

Backtrack Dairies

Week ending 24th May 2017

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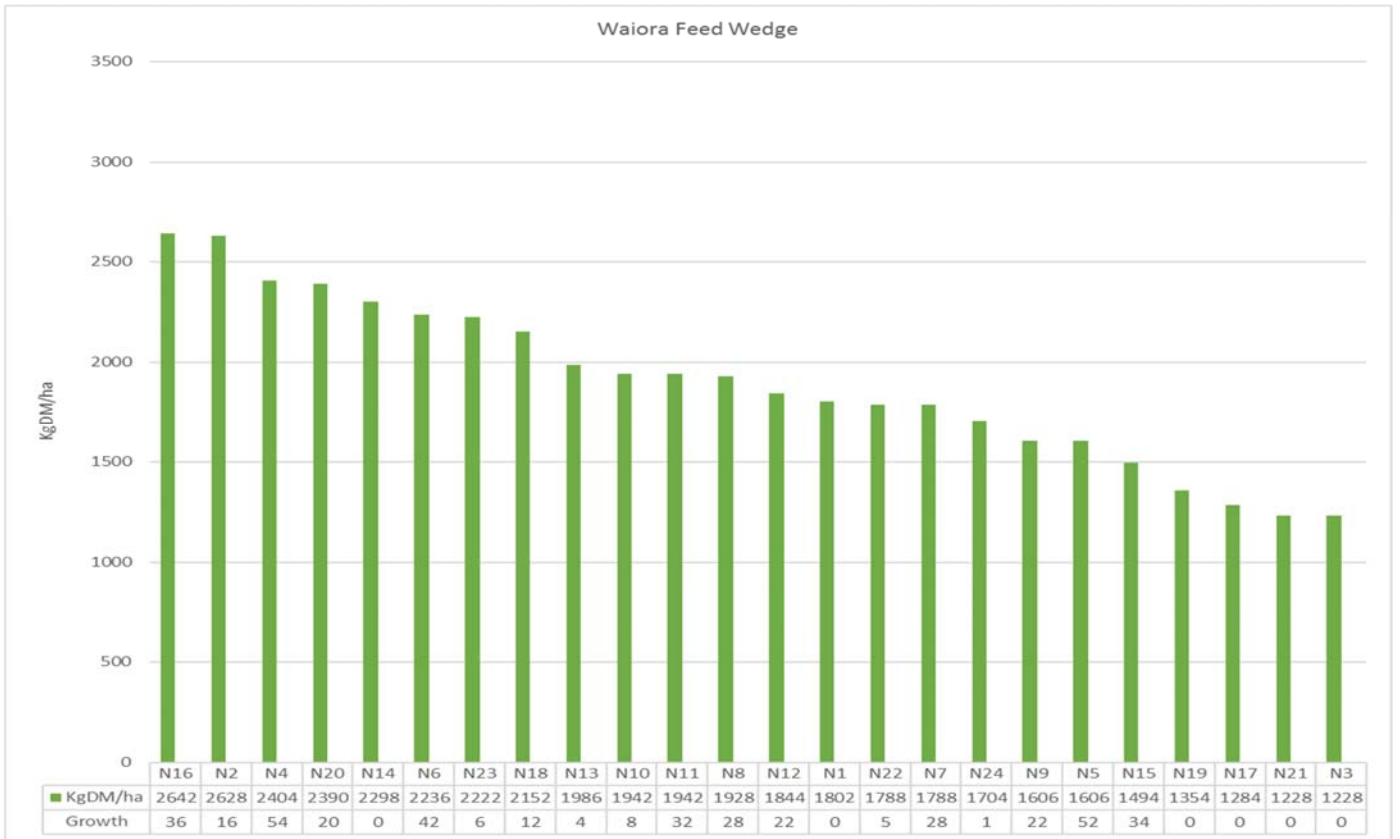
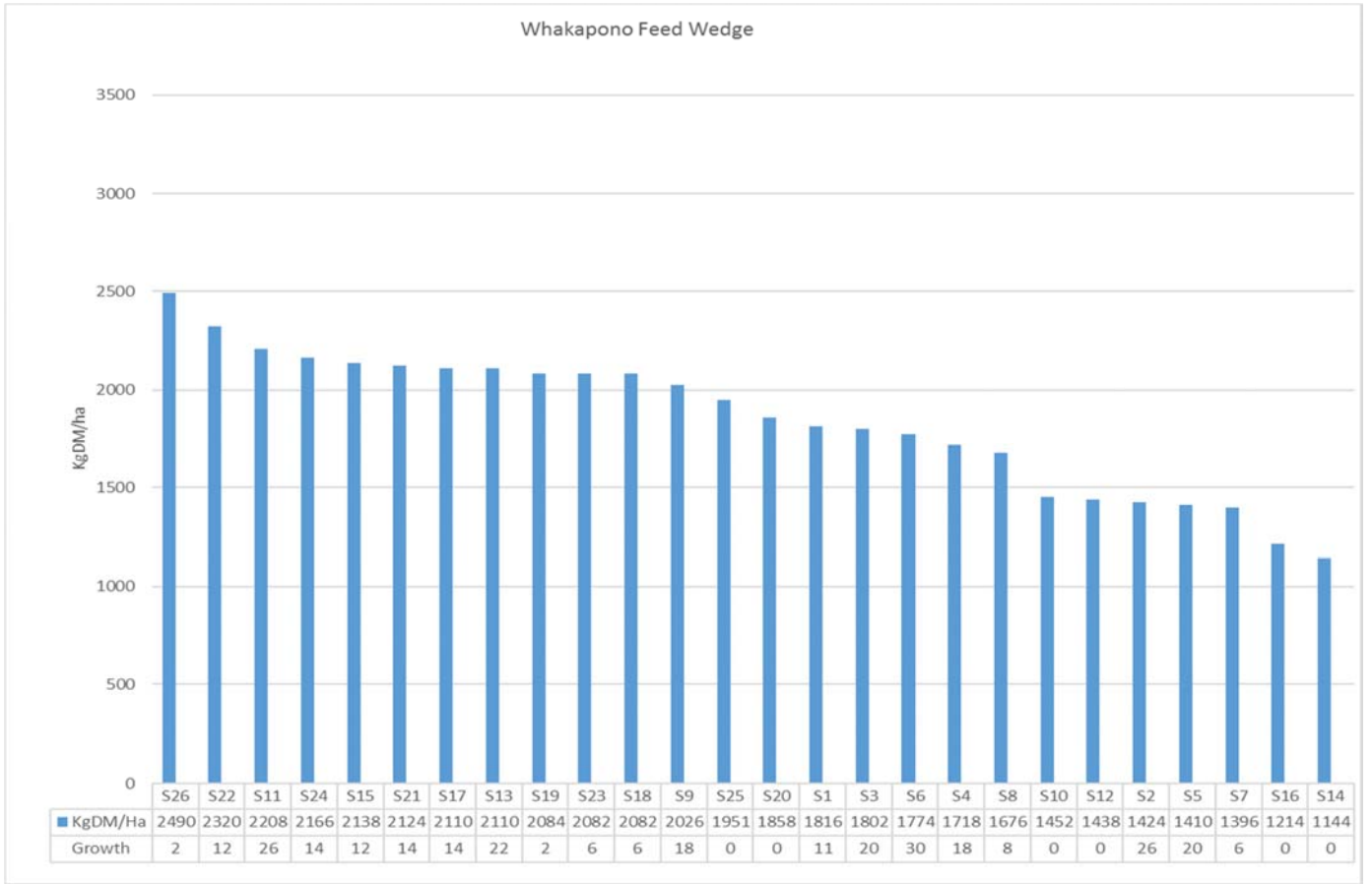
Two farming systems. One Kinsey-Albrecht (Whakapono) and one conventional (Waiora). Both farms have a stocking rate of 3.1 cows/ha at peak.

Week Ending	17/5/17		24/5/17	
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	2.8	2.8	2.6
Cows in Milk	451	584	431	554
% of cows in Sick Herd	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
Cows in Vat	449	582	430	552
Ave. Pasture Cover	1996	1960	1836	1928
Ave. Pasture Growth	23	26	14	22
Area Grazed	3.74	6.30	5.22	5.73
Grazing Interval	41	38	30	37
Pasture Intake (est kgDM/cow)	8	8	16	15
Grass Silage Fed (kgDM/cow)	8.0	6.0	2.9	2.1
Grain/PKE Fed (kgDM/cow)	1.3	1.7	1.3	1.7
Total Fed KgDM/cow	22	19	20	18
Milk Solids (Kg/cow/day)(inclu calf milk)	1.31	1.21	1.24	1.17
MS/ha/day	3.80	3.37	3.44	3.10
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	0	0	0	0
Rainfall (mm for week)	10	10	26	26
Irrigation applied (mm for week)	0	0	0	0
Soil Temperature at 9am	9	9	7	7
Soil Moisture (between 65-76%)	112	84	116	89
Cell count (000's)	119	130	141	144
Mastitis Cases (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lameness Cases (%)	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.2
Body Condition Score	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4
Totals To Date				
Milk Solids to factory	229308	291986	233042	296543
Milk Solids inclu calf milk	235776	301485	239510	306042
MS/ha	1478	1389	1502	1410
MS/cow (peak cows)(inclu calf milk)	488	474	496	481
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	84	124	84	124
Supplements Fed (kg/cow)	628	520	650	543
Deaths %	1.7	3.5	1.7	3.5
Culls %	9.1	9.0	13.3	13.7

Summary

- Average pasture cover on Whakapono on the 17th of May was 1996 kgDM/ha, which has dropped to 1836 KgDM/ha which means we need to dry off soon. We are not holding cover as hoped.
- Waiora had a cover of 1960KgDM/ha and has dropped another 60 to 1928 which is also very low.
- Growth rates on Whakapono are very low vs demand (27) at 14 with more, cold wet weather which has meant opening cows up again to avoid damage and leaving silage in the stack.
- 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.
- 26mm rainfall this week has meant we have been unable to extend the rotation to 48 days despite combining Waiora cows into one herd of 580.
- Milk production has dropped to 1.24 kgMS/cow on Whakapono and slightly lower on Waiora at 1.17 kgMS/cow probably due to wet weather and poor utilisation.
- Pasture samples taken each week on the next two paddocks are about to graze a weighed and dried for DM% similar at 15 -18% (see table below).
- Clover was typically 30% on Whakapono and 20% on Waiora has fallen markedly in recent samples to only 7% and 1% as ryegrass kicks in again with cooler soil temps.
- 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 50 more left the farm this week 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 fertiliser spend in Canterbury \$600/ha.
- Whakapono had 62% in calf early (August calving) compared to Waiora's 58%.
- Surprising lack of lameness despite the prolonged wet conditions and need of track maintenance on both farms.
- 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.
- Will need to dry lighter and young cows from each farm next week which is a good week earlier than last year.

Feed Wedges – 23rd May



Animal Health

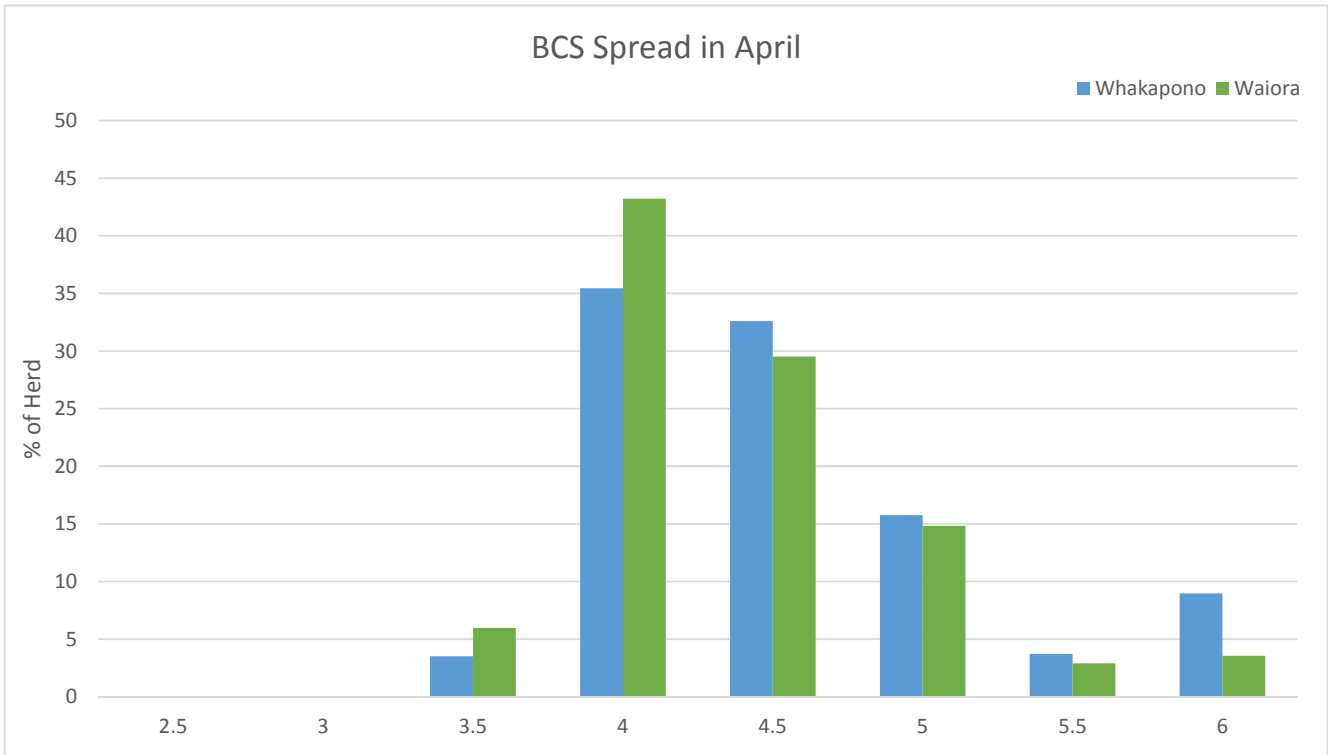
	Whakapono	Waiora
No of Mastitis Cows	0	0
No of Lambe Cows	3	1
Sick Herd %	0.3	0.3

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	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 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 4.4. 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%	18	15
Ryegrass (%DM)	93	99
Clover (%DM)	7	1
Weeds (%DM)	0	0
Herbs (%DM)	0	0