

## Backtrack Dairies

Week ending 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### Backtrack Dairies

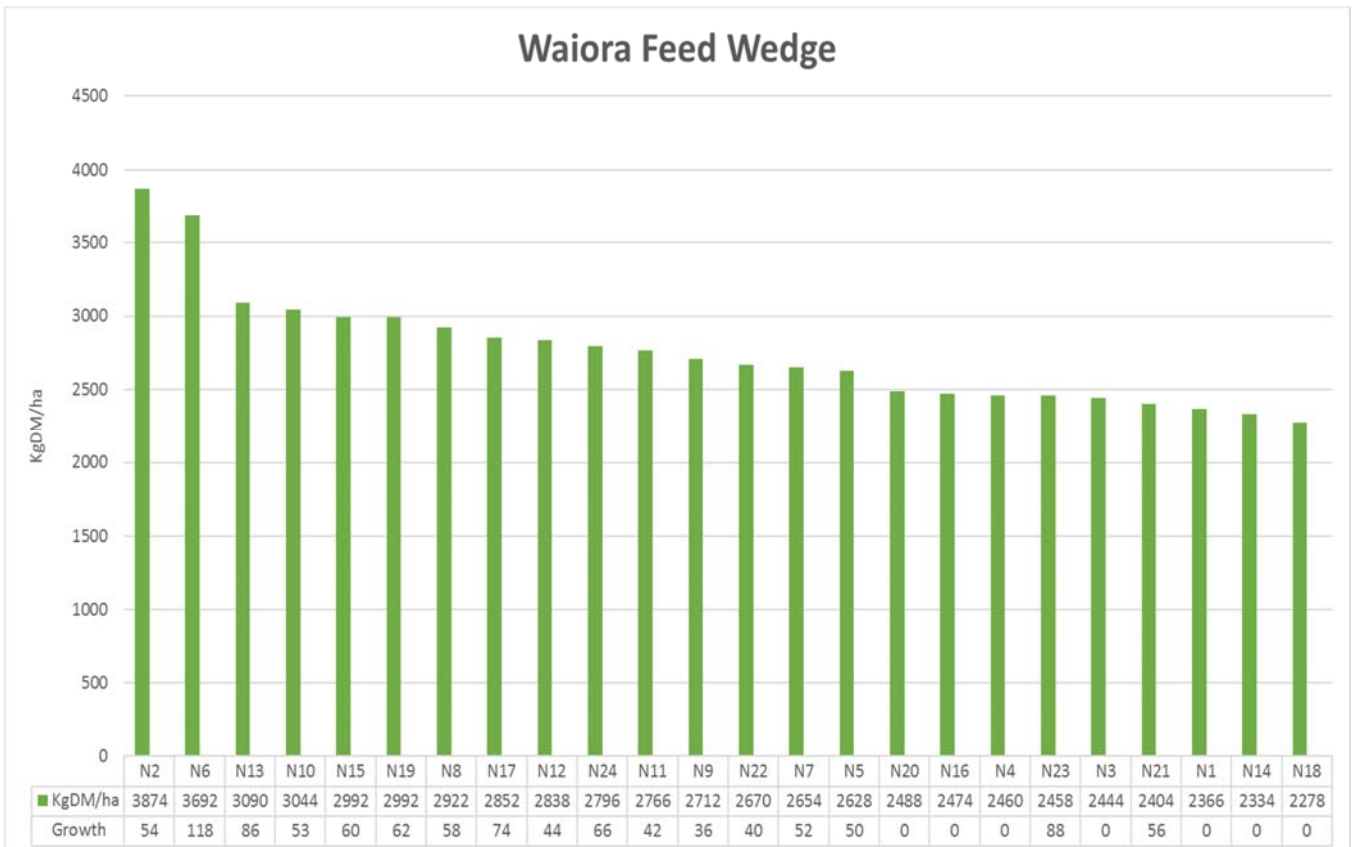
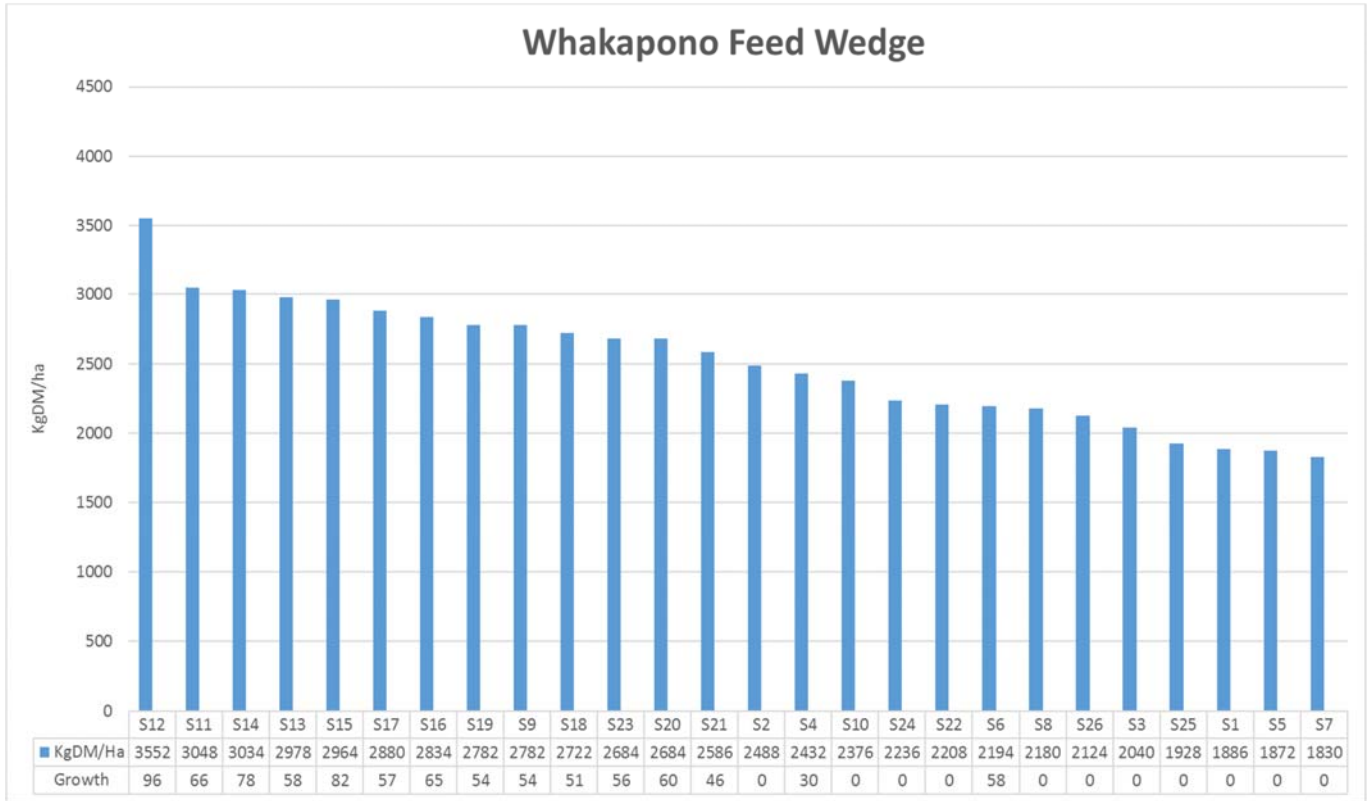
Two farming systems. One Kinsey-Albrecht (Whakapono) and one conventional (Waiora). Both farms have a stocking rate of 3.1 cows/ha at peak.

Week Ending	30/11/16		7/12/16	
	Whakapono	Waiora	Whakapono	Waiora
<b>Backtrack Dairies</b>				
Farm grazing ha	155	210	155	210
Peak Cows	478	647	478	647
Stocking Rate (cows in milk/ha)	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Cows in Milk	485	632	483	635
% of cows in Sick Herd	1.1	1.8	1.2	0.5
Cows in Vat	480	621	477	632
Ave. Pasture Cover	2620	2774	2506	2784
Ave. Pasture Growth	65	76	61	58
Area Grazed	6.70	8.31	9.92	8.04
Grazing Interval	23	25	23	25
Pasture Intake (est kgDM/cow)	20	20	20	20
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	21	21	21
Milk Solids (Kg/cow/day)(inclu calf milk)	2.05	2.09	2.06	2.07
MS/ha/day	6.09	5.90	6.19	6.02
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	0	0	10	9
Rainfall (mm for week)	5	5	15	15
Irrigation applied	19676	24264	5	6
Soil Temperature at 9am	13	14	13	14
Soil Moisture (between 65-76%)	66	77	81	83
Cell count (000's)	142	141	150	140
Mastitis Cases (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lameness Cases (%)	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.0
Body Condition Score				
<b>Totals To Date</b>				
Milk Solids to factory	91222	119214	97936	128063
Milk Solids inclu calf milk	97122	127813	104080	137022
MS/ha	587	566	630	608
MS/cow (peak cows)(inclu calf milk)	203	198	215	214
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)	46	77	56	90
Supplements Fed (kg/cow)	180	185	185	197
Deaths %	0.8	2.3	0.8	2.7
Culls %	3.3	1.9	3.3	2.0

## Summary

- Average pasture cover on Whakapono at the end of week November 16th was 2620kgDM/ha has dropped to 2506kgDM/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 system.
- Waiora by contrast had a cover of 2774KgDM/ha and has held at 2784KgDM/ha with two more paddocks closed for silage and topped paddocks coming very well.
- Growth rates on Whakapono right on demand (60) at 61 and on Waiora also at 58 with cover still 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.
- 15 mm rain has meant irrigation been required only two days this week for second time this year.
- Cows milking well around 2.06kgMS/cow on Whakapono and similar on Waiora at 2.07kgMS/cow.
- Grain/PKE down to 1.0 kg/cow.
- Pastures appear to be enough but with low DM (<15%) cows are not able to consume enough to reach their potential.
- 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 haven't needed topping at this stage but with recent wet weather some paddocks will need targeting next round.
- Calves (210) over 85 kg have left farm for grazing leaving ~ 280 calves including 40 Herefords and 20 Jersey bull calves.
- Calf milk down to 550 litres on Whakapono and 750 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.
- 20 Friesian bulls have been contracted at meat values of day at minimum 500kg liveweight from local farmer, six more than last season.

**Feed Wedges – 5<sup>th</sup> Dec**



**Animal Health**

	<b>Whakapono</b>	<b>Waiora</b>
No of Mastitis Cows	0	0
No of Lamé Cows	1	2
Sick Herd %	1.2	0.5