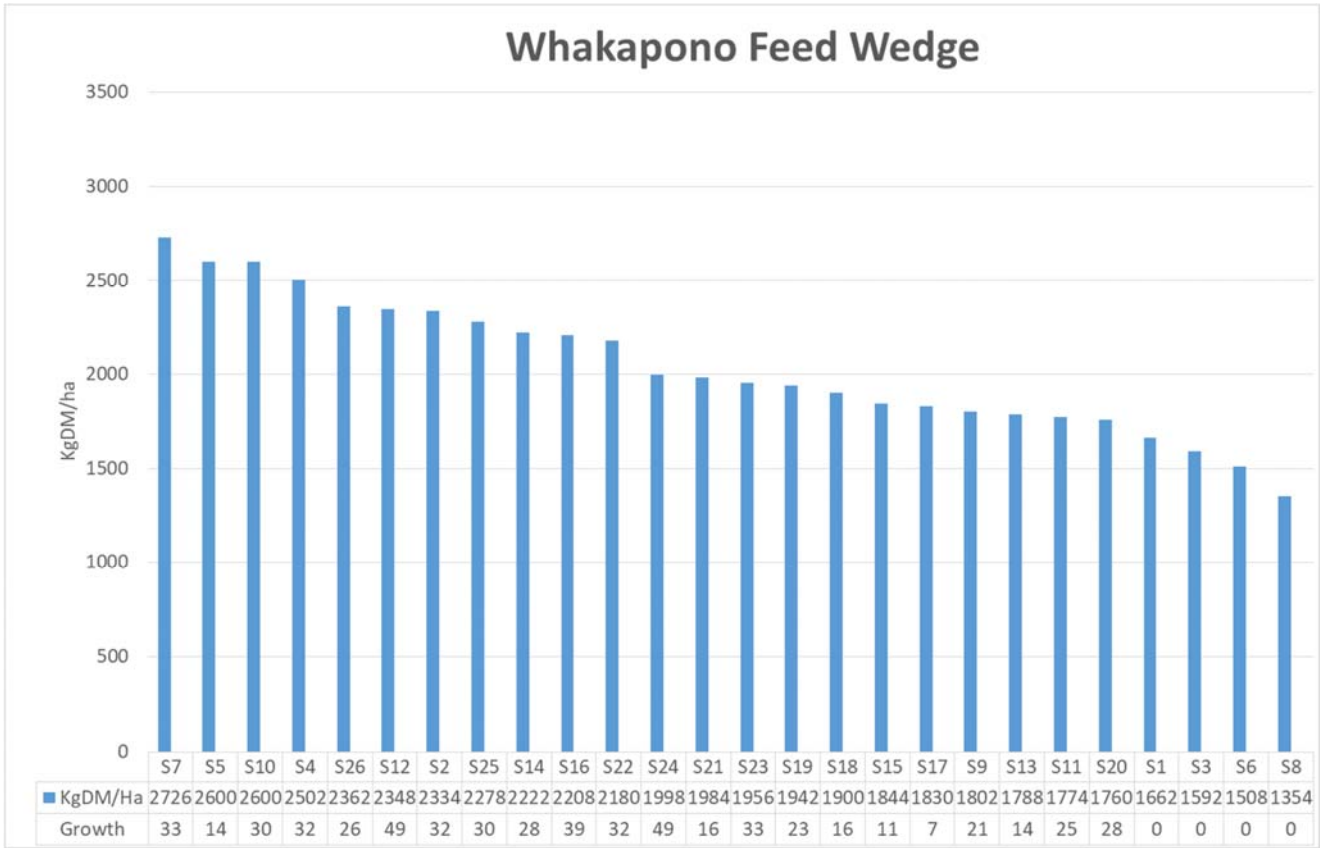
Two farming systems. One Kinsey-Albrecht (Whakapono) and one conventional (Waiora). Both farms have a stocking rate of 3.1 cows/ha at peak.

Week Ending	3/5/17		10/5/17	
Backtrack Dairies	Whakapono	Waiora	Whakapono	Waiora
Farm grazing ha	155	210	155	210
Peak Cows	483	636	483	636
Stocking Rate (cows in milk/ha)	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8
Cows in Milk	455	607	451	584
% of cows in Sick Herd	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.6
Cows in Vat	448	600	448	580
Ave. Pasture Cover	2037	2129	2052	2021
Ave. Pasture Growth	39	31	27	23
Area Grazed	4.43	7.42	3.04	5.46
Grazing Interval	35	28	51	38
Pasture Intake (est kgDM/cow)	14	14	9	9
Grass Silage Fed (kgDM/cow)	4.6	4.3	8.1	5.6
Grain/PKE Fed (kgDM/cow)	1.0	1.7	1.3	1.7
Total Fed KgDM/cow	19.6	20	19	21
Milk Solids (Kg/cow/day)(inclu calf milk)	1.37	1.32	1.35	1.28
MS/ha/day	4.03	3.81	3.94	3.57
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	0	0	0	0
Rainfall (mm for week)	36	36	0	0
Irrigation applied (mm for week)	0	0	0	0
Soil Temperature at 9am	10	11	8	9
Soil Moisture (between 65-76%)	104	84	111	84
Cell count (000's)	147	138	118	138
Mastitis Cases (%)	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Lameness Cases (%)	1.4	0.5	0.2	0.0
Body Condition Score	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4
<b>Totals To Date</b>				
Milk Solids to factory	221933	280971	225185	287027
Milk Solids inclu calf milk	228401	290470	231653	296526
MS/ha	1430	1336	1451	1365
MS/cow (peak cows)(inclu calf milk)	473	455	480	466
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	84	124	84	124
Supplements Fed (kg/cow)	493	447	567	495
Deaths %	1.4	3.4	1.7	3.5
Culls %	9.1	8.9	9.1	9.0

## Summary

- Average pasture cover on Whakapono on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May was 2037 kgDM/ha, which has held at 2052 KgDM/ha for this week which is positive and reflects demand dropping due to reducing pasture area and doubling silage intakes on dry days.
- Waiora had a cover of 2129KgDM/ha and has dropped another 100 to 2021 KgDM/ha which is a bit of a worry and reflected in low growth rates.
- Growth rates on Whakapono are on demand (27) at 27 which seems right given they are receiving 9kgDM as pasture and the rest as silage (8) and PKE (1), while Waiora at 23 seems accurate in dropping cover with 6kg silage and 2 kg PKE. Demand is 18kgDM/cow.
- Silage is not fed on wet days and cows receive double their normal area which obviously shortens the rotation and is reducing our ability to build up feed to milk on with.
- No rainfall this week and fine warm weather has meant all irrigation is off this week and probably finished for the year.
- Milk production has held 1.35 kgMS/cow on Whakapono and slightly lower on Waiora at 1.28 kgMS/cow probably due to reducing pasture area and feeding more pasture silage trying to get back days lost due to wet.
- Pasture samples taken each week on the next two paddocks are about to graze a weighed and dried for DM% similar at 15 -17% (see table below).
- Clover was typically 30% on Whakapono and 20% on Waiora has fallen markedly in recent samples to only 6% and 4% as ryegrass kicks in again with cooler soil temps.
- Per cow production has really taken a hit since the bad weather and not being able to push feed in front could seriously hamper our chance of a good finish.
- Grain finished so feeding only PKE in shed at 1-2 kg/cow
- NDF closer to 40% on Waiora restricting intake, 35% on Whakapono.
- Round length moving to 48 now and doubling up silage to gain back days lost by moving cows on during wet weather which will drop per cow production but try to gain more days in milk.
- 10 Jersey bull calves still on farm.
- 100 R2 year heifers left the farm (75 sold \$1600 in hand).
- Culls 43 left the farm truck weighed averaged 516 kg liveweight at \$1.50 per kg no costs
- 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 total N will be 123 kg/ha and total spend on fertiliser \$408/ha with no lime and no extra fert to silage paddocks so a bit light.
- Average fert spend in Canterbury \$600/ha.
- Whakapono had 62% in calf early (August calving) compared to Waiora's 58%.
- Lameness eased off on Whakapono, but starting to appear on Waiora which is normal after a big rain and tracks in need of some maintenance.
- Whakapono at distinct disadvantage with one bigger herd, longer walks over tracks which get wet from pivots so any extra wet weather quickly accentuates any lameness problems.

Feed Wedges – 9<sup>th</sup> May



## Animal Health

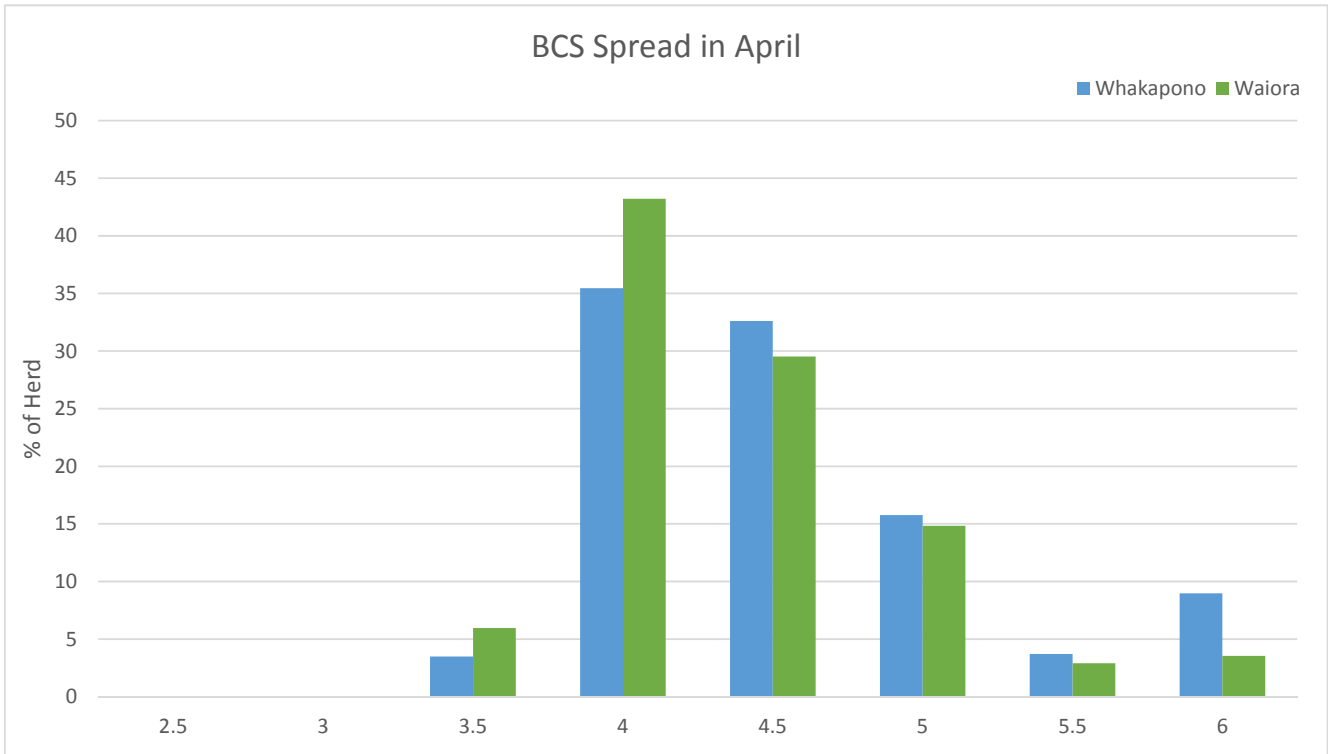
	Whakapono	Waiora
No of Mastitis Cows	1	0
No of Lambe Cows	1	0
Sick Herd %	0.7	0.6

## 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
MT Rate	14%	15%
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 <sup>th</sup> October
Metri-checking & PG 1	21 <sup>st</sup> November
PG 2	1 <sup>st</sup> December
AI Finished	15 <sup>th</sup> December
Bulls entered herd	8 <sup>th</sup> December
Bulls removed from herd	9 <sup>th</sup> January
Pregnancy Scanning 1	31 <sup>st</sup> January
Pregnancy Scanning 2	28 <sup>th</sup> February

## Cow Condition



Average cow condition for Whakapono is 4.5 and for Waiora is 4.4. The percentage of cows below CS 4.0 for Whakapono is 4% and Waiora is 6%.

Industry targets are 4.4 average condition and no more than 10% below CS 4.0.

### Pasture Quality for this week:

	Whakapono	Waiora
DM%	19	20
Ryegrass (%DM)	94	97
Clover (%DM)	6	3
Weeds (%DM)	0	0
Herbs (%DM)	0	0