

# LINCOLN UNIVERSITY DAIRY FARM

## Newsletter



**LUDF**  
Tomorrow's farming, today

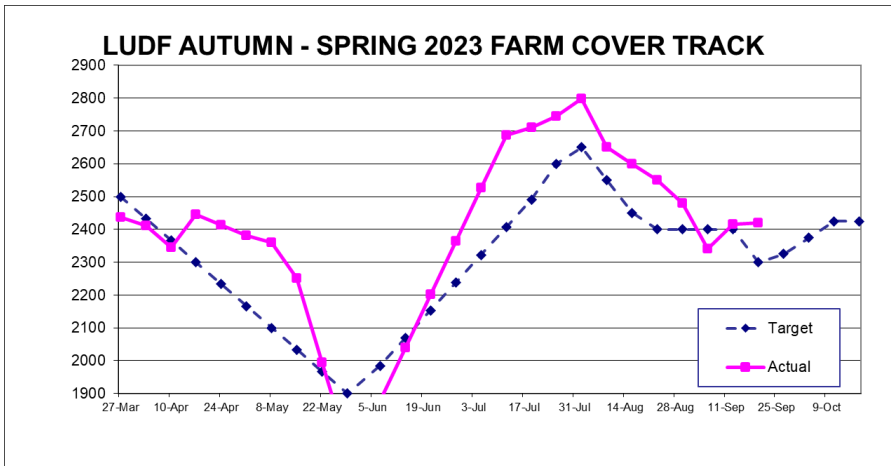
**SIDDC**  
South Island Dairying Demonstration Centre

ISSUE NO. 10 | WED 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

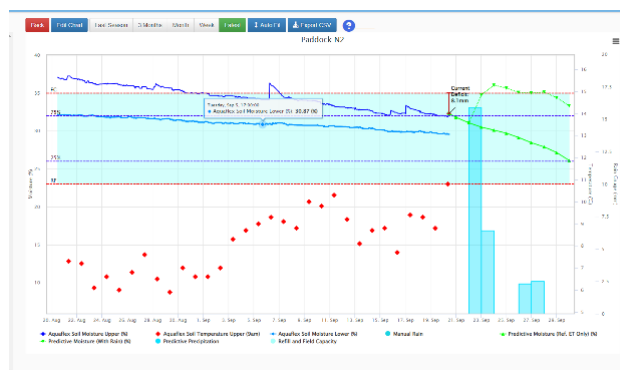
### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

#### Pasture Management

We have started the second round and the grass keeps on growing, with the pasture growth rate increasing from 48 kgDM/ha to 58 kgDM/ha. Traditionally there has been a drop in pasture cover in late September (refer to farm cover track) but so far this has not occurred. So, we are in the fortunate position of being closer to meeting cow demand of approximately 64 kgDM/day. Last year the average pasture cover at this time was 2337 kgDM/ha and currently it is 2421 kgDM/ha, so managing pasture quality remains an important focus.



We have finished rolling pugged paddocks in the south block and the center pivot has been active two days last week across both blocks (between the 14-20 September). It would have been more; however, it was too windy and there was rain forecast. The soil probes indicated that the soil moisture is adequate which is reassuring as the top of the soil is starting to harden and is noticeable when trying to push standards in.



#### This Week:

Pasture Update

Body Condition Score



#### Next Farm Walk

Wednesday

27th August

9am

## Livestock Management

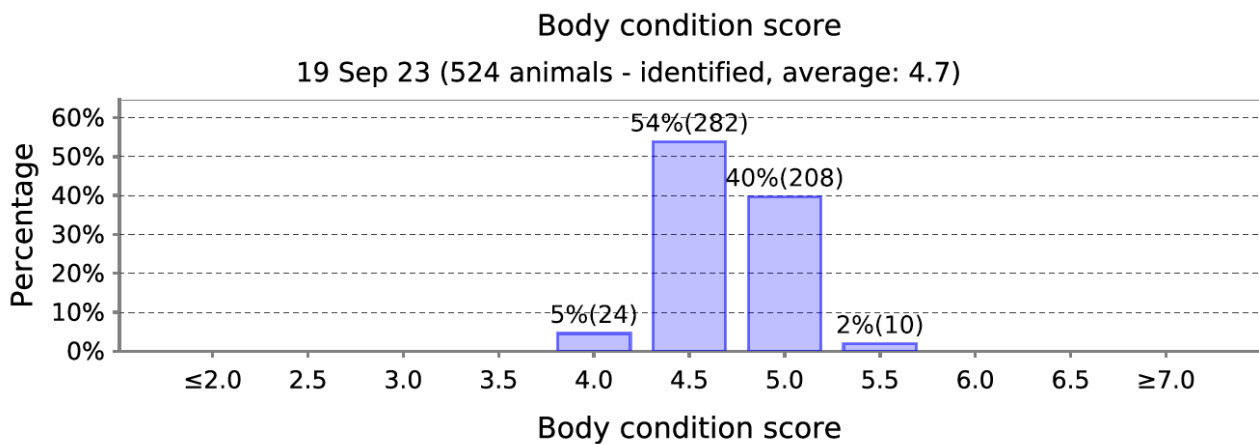
Fonterra's 2022/2023 Farm Insights Report for LUDF is now available on the LUDF website under the ['Environmental'](#) tab.

As of Wednesday (20 September) there were 31 cows left to calve, 24 cows in the once-a-day mob and 507 cows in the 10-in-7 mob. The current allocation per cow has remained at 18 kgDM/cow, with an increase in silage (3.88 kgDM/cow) as we keep to our spring rotation plan area.

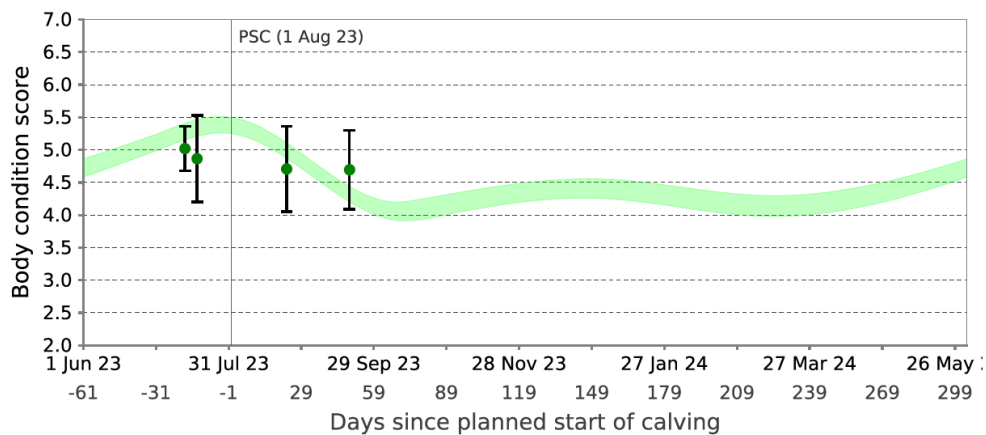
To ensure cows are ready for mating next month we have completed the second batch of metricure on Tuesday (19 September) alongside body condition scoring (BCS). There were only 12 cows identified with metritis.



The average BCS of cows in milk was maintained at 4.7 and all first calvers were 4.5 or above.



We are above the “optimal herd average”, and this has been a positive of having the cows on OAD for the first 10 days of lactation and then transitioning onto 10-in-7.



● Optimal herd average (including heifers).

95% of animals lie within this range { Average

DairyNZ

incalf

	KEY WEEKLY INFO	This Week	Last Week	1 Year Ago
		20-Sep 23	13-Sep 23	21-Sep 22
Farm Area	Grazing area (Ha)	160	160	160
	Re-grassing (Ha)	0	0	0
Stock Numbers	Cows currently milking to vat	517	507	523
	Cows currently milking NOT to vat	14	8	7
	Total cows milking	531	515	530
	Once-a-day milking cows	24	37	13
	Lame cows current	3	3	6
	Dry cows on farm	35	0	0
Milk Production	Current bulk milk SCC (tgt below 150) (SCC)	130	123	143
	Milk Solids per cow (kgMS/cow)	1.94	1.92	1.92
	Protein:Fat ratio (%)	0.75	0.76	0.79
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kgDM/Ha)	2421	2415	2337
	Current Pasture Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	14.12	15.68	14.8
	Current Silage Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	3.88	2.32	3.7
	Current Demand per cow (kgDM/cow)	18	18	18.5
	Stocking Rate - Milkers (Cows/Ha)	3.53	3.21	3.31
	Current Pasture Demand - Milkers (kgDM/Ha)	-	-	
	Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/Ha)	58	48	49
	Pre-grazing cover (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	3447	3196	3193
	Residual (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	1600	1600	1550
	Round Length (Days)	37.8	37	40
Farm Conditions	Soil temp average (Aquaflex) (degree C)	9.51	9.81	8.39
	Rainfall (MM)	0	0	0
	Irrigation days this week (days)	2	0	0
People	Current Roster	5+2	5+2	5+2
	Health & Safety Incidences	nil	nil	Nil
	Milking Routine	10 in 7	10 in 7	10 in 7