

## Backtrack Dairies

Week ending 15<sup>th</sup> February 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.

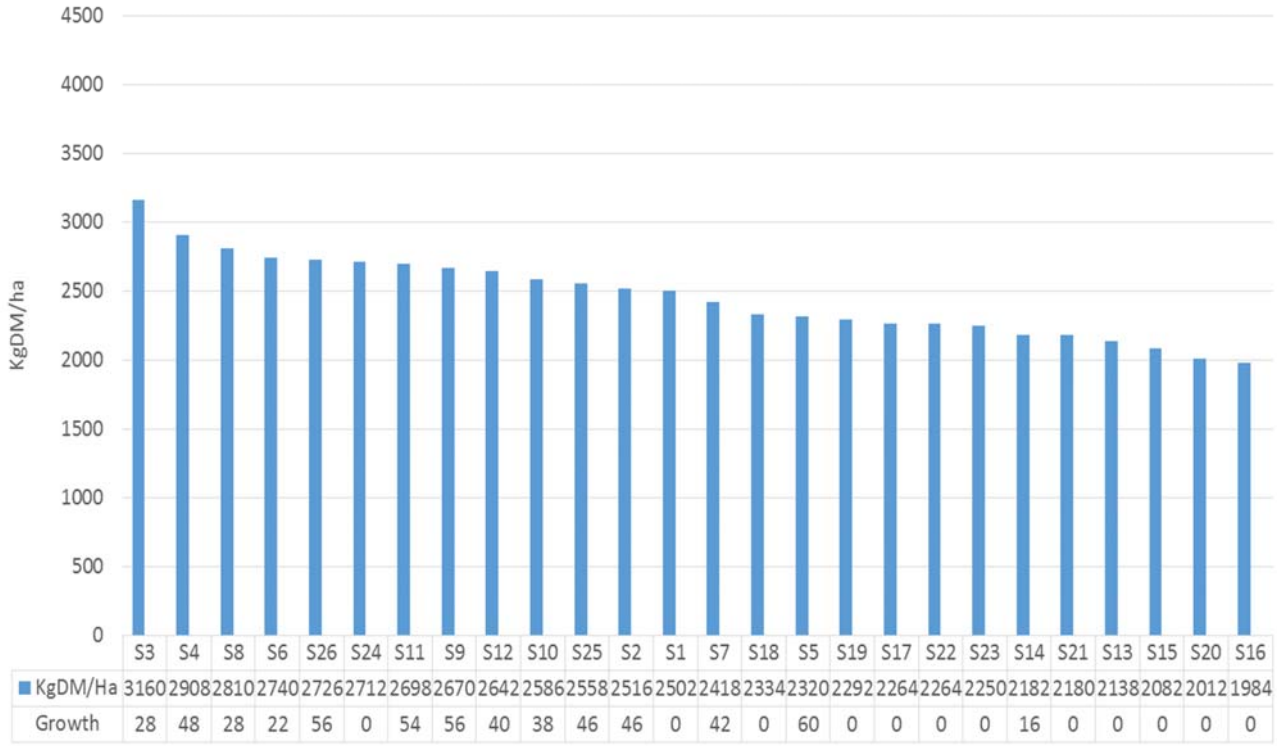
Week Ending	8/2/17		15/2/17	
Backtrack Dairies	Whakapono	Waiora	Whakapono	Waiora
Farm grazing ha	155	210	155	210
Peak Cows	483	639	483	639
Stocking Rate (cows in milk/ha)	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0
Cows in Milk	481	632	481	632
% of cows in Sick Herd	1.2	0.7	1.3	0.6
Cows in Vat	475	627	475	628
Ave. Pasture Cover	2580	2675	2485	2593
Ave. Pasture Growth	60	39	39	41
Area Grazed	7.07	8.32	7.93	9.05
Grazing Interval	22	25	20	23
Pasture Intake (est kgDM/cow)	21	20	19	19
Grass Silage Fed (kgDM/cow)	0	0	0	0
Grain/PKE Fed (kgDM/cow)	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0
Total Fed KgDM/cow	22	21	20	20
Milk Solids (Kg/cow/day)(inclu calf milk)	1.92	1.73	1.89	1.68
MS/ha/day	5.95	5.22	5.88	5.05
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	1	0	0	0
Rainfall (mm for week)	5	5	0	0
Irrigation applied (mm for week)	32	34	28	34
Soil Temperature at 9am	15	16	14	15
Soil Moisture (between 65-76%)	90	83	94	86
Cell count (000's)	117	123	119	131
Mastitis Cases (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lameness Cases (%)	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0
Body Condition Score				
<b>Totals To Date</b>				
Milk Solids to factory	166055	201108	172430	208534
Milk Solids inclu calf milk	172522	210607	178897	218033
MS/ha	1070	956	1111	991
MS/cow (peak cows)(inclu calf milk)	357	330	370	341
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	80	101	84	101
Supplements Fed (kg/cow)	275	286	281	293
Deaths %	1.0	2.8	1.0	2.8
Culls %	3.5	2.5	3.5	2.5

## Summary

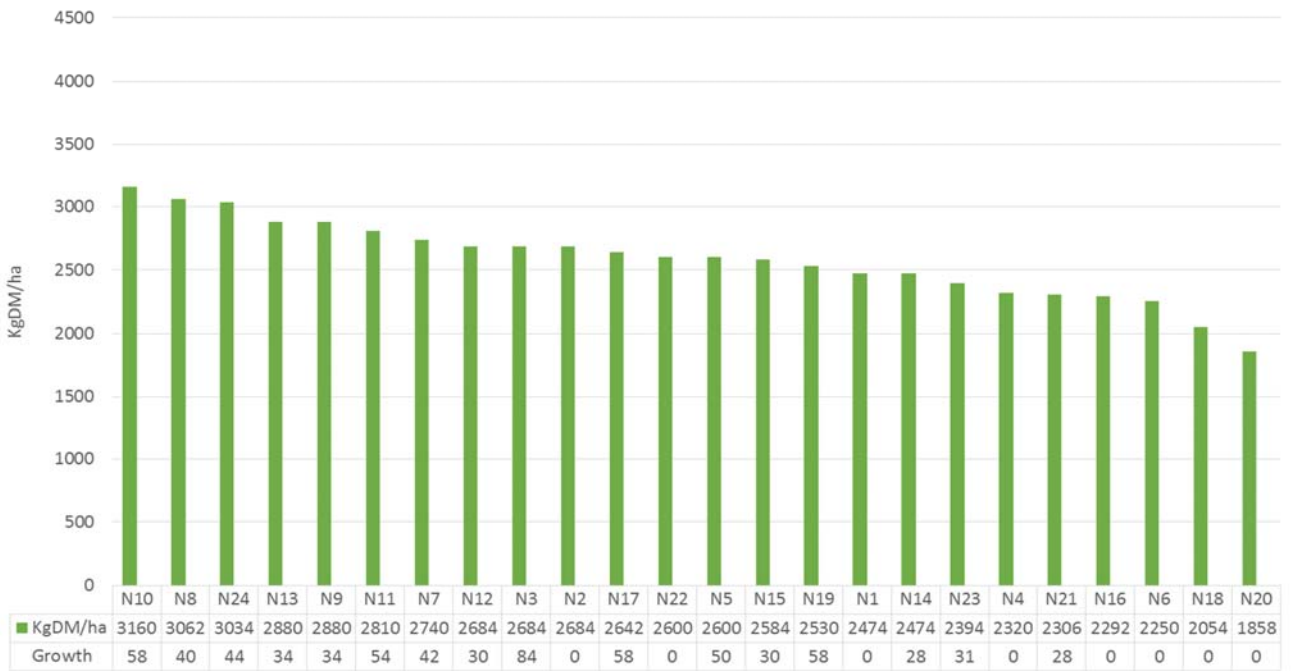
- Average pasture cover on Whakapono on the 8th February was 2580kgDM/ha has decreased slightly to 2485kgDM/ha.
- Waiora had a cover of 2675kgDM/ha and has dropped slightly to 2593 kgDM/ha as growth rates fall below demand
- Growth rates on Whakapono are below demand (60) at 39 and below also on Waiora at 41 which seems strange given both farms have only dropped cover slightly.
- Cover still well 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.
- Hopefully last of the topping and silage making as we will look to increase round length to 24 days in February.
- No rainfall and hot temperatures and wind has meant irrigation is full on this week.
- Milk production stable with more settled weather at 1.89 kgMS/cow on Whakapono and lower on Waiora at 1.68 kgMS/cow because their rotation has shortened up and they are eating into the base more after the silage had come out.
- 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.
- 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 21days with Waiora 22 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 receiving another round of fertiliser 250 kg/ha containing N 17, P 11, K 24, S 24 kg/ha. Lime and Dolomite will follow 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.
- 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 Waioras 58%.
- Hopefully more will be in calf to the bull in the last three weeks of mating but wont be holding my breath after last year.

**Feed Wedges – 14<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**Whakapono Feed Wedge**



**Waiora Feed Wedge**



## Animal Health

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