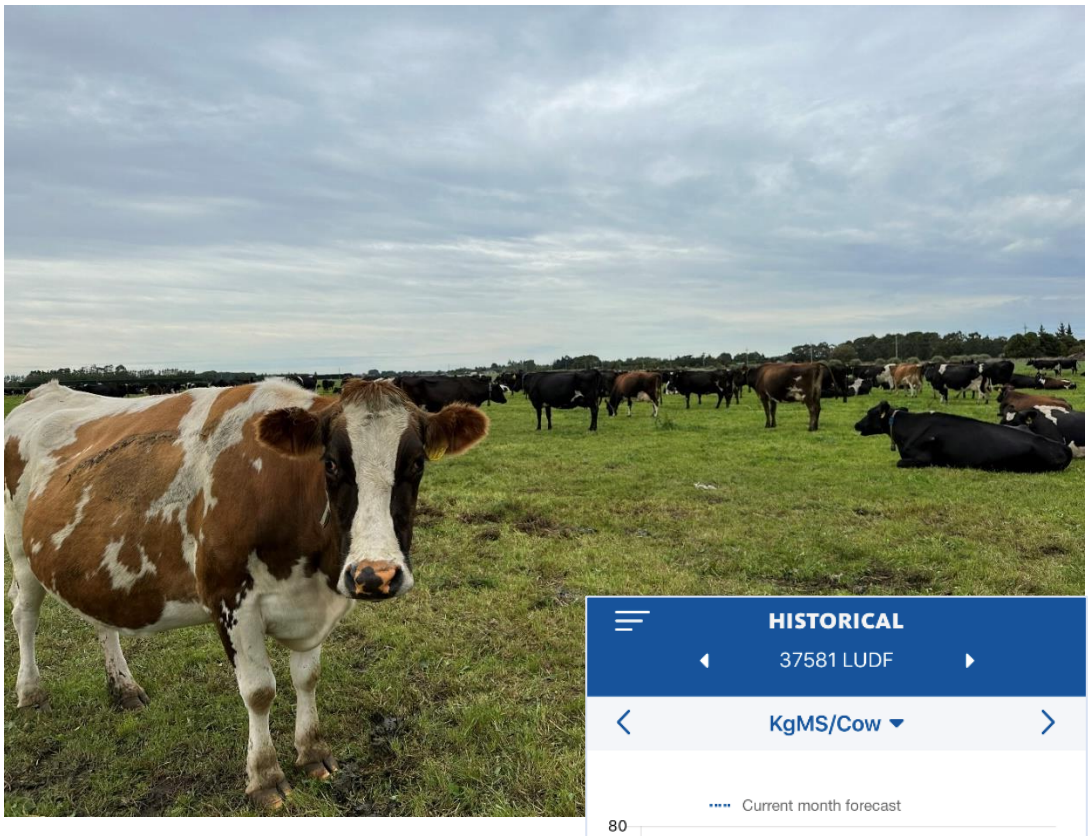
LINCOLN UNIVERISTY DAIRY FARM

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 2| 30 MARCH 2023

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2023! This week a significant amount of silage was fed out on the farm (7.35 kg DM/cow/day) to increase pre grazing pasture covers of over 3,200 kg DM/ha and push out round length to 31 days. This matches last season's numbers that can be found at the back of the newsletter.



MS production for March is up 1% on last season which is a positive but there were a significant number of lame cows (see key weekly info at back of newsletter). The farm tested for johnes disease last week, and has for years, as part of culling decisions made on farm. Results showed this year that there were only 4 johnes cows, of which 1 was already empty and another was already destined to be culled. This low result reflects the consistency in culling for johnes cows each year, these cows become especially troublesome around calving time and hard to get back into calf.

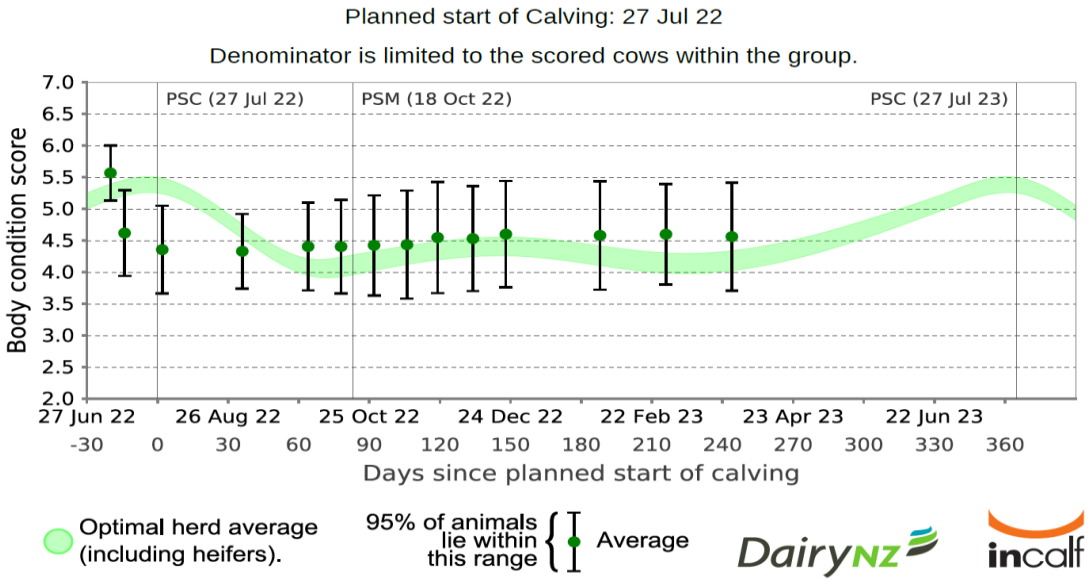
	This Season		Last Season
STD	379.82	↓ 3%	392.16
Mar	39.43	↑ 1%	39.04
Feb	41.90	↓ 5%	43.89
Jan	51.45	↓ 0%	51.69
Dec	52.33	↓ 2%	53.56
Nov	55.96	↓ 2%	56.99
Oct	60.27	↓ 2%	61.45
Sep	50.37	↓ 6%	53.40

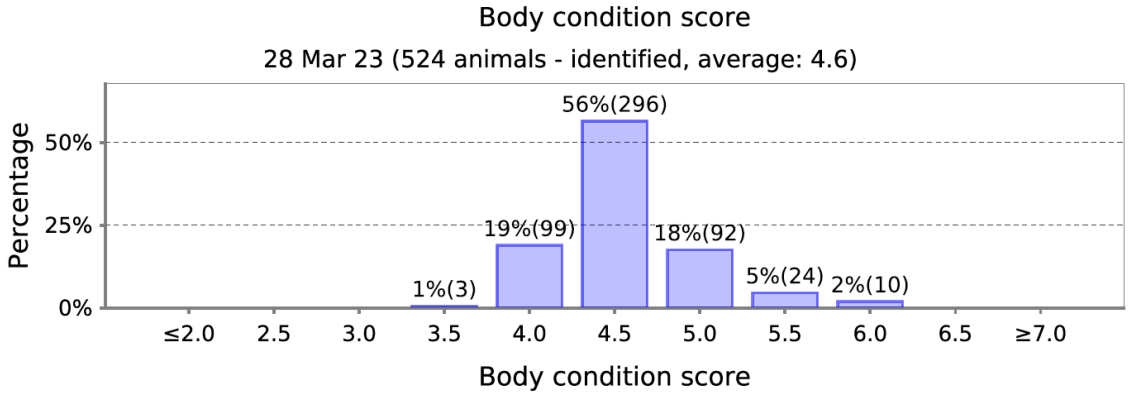
THIS WEEK:

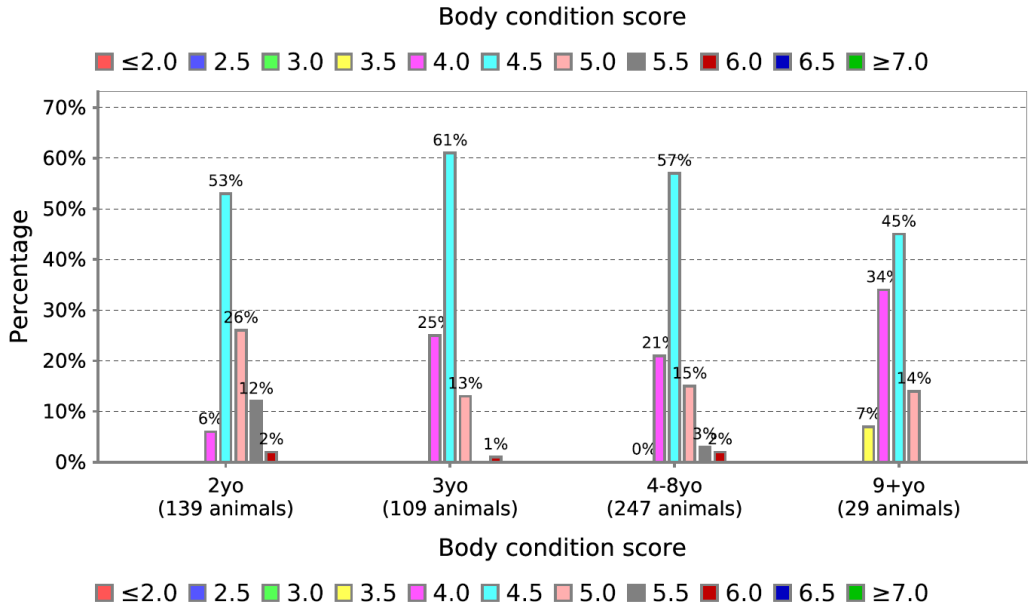
- Weekly roundup
- BCS Results
- Dry off dates
- SCC
- Effluent Update
- Farm visits

BODY CONDITON SCORE (BCS)

BCS was carried out on the farm this week which showed average condition was 4.6 BCS. This was above the optimum herd average which is a great result. An age analysis was also made on the cows which showed that the older cows (9+ years) were lower in condition score than the younger cows (3-8 year olds).



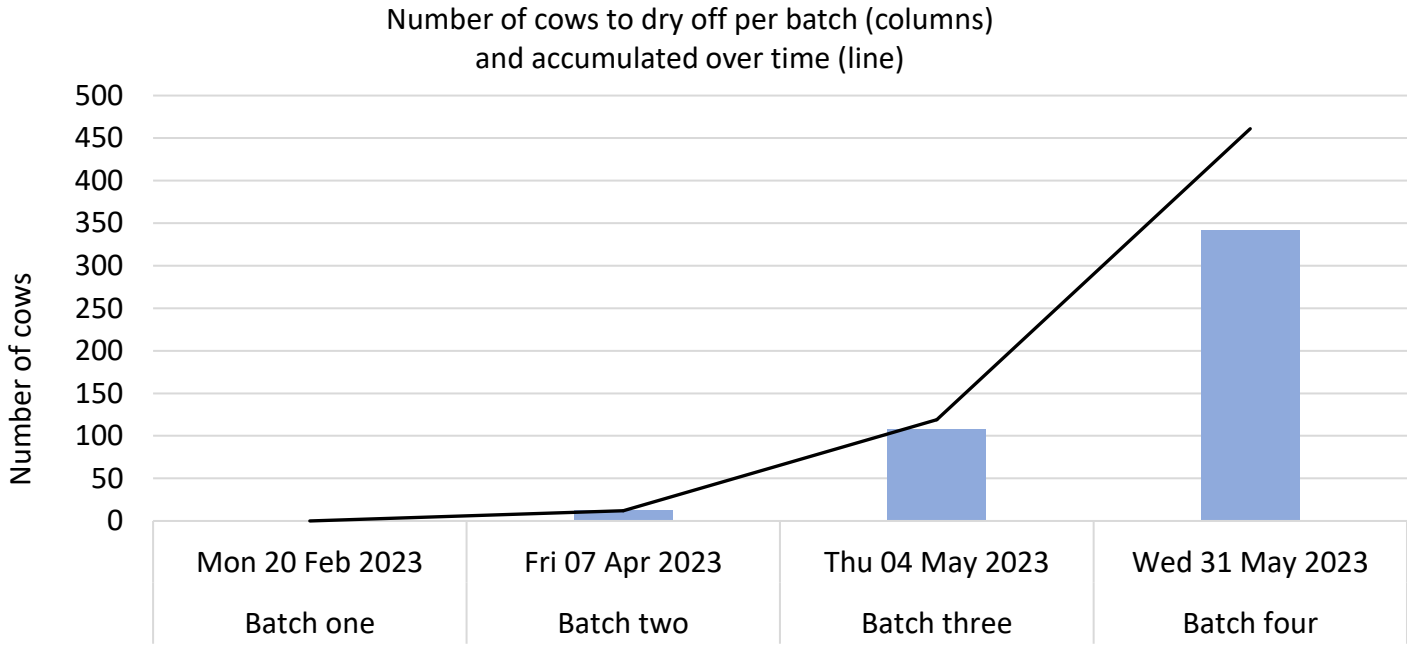




DRY OFF DATES

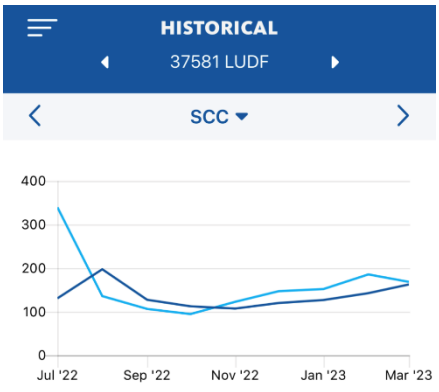
Donald from Selwyn Rakaia Vet Services also sent through some details that may help with when to dry off some early calving lower BCS cows to help set them up for next season. This is based on the DairyNZ recommended number of days to gain the body condition score needed.

Batch	Date	Cows per batch	Accumulated
Batch one	Mon 20 Feb 2023	0	0
Batch two	Fri 07 Apr 2023	12	12
Batch three	Thu 04 May 2023	107	119
Batch four	Wed 31 May 2023	342	461

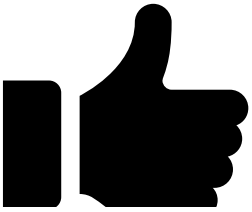


SOMATIC CELL COUNT (SCC)

The target SCC on the farm is below 150,000 and it usually stays below this. However, this month has seen SCCs rise due to the wetter weather. In addition, in early spring this year it also crept up because of damper and muddier conditions, which are great for growing bacteria that cause mastitis. You can see this in the 'On Farm' graph below. Overall though, the SCC has been continuously low this season with an overall 5% decrease below last season's count - A great result and good work to the LUDF team!



	This Season		Last Season
STD	131	↓ 5%	137
Mar	163	↓ 4%	168
Feb	143	↓ 23%	186
Jan	127	↓ 17%	152
Dec	120	↓ 18%	147
Nov	107	↓ 13%	123
Oct	112	↑ 19%	95
Sep	127	↑ 20%	106



EFFLUENT UPDATE

This week a lot of progress has been made on the new Eco Pond and some awesome shots of the site have been taken via drone. For those not aware, LUDF is getting a new effluent pond – the current one is less than 50 m from the boundary fence and you cannot see when it is full. Therefore, its time of an upgrade. As adopters of a low environmental footprint farm approach, LUDF have made the decision to put in its place a EcoPond which has been developed by Keith Cameron and Hong Di from Lincoln University in collaboration with Ravensdown. For more information on the EcoPond click on this link: https://www.ravensdown.co.nz/products/ecopond .

FARM VISITS

Last week we had Year 11 students from the Geraldine High School Primary Industry Academy visit the farm. This amazing program is set up to give students a practical education and learn a range of valued skills in the primary industry. Firstly the group headed to the soils pit to talk about the technology on the farm including soil moisture monitoring, cow collars, and the lysimeters that measure nitrate leaching on the farm. Next they headed into the paddock to do some plant identification and also to look at the silage wagon and tractor. The students also visited the milking shed, which was especially interesting for those who were not from a dairy farm, and finally they looked at the plantain paddocks. It was a pleasure to host these students. The farm wishes them all the best with their studies and hope to see them at future Focus Days at LUDF.

DON'T FOTGET TO PUT THE NEXT LUDF FOCUS DAY IN YOUR DIARIES !

SIDDC South Island Dairying Demonstration Centre | LUDF Tomorrow's farming, today

FOCUS DAY

ALDERBROOKE FARM – North Rakaia

Wednesday 26 April 2023

10.15am to 1.00pm

LUDF UPDATE

Presented by **Kirsty Thomas (SIDDC Demonstration Lead)**

- Production results for the season to date and forecast
- Autumn management – feed budget, culling dates, etc.
- Winter feeding plan. Cow condition
- Cost structure update. Budget vs Actuals

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Come and listen to experts in the field. At this interactive talk in the paddock, you can choose to listen to either:

- **Graham Kerr (Barenbrug)** on Pasture 101 and the importance of grazing management
- **Alistair Black (Lincoln University)** on achieving optimum production with the addition of legumes in pasture when farming under a 190 kg N/ha/yr nitrogen cap

LUDF MATING RESULTS

As part of the Mating Benchmarking Project, we will be discussing the latest results and comparing them with local farmer Liam Kelly, whose farm the Focus Day is being held:

- **Jeremy Savage (Macfarlane Rural Business) and Liam Kelly (Farmer - Alderbrooke Farm)**

Time:	**10.15am** to **1.00pm** followed by light lunch
Location:	**Alderbrooke Farm, 2086 North Rakaia Road, Southbridge 7783** - SN 37450 *Parking on the left next to tanker track* IF WET will be held at Rakaia Community Centre, Rakaia
Visit the websites:	SIDDC South Island Dairying Demonstration Centre · LUDF Tomorrow's farming, today ·
Enquiries:	T: 03 423 0022 E: office@siddc.org.nz

Please note registration is required on arrival

SIDDC South Island Dairying Demonstration Centre

Partners Networking To Advance South Island Dairying

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	KEY WEEKLY INFO	Last Week	This Week	1 Year Ago
		20-Mar-23	27-Mar-23	28-Mar-22
Farm Area	Grazing area (Ha)	152.73	152.73	150
	Re-grassing (Ha)	7.27	7.27	9.33
Stock Numbers	Cows currently milking to vat	530	530	533
	Cows currently milking NOT to vat	1	1	4
	Total cows on farm		529	537
	Once-a-day milking cows	6	14	11
	Lame cows current	6	14	11
	Dry cows on farm	0	0	2
Milk Production	Current bulk milk SCC (tgt below 150) (SCC)	166	159	152
	Milk Solids per cow (kgMS/cow)	1.54	1.52	1.48
	Protein:Fat ratio (%)	0.82	0.8	0.76
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kgDM/Ha)	2385	2438	2463
	Current Pasture Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	13	9.85	9.42
	Current Silage Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	4.2	7.35	7.78
	Current Demand per cow (kgDM/cow)	17.2	17.2	17.2
	Stocking Rate - Milkers (Cows/Ha)	3.5	3.5	3.59
	Current Pasture Demand - Milkers (kgDM/Ha)	58	58	62
	Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/Ha)	60	60	57
	Pre-grazing cover (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	2826	3223	3212
	Residual (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	1550	1550	1550
	Round Length (Days)	28	31	36
Farm Conditions	Soil temp average (Aquaflex) (degree C)	16.2	15.04	15.79
	Rainfall (MM)	17.4	18.6	9.4
	Irrigation days this week (days)	0	0	2
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