

Backtrack Dairies

Week ending 21st December 2016

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.

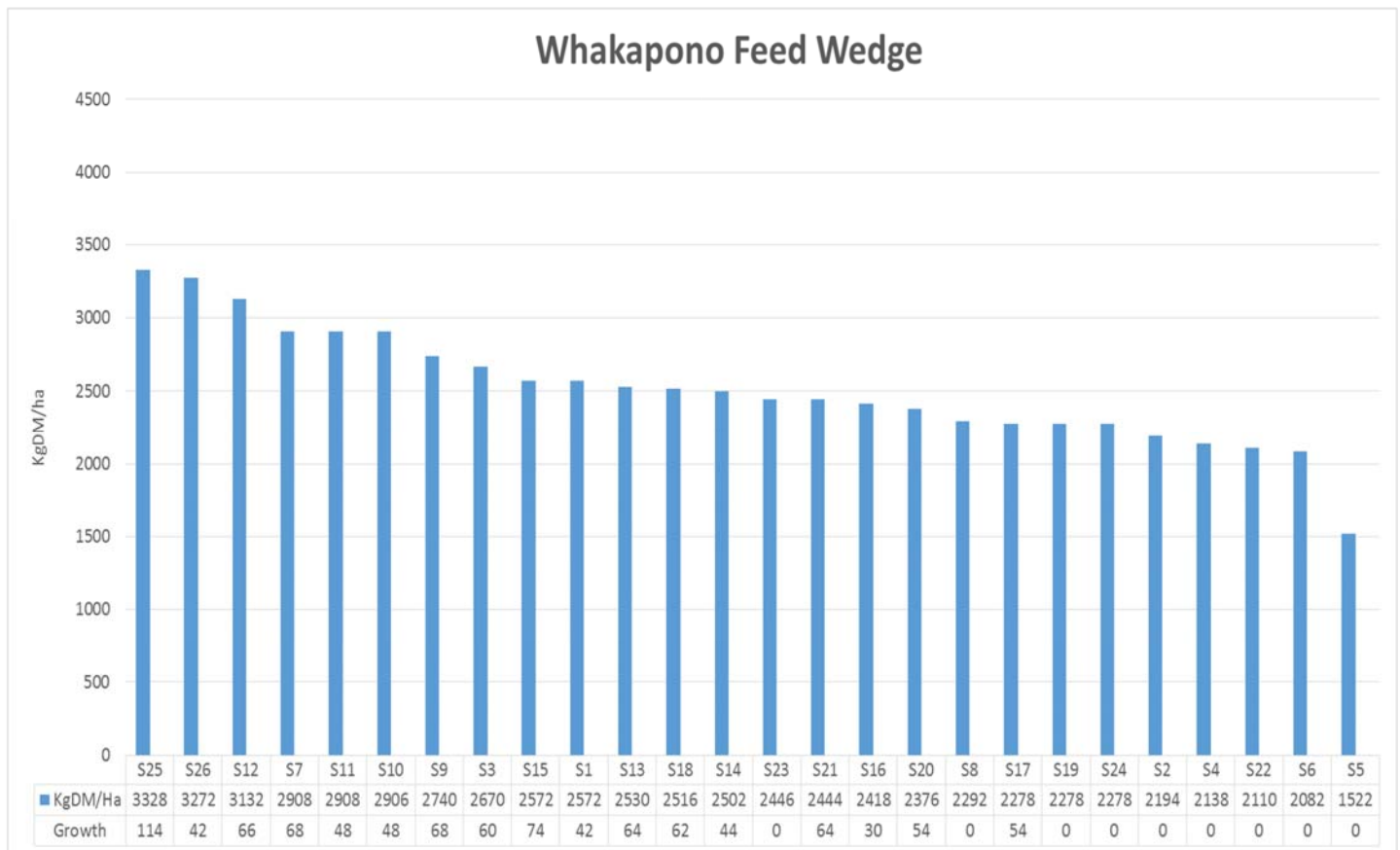
Week Ending	14/12/16		21/12/16	
	Whakapono	Waiora	Whakapono	Waiora
Backtrack Dairies				
Farm grazing ha	155	210	155	210
Peak Cows	483	647	483	639
Stocking Rate (cows in milk/ha)	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0
Cows in Milk	483	636	482	636
% of cows in Sick Herd	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.1
Cows in Vat	478	630	478	628
Ave. Pasture Cover	2517	2848	2529	2748
Ave. Pasture Growth	49	78	59	51
Area Grazed	8.16	11.20	7.76	7.75
Grazing Interval	19	19	20	22
Pasture Intake (est kgDM/cow)	20	20	20	20
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	22	22	22	22
Milk Solids (Kg/cow/day)(inclu calf milk)	2.02	2.00	1.99	1.95
MS/ha/day	6.12	5.84	6.05	5.75
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	15	9	2	6
Rainfall (mm for week)	48	48	0	0
Irrigation applied (mm for week)	10	9	19	18
Soil Temperature at 9am	14	15	14	15
Soil Moisture (between 65-76%)	85	84	94	79
Cell count (000's)	134	202	129	157
Mastitis Cases (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lameness Cases (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Body Condition Score	4.55	4.66		
Totals To Date				
Milk Solids to factory	104573	136645	111132	145101
Milk Solids inclu calf milk	110905	145919	117599	154600
MS/ha	673	649	715	689
MS/cow (peak cows)(inclu calf milk)	230	228	243	242
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	61	95	63	101
Supplements Fed (kg/cow)	198	210	212	224
Deaths %	0.8	2.7	1.0	2.7
Culls %	3.3	2.0	3.5	2.2

Summary

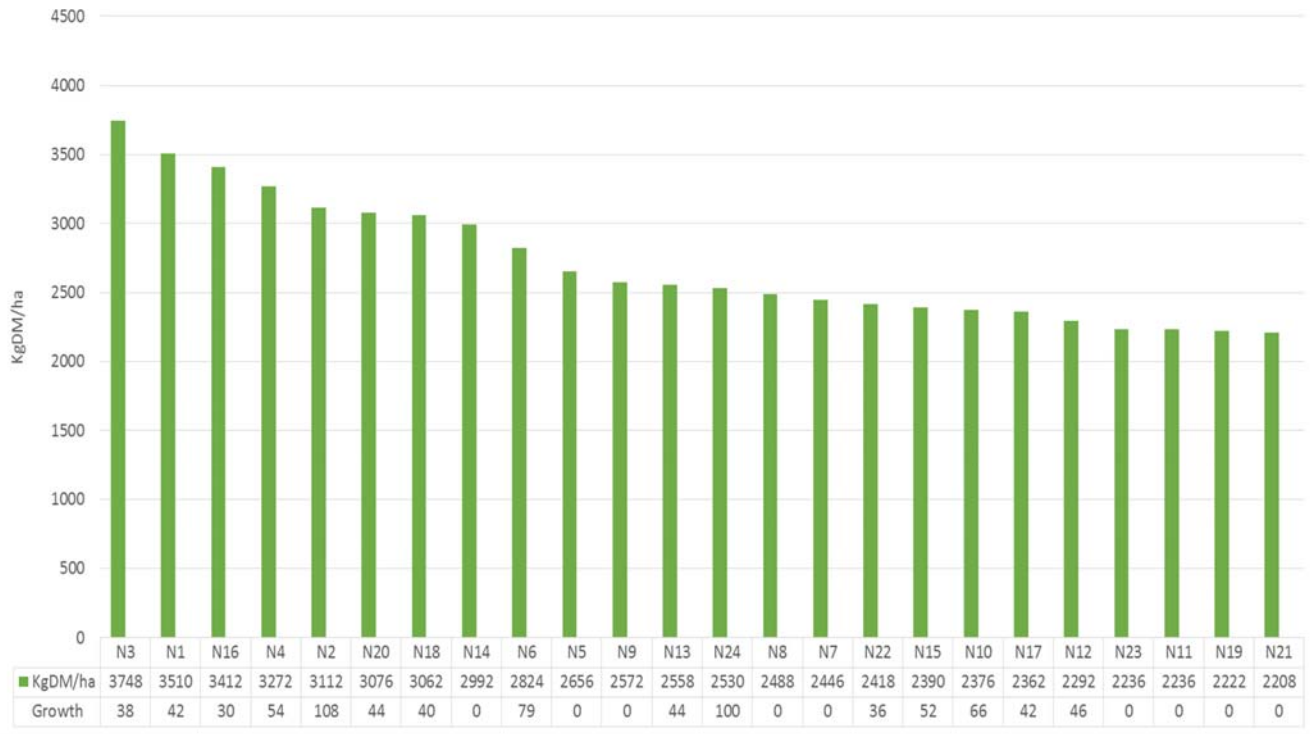
- Average pasture cover on Whakapono at the end of week December 14th was 2517kgDM/ha has held at 2529kgDM/ha after taking out two more paddocks (1/3) for silage. This was a mistake in hindsight as things have really slowed down on Whakapono as a combination of wet weather, and speeding up the round and running out of fertiliser in the system.
- Waiora by contrast had a cover of 2848kgDM/ha and has dropped to 2748kgDM/ha after making two more paddocks for silage (21/23) and previously topped paddocks coming back well, but carrying a large base because of the extra N and K applied.
- Growth rates on Whakapono are right on demand (60) at 59 and below on Waiora also at 51 which seems strange given the higher cover with cover still well above ideal for this time of year with plate meter reading extremely high +400.
- More silage and pre-graze topping will need to be done to control this.
- No rain for a change has meant irrigation is on flat out with some hot days.
- Cows milking well still but down a bit with hot weather at 1.99 kgMS/cow on Whakapono and similar on Waiora at 1.95 kgMS/cow.
- 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 10% down on Whakapono and 14% down on Waiora. We also calved one week later and took more calf milk out.
- Grain/PKE up to 2.0 kg/cow to make up for lower growth rates.
- Pastures appear stalky with DM around 20%
- Continued pre-graze topping the other half of paddocks of second herd on Waiora and they are cleaning up in five grazings instead of six (12 hour) so intakes have definitely increased.
- Whakapono pastures have been topped but are slow coming back with hot weather and reduced round length but are good quality
- Round length two to three days shorter on Whakapono at 19 to 20 days is helping with quality but feel like we are struggling compared to
- Calves (300) over 85 kg have left farm for grazing leaving ~ 200 calves including 40 Herefords and 20 Jersey bull calves.
- Calf milk down to 450 litres on Whakapono and 600 litres on Waiora.
- Whakapono has started receiving another round of fertiliser containing N 17, P 2, K 12, S 12
- Waiora has brought forward the Jan/Feb round of 100kg/ha of Sustain 25K which gives 23 of N and 25 of K.
- Whakapono total N to date 64 kg/ha to end December.
- Waiora also received a round of 240 kg/ha DAP Sulphur Super as a maintenance dressing
- Unfortunately, I didn't read the recommendation properly thinking it was only Sulphur super and applied the other fertiliser on the recommendation which was 90 kg/ha of Sustain25 K which gives another 25 units of N on top of the 23 units of N in the DAP.
- Waiora total N to date 100 kg/ha to end December.
- Problem with moisture meter on Whakapono with contacts into tapes needing replacement so using Waiora meter to help make irrigation decisions. This is sorted now and working well.
- Mating is going very well with Whakapono submitting 447 cows out of 490 including 6 carryovers giving 91% in first 23 days.
- Remaining 43 non-cyclers included 15 lates and all received PG. Culls (3) were not mated.

- Waiora has submitted 571 out of 648 cows including 16 carryovers giving 87% in first 23 days
- Remaining 77 non-cyclers included 43 lates all received PG. Culls (5) were not mated.
- Whakapono finished AB with 6 cows unmated, Waiora also 6 unmated.
- 20 Friesian bulls have been contracted at meat values of day at minimum 500kg liveweight from local farmer, six more than last season. Short gestation Hereford for last week of AB as a marker bull.
- Bulls out on 15/12/16 with two teams of four changed every three days on Whakapono and two teams of three for each herd on Waiora rotated the same way.

Feed Wedges – 21st Dec



Waiora Feed Wedge



Animal Health

	Whakapono	Waiora
No of Mastitis Cows	0	0
No of Lambe Cows	0	0
Sick Herd %	0.8	1.1