

Backtrack Dairies

Week ending 25th January 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.

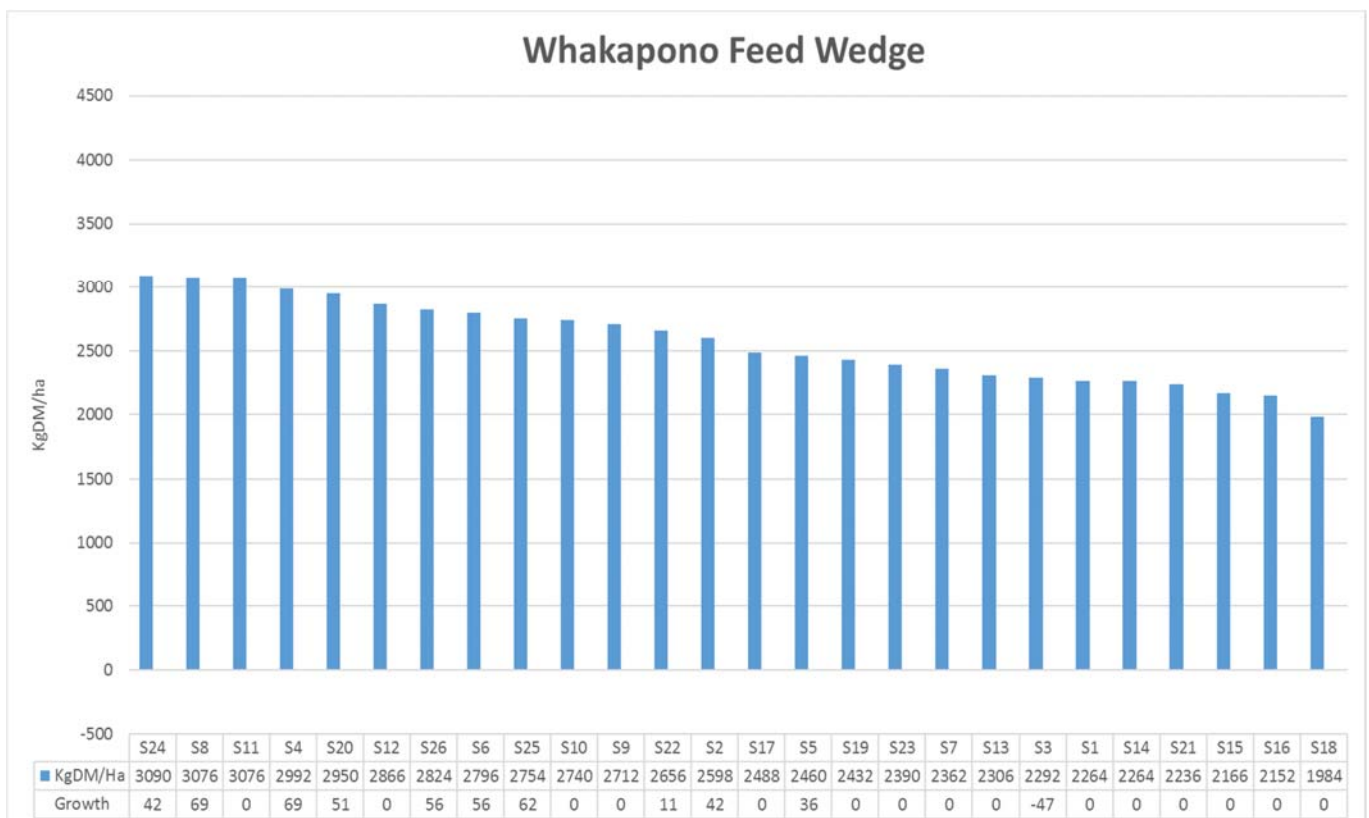
Week Ending	18/1/17		25/1/17	
Backtrack Dairies	Whakapono	Waiora	Whakapono	Waiora
Farm grazing ha	155	210	155	210
Peak Cows	483	639	483	639
Stocking Rate (cows in milk/ha)	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0
Cows in Milk	481	633	481	633
% of cows in Sick Herd	0.6	1.4	0.2	1.0
Cows in Vat	478	624	480	627
Ave. Pasture Cover	2586	2777	2583	2754
Ave. Pasture Growth	74	50	49	41
Area Grazed	6.76	9.92	7.73	8.24
Grazing Interval	23	21	20	25
Pasture Intake (est kgDM/cow)	20	17	18	22
Grass Silage Fed (kgDM/cow)	0	0	0	0
Grain/PKE Fed (kgDM/cow)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Fed KgDM/cow	21	18	19	23
Milk Solids (Kg/cow/day)(inclu calf milk)	2.07	1.89	1.82	1.61
MS/ha/day	6.41	5.71	5.65	4.85
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	8	0	4	0
Rainfall (mm for week)	5	5	45	45
Irrigation applied (mm for week)	24	25	3	3
Soil Temperature at 9am	16	16	14	15
Soil Moisture (between 65-76%)	88	78	97	85
Cell count (000's)	139	147	130	137
Mastitis Cases (%)	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.3
Lameness Cases (%)	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.2
Body Condition Score				
Totals To Date				
Milk Solids to factory	138160	178654	153093	185790
Milk Solids inclu calf milk	144628	188153	159560	195289
MS/ha	890	849	986	883
MS/cow (peak cows)(inclu calf milk)	299	294	330	306
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	72	101	79	101
Supplements Fed (kg/cow)	254	266	261	272
Deaths %	1.0	2.7	1.0	2.7
Culls %	3.5	2.5	3.5	2.5

Summary

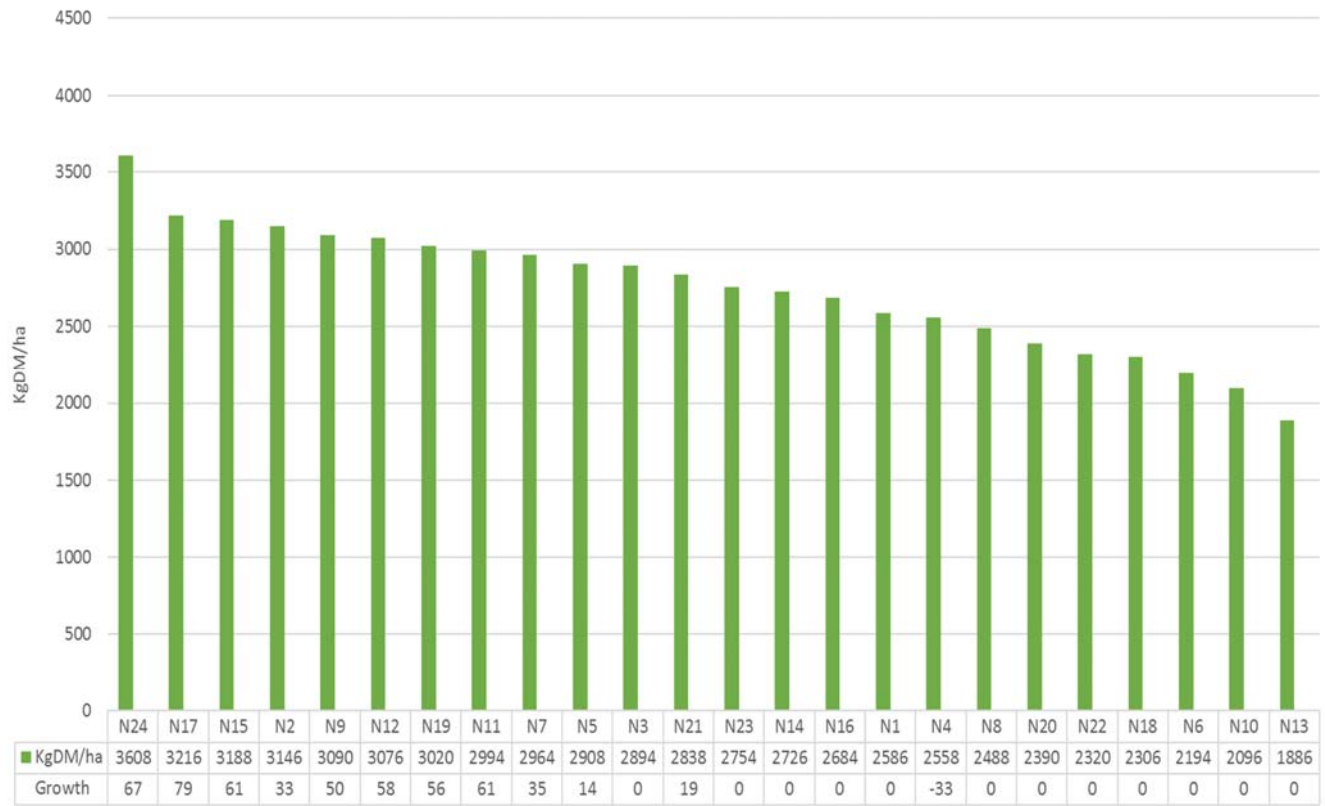
- Average pasture cover on Whakapono at the end of the 18th Jan was 2586kgDM/ha has held at 2583kgDM/ha.
- Waiora had a cover of 2777KgDM/ha and has held also at 2754KgDM/ha after making 25ha silage (138 bales) on paddocks that had actually been topped in November but have still got hairy again.
- Growth rates on Whakapono are below demand (60) at 49 and below on Waiora lower at 41 which seems strange given both farms have held cover.
- Cover still well above ideal with plate meter reading extremely high +400 so having the same problems as Lincoln interpreting the data.
- 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 now then 28 in February.
- 219 bales of silage also came in last week from off farm from neighbours of which some will be available for winter feeding plus another 207 this week
- 45mm rain and warmer temperatures has meant irrigation is off again this week.
- Cows down a bit with hot and cold wet weather at 1.82 kgMS/cow on Whakapono and lower on Waiora at 1.61kgMS/cow.
- 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 8% down on Whakapono and 12% down on Waiora. We also calved one week later and took more calf milk out of both vats proportionally.
- Had one day with a cooler problem where Whakapono cows had to be milked and fed on Waiora for 24 hours.
- Grain/PKE back down to 1.0 kg/cow as growth rates closer to demand at 18 KgDM.
- Pastures appear stalky with DM around 18%.
- Round length two to three days shorter on Whakapono at 19 days is helping with quality but feel like we are struggling compared to Waiora on 22 which has a bow wave of feed in front which needed silage making to control it.
- Calves (400) over 85 kg have left farm for grazing leaving ~ 70 calves including 45 Herefords and 25 Jersey bull calves.
- Calf milk down to 100 litres on Whakapono and 200 litres on Waiora with none from vats.
- Whakapono has received 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.
- Waiora has brought forward the Jan/Feb round of 100kg/ha of Sustain 25K which gives 23 of N and 25 of K. This could have waited in hindsight given present covers.
- Whakapono total N to date 64 kg/ha to end December and total spend on fertiliser \$450/ha
- 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 and total spend on fertiliser to date has been \$284/ha to the end of 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.
- Bulls removed on January 9th to make 10 weeks mating in total.

Feed Wedges – 24th Jan



Waiora Feed Wedge



Animal Health

	Whakapono	Waiora
No of Mastitis Cows	1	2
No of Lambe Cows	1	1
Sick Herd %	0.2	1.0