

Backtrack Dairies

Week ending 4th 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	28/12/16		4/1/17	
	Whakapono	Waiora	Whakapono	Waiora
Backtrack Dairies				
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	635	481	635
% of cows in Sick Herd	0.2	0.4	0.9	0.8
Cows in Vat	480	633	477	630
Ave. Pasture Cover	2570	2848	2533	2877
Ave. Pasture Growth	62	54	58	62
Area Grazed	6.75	6.53	6.75	6.53
Grazing Interval	20	22	23	22
Pasture Intake (est kgDM/cow)	20	18	20	18
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	22	20	22	20
Milk Solids (Kg/cow/day)(inclu calf milk)	2.01	1.95	2.02	1.93
MS/ha/day	6.25	5.89	6.28	5.83
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	0	0	0	0
Rainfall (mm for week)	29	29	20	20
Irrigation applied (mm for week)	17	17	16	16
Soil Temperature at 9am	15	16	15	16
Soil Moisture (between 65-76%)	95	84	96	83
Cell count (000's)	144	134	123	149
Mastitis Cases (%)	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.5
Lameness Cases (%)	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3
Body Condition Score				
Totals To Date				
Milk Solids to factory	117909	153762	124724	162326
Milk Solids inclu calf milk	124377	163261	131191	171825
MS/ha	759	730	803	771
MS/cow (peak cows)(inclu calf milk)	258	255	272	269
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	63	101	63	101
Supplements Fed (kg/cow)	226	238	240	252
Deaths %	1.0	2.7	1.0	2.7
Culls %	3.5	2.2	3.5	2.2

Summary

- Average pasture cover on Whakapono at the end of week December 28th was 2570kgDM/ha has held at 2533kgDM/ha.
- Waiora by contrast has a cover of 2848kgDM/ha and has increased to 2877kgDM/ha despite making two more paddocks for silage (21/23) 45 bales 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 58 and similar on Waiora also at 62 which seems strange given the increase in 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.
- Have locked up 25 ha on Waiora for silage. Pdk 2 and back half of 3, 5 and 7 which are particularly hairy.
- 219 bales of silage also came in from off farm from neighbours of which some will be available for winter feeding.
- 20mm rain has meant irrigation is off again for another week.
- Cows milking well still but up and down a bit with hot and cold wet weather at 2.02 kgMS/cow on Whakapono and similar on Waiora at 1.93 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 of both vats proportionally.
- Grain/PKE back down to 1.0 kg/cow as growth rates closer to demand at 20 KgDM.
- Pastures appear stalky with DM around 18%.
- 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 Waiora which has a bow wave of feed in front which needs silage made 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 200 litres on Whakapono and 300 litres on Waiora with none from vats.
- Whakapono has received 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. 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 (coming from Nicole).
- 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 to be removed on January 9th to make 10 weeks mating in total.

Feed Wedges – No walk this week – cover and growth averaged over last week and the next week

Animal Health

	Whakapono	Waiora
No of Mastitis Cows	0	3
No of Lamé Cows	0	2
Sick Herd %	0.9	0.8