

Backtrack Dairies

Week ending 12th April 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	29/3/17		12/4/17	
Backtrack Dairies	Whakapono	Waiora	Whakapono	Waiora
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	479	629	479	629
% of cows in Sick Herd	1.1	1.8	1.0	1.3
Cows in Vat	474	618	474	621
Ave. Pasture Cover	2410	2430	2298	2365
Ave. Pasture Growth	50	42	47	47
Area Grazed	5.63	7.59	5.45	7.47
Grazing Interval	24	24	28	28
Pasture Intake (est kgDM/cow)	16	16	18	21
Grass Silage Fed (kgDM/cow)	0.5	1.9	1.8	1.6
Grain/PKE Fed (kgDM/cow)	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.3
Total Fed KgDM/cow	19	20	22	24
Milk Solids (Kg/cow/day)(inclu calf milk)	1.56	1.46	1.43	1.45
MS/ha/day	4.84	4.37	4.43	4.35
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	0	0	0	0
Rainfall (mm for week)	44	44	93	93
Irrigation applied (mm for week)	0	0	0	0
Soil Temperature at 9am	14	14	12	
Soil Moisture (between 65-76%)	110	85	113	
Cell count (000's)	123	156	133	134
Mastitis Cases (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lameness Cases (%)	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.6
Body Condition Score	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Totals To Date				
Milk Solids to factory	207596	250637	208501	263288
Milk Solids inclu calf milk	214064	260136	214968	272787
MS/ha	1338	1192	1344	1252
MS/cow (peak cows)(inclu calf milk)	443	407	445	427
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	84	124	84	124
Supplements Fed (kg/cow)	357	373	404	385
Deaths %	1.4	3.0	1.4	3.0
Culls %	3.5	2.8	3.5	2.8

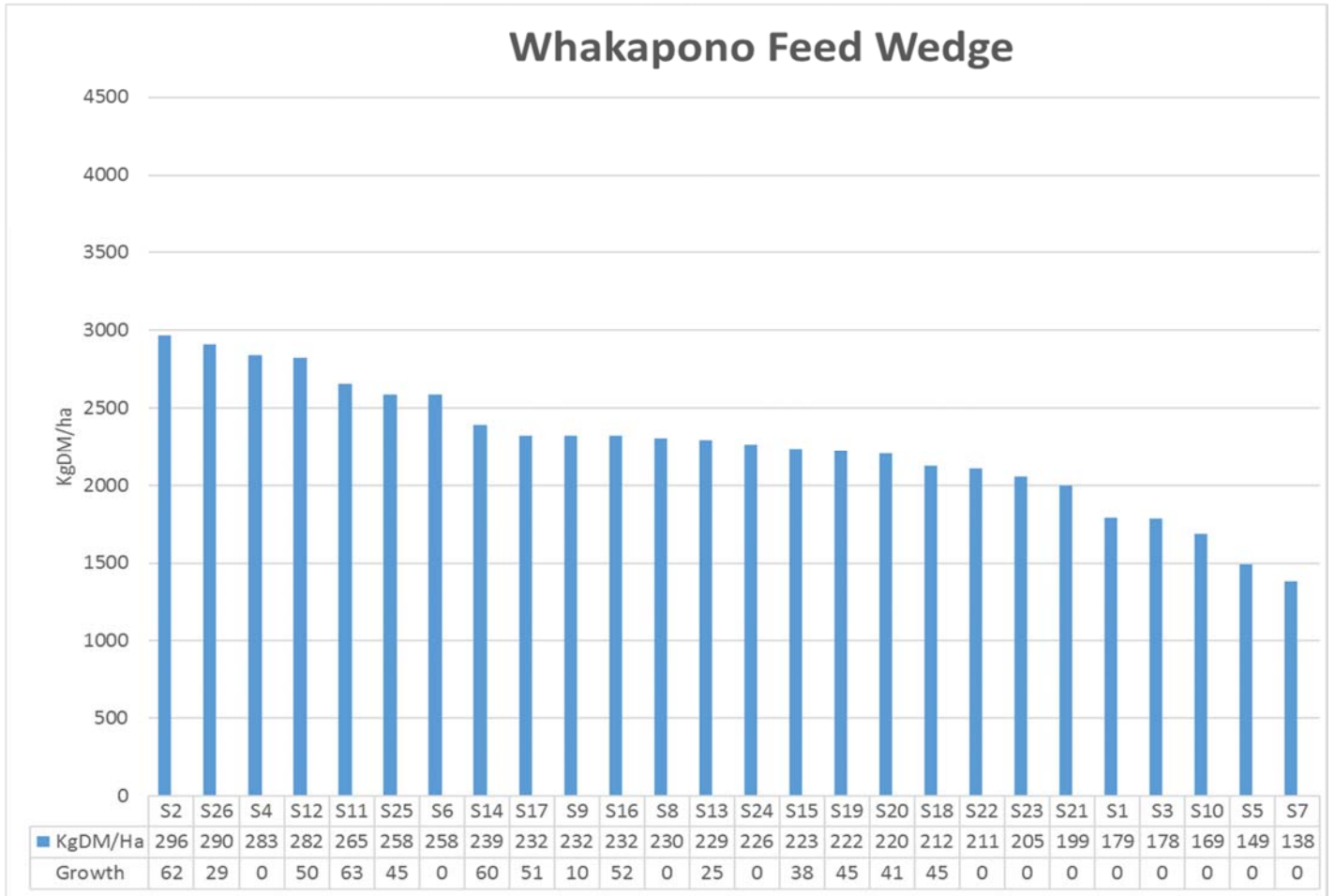
Please note there is a week missing here due to weather and pasture walks not completed

Summary

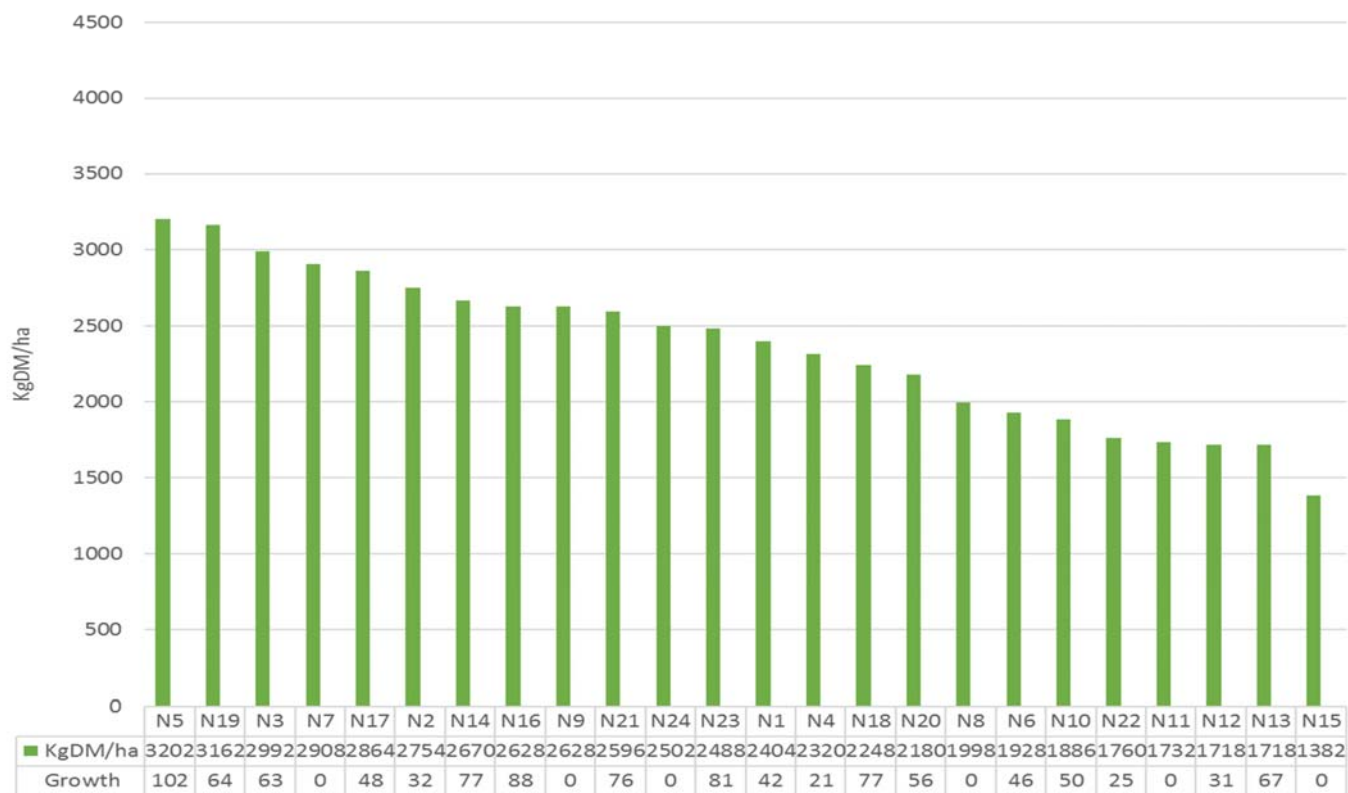
- Average pasture cover on Whakapono on the 29th March was 2410 kgDM/ha, which has dropped 100 to 2298 KgDM/ha for this week.
- Waiora had a cover of 2430KgDM/ha and has decreased slightly to 2365 KgDM/ha.
- Growth rates on Whakapono are below demand (60) at 47, the same on Waiora at 47 which relates to the drop in cover.
- Heavy rain again has meant cows have had to be moved on to reduce pasture damage and keep intakes up which will quickly drop cover.
- Not able to feed out much this week due to wet weather.
- 93 mm rainfall (that's a lot of rain for us) and overcast weather has meant all irrigation is off this week and probably finished for the year.
- Milk production has fallen again from 1.56 to 1.43 kgMS/cow on Whakapono and lower on Waiora at 1.45 kgMS/cow.
- DM% has dropped markedly on both farms from 17-20 % to 13-14% which will be lowering potential intakes significantly as it did in spring.
- 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% similar at 18% (see table below).
- Clover is typically 30% on Whakapono and 20% on Waiora has fallen in recent sample to 14% and 8% respectively as ryegrass kicks in again with cooler soil temps.
- Per cow production was starting to come into line with last seasons daily production but the recent fall will make it difficult to make up any more.
- Grain/PKE back up to 2.0 kg/cow as growth rates below demand at 18 KgDM/cow.
- NDF closer to 40% on Waiora restricting intake, 35% on Whakapono.
- Round length similar on Whakapono at 28 days with Waiora 28 days moving to moving to 36 now but nullified by moving cows on during wet weather and stopping silage feeding during those wet periods.
- 25 Jersey bull calves still on farm.
- 100 R2 year heifer grazing one day in front of cows so will be picking the best out of paddocks. Split 55/45 to each farm. They will leave farm shortly to neighbours as we try to extend rotation further.
- 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 has received 50 kg/ha of Sustain N giving 23kg N/ha on the paddocks that missed out in February.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 – 11th April



Waiora Feed Wedge



Animal Health

	Whakapono	Waiora
No of Mastitis Cows	0	0
No of Lambe Cows	4	4
Sick Herd %	1.0	1.3

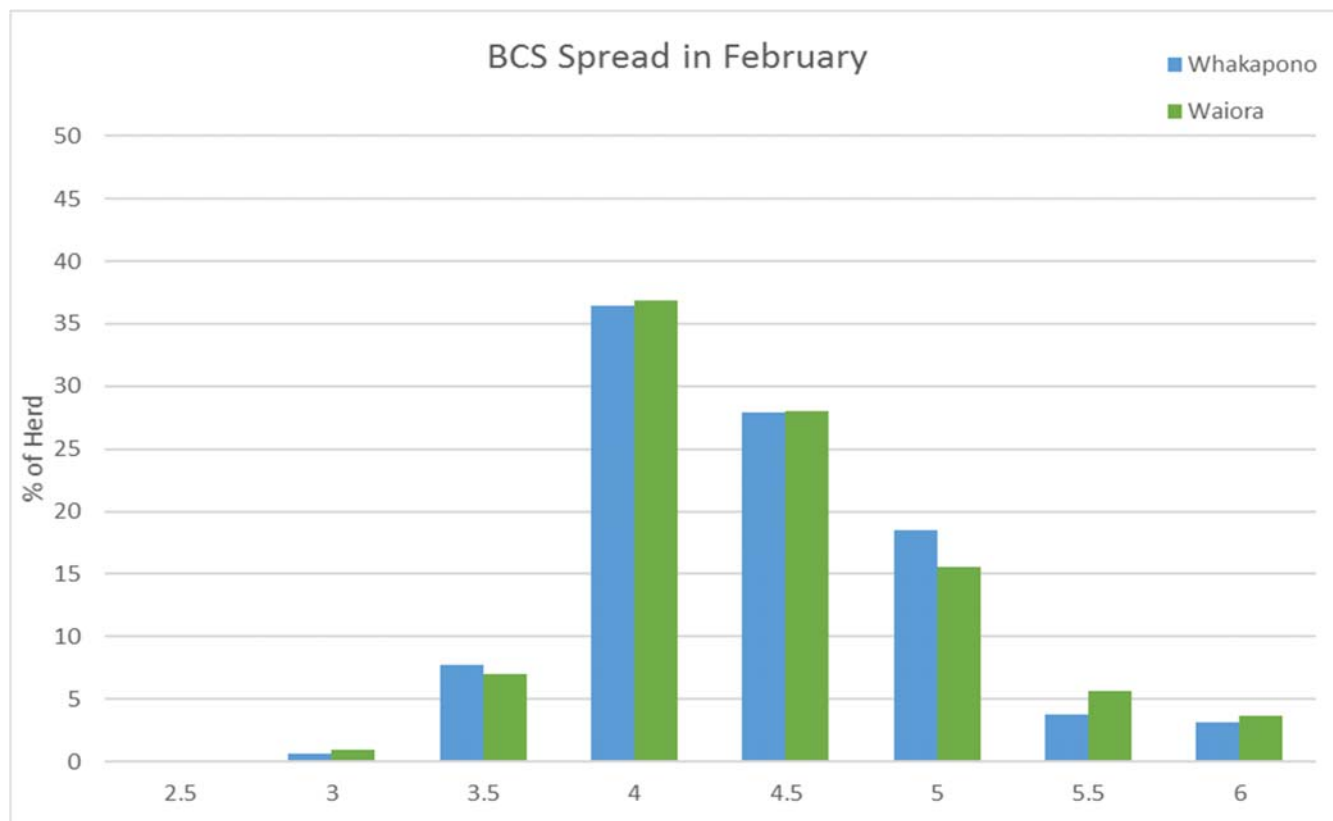
Mating

	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	13%	14%

Detection Method	Manager/2IC checking cows every morning and tail paint	Manager/2IC checking cows every afternoon and tail paint
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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 average condition and no more than 15% below CS 4.0.

Pasture Quality for this week:

	Whakapono	Waiora
DM%	18	17
Ryegrass (%DM)	86	92
Clover (%DM)	14	8
Weeds (%DM)	0	0
Herbs (%DM)	0	0