

Backtrack Dairies

August 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.

	Whakapono July	Waiora July	Whakapono August	Waiora August
Effective Area	155	210	155	210
Stocking Rate	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Peak Cows	478	647	478	647
Treatment	Kinsey-Albrecht	Conventional	Kinsey-Albrecht	Conventional
Total MS/ha to date	15	18	60	67
Total MS/cow to date	5	6	19	22
Somatic Cell Count (000's)	0	0	236	224
Pasture Cover	2284	2374	2226	2144
Growth Rate	2	4	12	10
Total N Applied	0	0	0	0
Pasture Grown to date (T DM)	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.7
Supplements Offered (kgDM/cow) for Milkers	0	0	1.0	1.0
Supplements made on farm (kgDM/cow)	0	0	0	0
Irrigation applied	0	0	0	0
Rainfall	19	19	30	30
Deaths %	0	0	0.2	1.2
Culls %	0	0	1.5	0.8
Mastitis %	0.4	0.2	3.1	3.7
Lameness %	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.6

Summary

- Week 1 – by August 1 we already had 60 cows calved, which were mostly heifers and a few slips and all milked through Waiora.
- All heifers and cows next door on neighbours until 3/8. Then brought all heifers to pdk 11 on Waiora and drafted 180 springers to pdk 7 on Waiora with aim to split these to each farm over next two days.
- Snow and 15mm rain on August 6th and 7th prevented this draft taking place and to make life easier during this period cows were kept in sheltered paddocks near sheds to facilitate checking cows and saving calves over next few days until the weather improved.
- So by end of first week still 520 early calving and 240 late calving cows off next door on kale so 140 springer heifers, 100 calvers and 180 calved cows home on Waiora.
- August 9th weather improving and kale finished for early calvers next door so they came home to draft.
- August 10th drafted springers to each farm with 340 cows to stay on Waiora and 240 cows to Whakapono.
- August 11th drafted milkers, colostrum and penicillin cows to each farm.
- Waiora 130/40/20 cows, Whakapono 85/25/8 cows.
- August 12th drafted heifers - Waiora 70 cows. Whakapono 50 cows.
- Milkers and colostrum at 100m² per day all grass, no silage and no dusting.
- Calvers at 20m² per day 5kg grass and 5kg silage with causmag on silage only.
- MgCl in water.
- 20th August had reached the mid-point of 575 cows very similar to last season with 50 less cows.
- 24th August started grain 0.5 kg and PKE 1.5kg.
- 27th August we had 13mm of rain.
- Still 240 cows off farm next door on kale.
- 28th August drafted late calvers to leave 145 cows including 30 MTs.
- Substantially lower rates of milk fever on Whakapono with same pre and post calving treatment.
- Only the pasture they are consuming can be different.
- Will take herbage and soil tests on calving and colostrum paddocks to investigate.
- Production on par with last season so far.

Feed Wedges – 30th August 2016

