

# LINCOLN UNIVERSITY DAIRY FARM

## Newsletter



ISSUE NO. 15 | WED 22 NOVEMBER 2023

### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

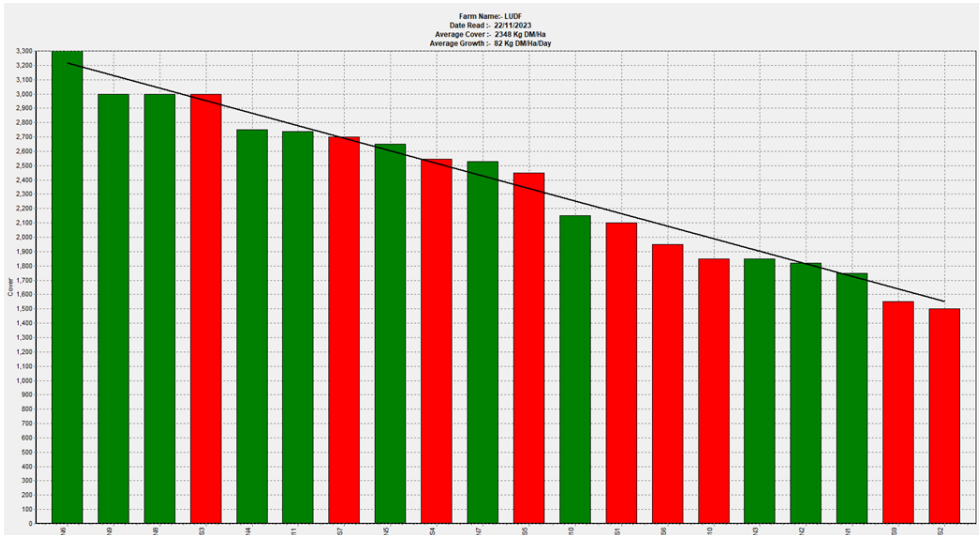
#### Feed & Pasture

This month's focus has been on keeping grass quality while feed supply exceeds cow demand. We have dropped out 13.6 ha for baleage, making 155 bales, while topping behind the cows, approximately 64 ha. This has ensured high quality pasture makes up our cows' diet.

Growth rates for the week have been 82kgDM/ha/day which has been consistent for the last two weeks. The average pasture cover (APC) is currently 3,348kg DM/ha which we have held this month. Our current cow demand is 19.2kgDM per cow, which gives a herd demand of 73 kg DM/ha, therefore, we are still in surplus by 9 kg DM/ha. This puts us currently on a 23-day round.

Soil temperature for the week is 14.62 deg C. We have irrigated for 5 days this week as we have only had 3.8mm of rain.

Our feed wedge shows that we are in equilibrium for cow demand and pasture supply.



MRB Feed Planner			Date	
			22/11/2023	
<b>Current Situation</b>			Land Use	
Cows in Milk		559	Effective Area	153.1
Cows Dry		0	Cropping / Regrassing	6.9
Cow Liveweight		507	Current Pasture Area	146.2
Stocking Rate		3.82	Utilisation	85%
<b>Milking Cows</b>			<b>Pasture Required</b>	
Per Cow Production		1.97 kgMS/cow	Round Length	23 Days
Diet	MJME	KGDM	Hectares per Day	6.4 Ha/Day
Total Diet		19.1	Current Average Cover	2348 kgDM/Ha
Silage	11		Pregrazing	3277 kgDM/Ha
Pasture	12.6	19.1 kgDM/Hd	Residual	1550 kgDM/Ha
<b>Dry Cows</b>			Demand	
Pregnant (last 2 months)			73 kgDM/Ha	
Diet	MJME	KGDM		
Total Diet		12.6		
Silage	11	0		
Straw	8	0		
Beet	10	0		
Pasture	12	12.6 kgDM/Hd		



#### This Week:

Feed & Pasture



Milk Production



Reproduction



Regrassing & Fertiliser



#### Next Farm Walk

Wednesday

29<sup>th</sup> November

9 am

Text Peter on

027 440 9285

## Milk Production

There are currently 554 milkers in the 10-in-7 mob and 5 cows in the once a day (OAD) mob (4 mastitis & 1 lame cow). Production per cow has been holding well and we currently sit at 1.97kgMS per cow.

We are now on par with last season after a being behind from the start of the season. This was primarily due to a change in our start of calving, 5 days later, and therefore start of milk supply. Cows are currently producing 1.97kg MS/day, from their peak of 2.13kg MS/day in the week of 18 October. This is great to see a holding pattern, which confirms the pasture quality is being achieved. Somatic cells for the season are down 7%, however are 10% up for the month, see below.



## Reproduction

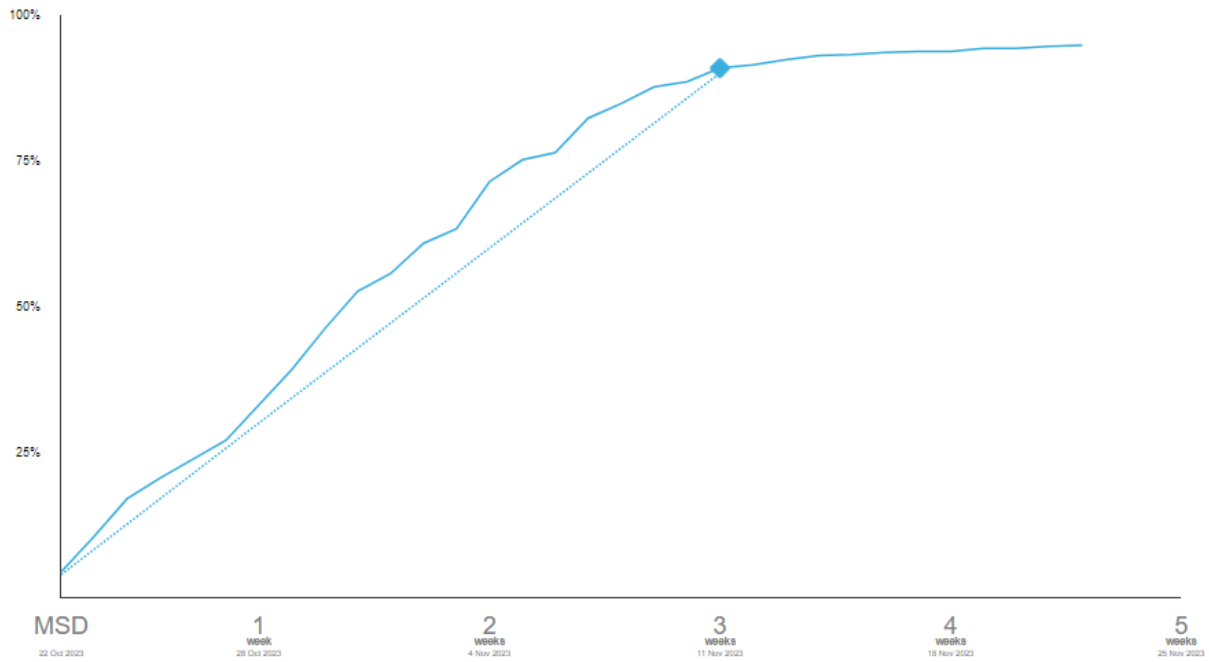
Mating started 22 October, for the dairy herd, and we can report our 3-week submission rate is 91%. Of the 36 cows that were not yet mated, 16 were late calvers. We have used intervention on this farm, on day 2 we checked 49 and PG'd\* 17 cows, we found and treated 6 with cysts, and metrichecked 4. Following on day 17 we checked a further 32 cows and PG'd\* 21 cows and treated another 6 with cysts.

\*Prostaglandin is used to bring on estrus so that they can be inseminated earlier, with the aim of an earlier calving date.

Our plan this year is to use 7 straws of sexed semen for the first 3 weeks, mating the top 70% to bull of the day, with the bottom 30% mated to beef straws. Dairy herd is AI only and will be for a total of 12 weeks, with short gestation to be used for the last 6 weeks.

We will be pregnancy testing early with an aim to identify any phantom cows. These are cows that have been inseminated, that do not cycle again, but are not pregnant. We will be doing our first pregnancy diagnosis on 28 November, then again, every 10 days. We will update you with our results.

### 3-week submission rate



	Count	Submission rate		
		1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks
Spring 2023	559	33%	71%	91%
Spring 2022	542	29%	62%	87%
Spring 2021	557	29%	66%	94%
Spring 2020	557	33%	65%	94%

The yearlings underwent a CIDR\* synchrony programme so that we could blanket AI, this was done on 18 October. We followed up with Jersey yearling bulls 24 hours later.

All calves are now weaned. We will retain 115 heifer replacements and sell the surplus recorded and unrecorded heifers, along with the 60 beef calves that we have reared this season.

\*CIDR – Controlled Intravaginal Drug Release is used to bring cow into heat before they normally would.

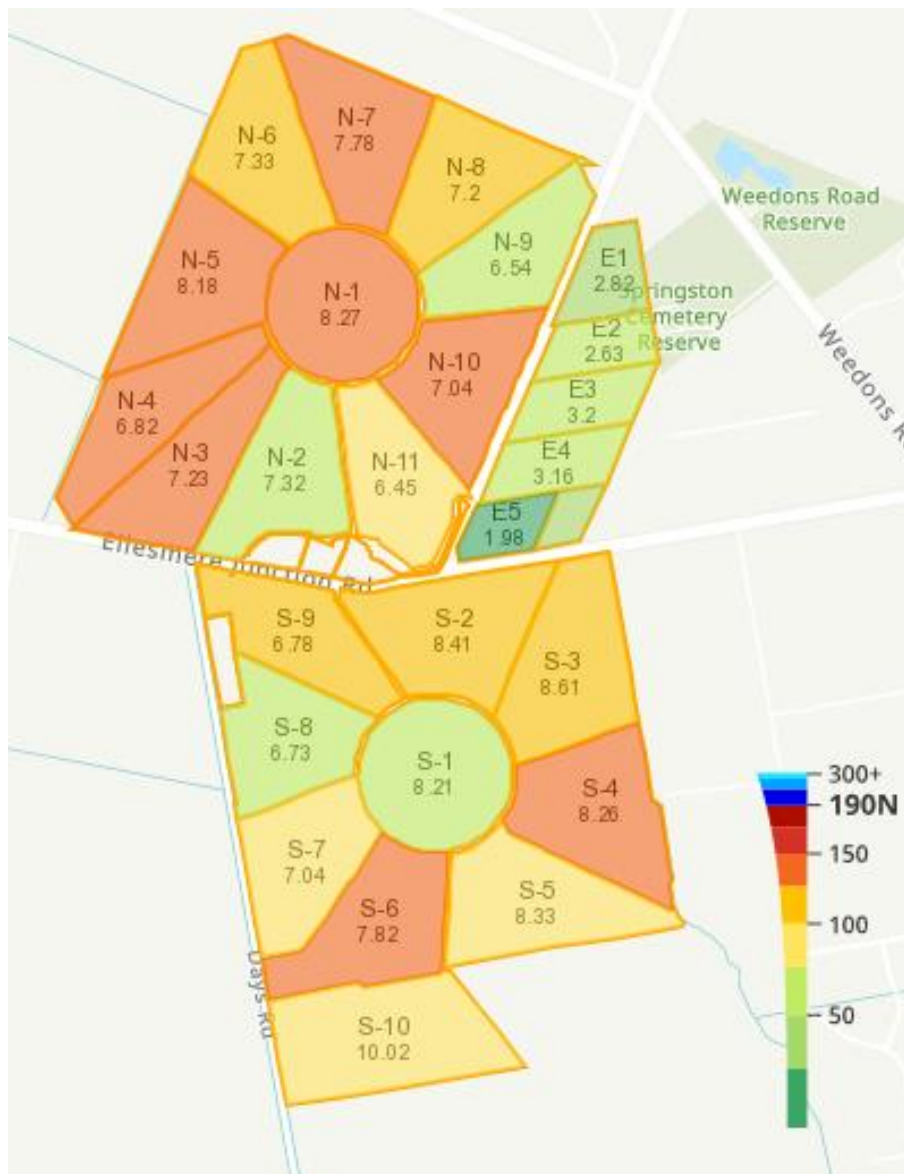


## Regrassing & Fertiliser

We are regrassing paddock S8 which is 6.73ha. This has been sown with a mix of [Forge NEA](#) (tetraploid hybrid ryegrass), [Kotuku](#) (white clover), [Ruru](#) (white clove) & [Ecotain](#) Superstrike (plantain with seed treatment). This was sown at a rate of 22, 2, 2, 3 kg/ha respectively.

Nitrogen use to date on the dairy platform ranges from 64-143kgN/ha and are currently applying at a rate of 22kgN/ha. This is something we are monitoring to ensure we remain within the N190 cap, see our N heat map below.

Nitrogen heat map



	KEY WEEKLY INFO	This Week	Last Week	1 Year Ago
		22-Nov 23	15-Nov 23	22-Nov 22
Farm Area	Grazing area (Ha)	153.1	153.1	148.4
	Re-grassing (Ha)	6.9	6.9	11.6
Stock Numbers	Cows currently milking to vat	554	557	539
	Cows currently milking NOT to vat	5	2	0
	Total cows milking	559	559	539
	Once-a-day milking cows	4	10	0
	Lame cows current	4	10	0
	Dry cows on farm	0	0	0
Milk Production	Current bulk milk SCC (tgt below 150) (SCC)	100	116	97
	Milk Solids per cow (kgMS/cow)	1.97	2.01	2.02
	Protein:Fat ratio (%)	0.83	0.81	0.84
Feed Budget	Average pasture cover (kgDM/Ha)	2348	2369	2335
	Current Pasture Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	20	20	20
	Current Silage Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	0	0	0
	Current Demand per cow (kgDM/cow)	19.2	19.6	20
	Stocking Rate - Milkers (Cows/Ha)	3.65	3.65	3.63
	Current Pasture Demand - Milkers (kgDM/Ha)	73	73	73
	Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/Ha)	82	82	60
	Pre-grazing cover (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	3277	3330	3259
	Residual (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	1550	1550	1500
	Round Length (Days)	23	23	19
Farm Conditions	Soil temp average (Aquaflex) (degree C)	14.62	13.72	15.85
	Rainfall (MM)	3.8	0.2	39
	Irrigation days this week (days)	5	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