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The Marathon has Started

While the Tokyo Olympics has been quite enthralling the marathon of spring calving has already started.

Early reports suggest cows are a little slower calving this season. This might be just random for a few farms, but interestingly more than a couple of clients have observed this.

Yet again we have a warm mild start to calving. Pasture growth rates are a little behind last season, but last year was a ripper, so this is still good. Pasture covers at calving are at, or above target making for a good start to pasture allocation and successful implementation of the spring rotation planner.

For those farmers that have not formally setup a spring rotation planner (SRP) it is not too late to do so in early August. See later in this issue for a recommendation on how to do this using the DairyNZ Advanced SRP.

If you are looking for a spring weather forecast, MetService are saying dry in the east from East Cape to south Canterbury, but wetter than normal for Taranaki, West Coast and Southland. Manawatu will be average to slightly wetter than normal.

Right now, if we combine mild to warm weather, a slow calving and a good starting feed position we might have less milk to the end of August but a lower-than-expected feed deficit in September.

A focus on keeping spring performance high, but expenditure controlled is fundamental to a good start to the season. Right now, early days perhaps, but the prospects of a good financial start to the season is reasonable. The advance milk price is good and the need for imported feed through to peak milk should not exceed budget.

We might want to keep one eye on the global dairy trade auction. The declining trend over the last eight auctions say's "be careful about counting \$8 chickens before they hatch".

INSIDE MILKLINES

- Spring Rotation Planner – still time to do this.
- The First 90 days
- Making spring Practical and Less Stressful.
- Reproduction heads up team.

Global Dairy Trade.

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Spring Rotation Planner (SRP)

If you have not prepared a spring rotation planner there is still time to do this. It should take about 20 minutes and the benefits are very real.

- You have a plan than can be shared with the farm team. Everyone should know the grazing plan and targets.
- The SRP will give confidence around targets for pasture cover and rotation speed at balance date...
- Or it will highlight a weak point in the plan, while there is time to do something about it.
- Done correctly it helps quantify the amount of supplement needed during the first few months of spring.
- Things change, and the good thing about the DairyNZ SRP is that you can get early alerts and can amend the plan to get back on track.

How to do this ...

- Download the SRP off the website. You can use the simple version, but if cows are returning from off farm grazing after the planned start to calving, then the Advance Spring Rotation Planner will be a better tool.
- <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/feed/pasture/assessing-and-allocating-pasture/feed-wedges-and-rotation-planners/spring-rotation-planner/spring-rotation-planner-tool/>
- You can use your current date, cows calved and average cover to start the plan – don't worry about back dating to the start of calving.
- Balance date is when grass growth meets the demand of your cows – use stocking rate times pasture offered to get the date, example 3 cows/Ha x 17 kg grass/cow = 51 kg DM/Ha/day.
- If you have the expected calving pattern out of your calving report this will speed things up, and add to accuracy.
- Pasture growth rates entered (column V) should be within normal growth patterns for the farm – resist the urge to “tweak and fit” to demand.
- Watch the feeding levels for each herd group. Note you are asked total feeding levels – this is grass + supplement, and the amount of supplement – the tool then deducts total – supplement to get daily pasture allowance.
- Once livestock numbers are correctly entered, then modify total and/or supplement fed until the round length hits your target. Naturally checking these feeding levels are acceptable. If not consider an alternate plan or look for specialised advice.



- The “graphs” section of the spreadsheet should demonstrate pasture cover hitting the target point at balance date. If it is over, you have more feed, if it is under you need more supplement or less demand.

Now you have the tool working it is strongly recommended to check progress at least 2x/week to monitor livestock numbers, round length (column AB) and pasture cover (column AC). This will record in the “graphs” tab and enable you to quickly see the effect of any changes.

Last practical tip. Go into the Daily Allocator tab 2x/week as well and refresh the date to “today”, then the pre and post grazing levels – this then gives the target round speed for the today.

Example for 15th of August:

Spring Rotation Planner - Advanced					
Daily Feed Allocator			Date Saturday, 15 August 2020		
		Dry Cows	Springers	Colostrums	Milkers
Number of Animals		176	46	45	147
Pre Grazing	KgDM/ha	4000	3800	3800	3800
Post Grazing	KgDM/ha	1300	1300	1500	1500
Planned Pasture Intake	KgDM/Cow	6	8	13	15
Area/cow	m ²	22	32	57	65
Area/herd	Ha	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.0
Total Area Used =		1.8Ha	Spring Rotation Planner Target = #DIV/0!		
Planned Supplement Intake	KgDM/Cow	7	4	0	0

If the actual area being grazed is more than what is indicated (Area/Herd) then you are going faster than expected. If actual area grazed on the day is less, then you are going slower.

- Faster than planned represents risk.
- Slower than planned represents opportunity.

BakerAg does have a service to help with the SRRP, either to build or to monitor. Please feel welcome to contact Joanne Denton on 027 253 2435 or Sarah Hawkins on 027 281 3267.



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Reducing the pressure (Sarah Hawkins BakerAg, with thanks to Clarence Stolte for some very practical suggestions for this article)

Spring is a stressful time on dairy farms most years, but this year with many farms short on staff it will be more stressful than normal.

If you're one of those many dairy farms that find themselves short on staff this season it is important to run the farm with as much efficiency as possible. There are some farm jobs you can shortcut without losing efficiency, and there are other farm jobs that really must be done fully and properly.

Here are a few thoughts on farm principals that can allow your farm to run as efficiently as possible.

1. Try to keep all jobs on farm as 1 man jobs, and if they aren't- why are they not, can you modify the system to free up that extra person? Utilize available technology to improve on-farm efficiency.

An example of technology would be if you have an auto drafter. You can bring all your springers into the milk shed daily. One person can pick up the calves, get the springers moving towards the cow shed. They can load the calved cows to be drafted into the auto draft, and then go unload the calves. By the time they are back at the cow shed, the cows (hopefully) will have drafted themselves, and are moving back towards the paddock, ready to be locked onto their new break. This has the added advantage of daily teat spray (from the automatic teat sprayer), reducing mastitis rates, as well as having calm heifers who are comfortable within the milking shed.

2. Have a feedback loop to highlight any inefficiencies in the farm system- and have open dialogue about management changes to improve efficiency.

Have tasks time bound- if you expect to be able to complete a calf pick up and springer draft in 45 minutes, but it takes 1 hr 15 minutes, why was it slower? What management changes may make it happen faster? It could be as simple as changing the break direction within the paddock to make it easier to get the cows moving out of the paddock. It also improves on farm efficiency as you are accountable for time.

3. If a job is difficult for one man to complete, try all other options to make the job easier or quicker before bringing in a second person- the second person rarely saves on total man hours.

If you have inefficiencies due to capital (ie a large herringbone, normally milked by 2 people, vs a rotary milked by 1), consider "changing" the system. You might have a 42 aside herringbone, but you only have half your cows calved. Instead of having 2 people milking, consider milking only 30 cups, and send the second person out to complete other jobs. Milking may take 20-30% longer, but all the other jobs will have been completed at the same time, saving on total man time.



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4. Some jobs may require a second person- mostly to hold people accountable.

Teaching calves to drink is an important job to do right, and also a high stress one. This is a job that could be a 2 person job, as having a second person there holds staff accountable, and spreads the burden. Leave this job till last when all other jobs are completed, and all staff are available to help.

Regular jobs that efficiencies can be saved on include:

- Milking colostrum's OAD, TAD is a nice to have, not a must have.
- Automatic drafting of fresh calved cows, vs drafting out in paddock.
- DNA testing of calves, rather than mothering them up in paddocks.
- 1 man milking system – free up 2nd worker for other jobs.

Reduce number of mobs when possible- less breaks, especially when you have cows spread over milking platform and runoff blocks.

The value and impact of getting the first 90 days right (Joanne Denton, BakerAg)

Starting the season right is the most important phase of management on the farm. The first 90 days has the greatest influence on the season's overall performance and productivity.

This means having good systems in place, keeping the animals healthy, having pasture at the right cover, knowing what the cows are being fed each day, how much feed is in front of you and meeting targets.

Smart systems

Having the right systems in place can make a huge difference when it comes to getting things done well in a timely stress-free manor. This is something that you can discuss with staff prior to the start of calving and manage as the season progresses. It is important to have conversations around expectations for getting the job done right. Here are some examples of things that may need to be discussed.



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Staff Expectations and responsibilities

Having these very clear before the busy period will help to prevent shortcuts and ensure the job gets done well. For example:

- Daily routine: night checks, allocated jobs, calf tagging, recording
- Clear hours of work. Burn out is bad.
- Is there specific equipment and gear is required to do the job. Calving packs, wet weathers etc
- Roster adjustments need to be clear before calving begins.
 - 6 and 1, 5 and 2 for calving. 11 and 3 after calving.
- Staff holidays
 - Plan to utilize the period between calving and mating to take breaks
- Health and safety plan. Injured staff or damaged equipment will increase stress.
- Regular team meetings and record keeping

Milking intervals

These can be used to reduce stress on both animals and staff with some flow on effects for performance especially through reproduction. For example:

- OAD for heifers or colostrum cows. Reduces the time in shed and supports cycling for the young cows.
- Cups on at 7am and 4pm from 1-30 cows. Once supplying cups on at 6am and 3pm. This gives structure to the day and sets expectations on start time.

Down cow management

Clear guidance on what each metabolic disorder looks like, what remedy to use, when and how to administer. A recording and monitoring plan should be in place to ensure better outcomes for this animal later in the season.

- Record all down cows and metricheck these cows, monitor intake levels and cycling.

Herd management

It is important to monitor herds during this period. It is a crucial time and if something is missed it will have a flow on effect that may cost money, production, feed, or reproduction.

Some of the important management expectations should be:

- Counting herd numbers.
 - Knowing the number of cows in the mob will help with accurate allocation of feed and minerals. Underfeeding milkers during this period will have a negative effect on the seasons production and reproduction, while over feeding springers or under supplying magnesium may have a negative effect on animal health at calving.



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- Springer draft plan
 - Drafting springers from the dry cows regularly will save hassle of cows calving where they shouldn't be and allow the cows to experience an adequate transition period.
- Diet! Are the cows eating what they should be?
 - Pre-grazing cover, target residuals, any feed left behind, are cows hungry.
- Observations at the paddock gate.
 - Every cow eating or chewing
 - Water in the trough
 - Unusual behaviour – unhappy looking cows
 - Calving cows
- What to do when it's wet? Having a plan for unpredicted weather events will save a lot of time stress and money.
 - Increased mineral application, change paddock selection, increase supplementary feed, more springer checks.

Feed inventory

Keeping a feed inventory helps prevent falling into a feed deficit. This may be supplements on hand or having enough feed contracted for the next few months. Buying in feed at the last minute is costly and not timely. See SRP article and counting supplement using this tool.

Transition Management

To set the season up well it is important that the transition period is managed the best it can be. A cow that suffers from milk fever can lose up to 14% of her season production. At a \$7.50+ payout this is a large financial loss and can have flow on effects for reproduction.

Pre-calving Management

DCAD and Magnesium

Having a negative DCAD is positive. A negative DCAD makes the blood acidic therefore she is likely to mobilize her own body reserves of calcium. The use of Anionic salts will support this transition.

- Get your springer paddocks tested for K+ levels. A high K+ intake will make her DCAD more positive. Avoid calving on effluent ground. The front of paddocks can also be high in effluent.

Magnesium (Mg) is important for calcium mobilisation, without it a cow may be at risk of magnesium related (staggers) or complicated by calcium deficiency (milk fever). Supplementation must occur daily as it doesn't stay in the system for more than 24 hours.



- Supplement magnesium 21 days pre-calving. 12-20g Elemental Mg/day. Ideally this is given through two forms to ensure intake occurs. An only water intake may be limited on a wet day or due to palatability and an only dusting has limited accuracy on dosage.
- Mg Chloride should be limited to 60g/cow/day dose to limit intake issues through water.
- Mg Oxide requires double dosage if dusted due to 50% loss during application.

Magnesium source (% Mg)	Example product	Magnesium required (g/cow/day)				
		12 g	14 g	16 g	18 g	20 g
Mg Oxide (55%)	CausMag	22	25	29	33	36
Mg Sulphate (10%)	Epsom salts	122	142	162	182	202
Mg Chloride (12%)	Mag chloride	100	117	134	151	167

Other Minerals

Selenium deficiency can lead to reduced conception rates, poor immune function and increased retained foetal membranes.

Supplementing these trace elements is just another tool in the box to ensure cows are happy and healthy during this crucial period.

Diet

During the transition phase, energy will need to be increased slightly to stimulate intakes. This will still need to be balanced out with high fiber feeds that encourage rumination. Don't let the cows be hungry for too long. A cow that doesn't eat and then calves will be at risk of going down.

Post-Calving

Diet

Post calving a cow's intake is typically limited to about 10kg of pasture during the first week post calving. Although this figure rises by around 1kg per day, the energy requirements outweigh her ability to consume feed. It is important to encourage intakes through high energy feeds or supplement so less fat is mobilised during this period.



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Minerals

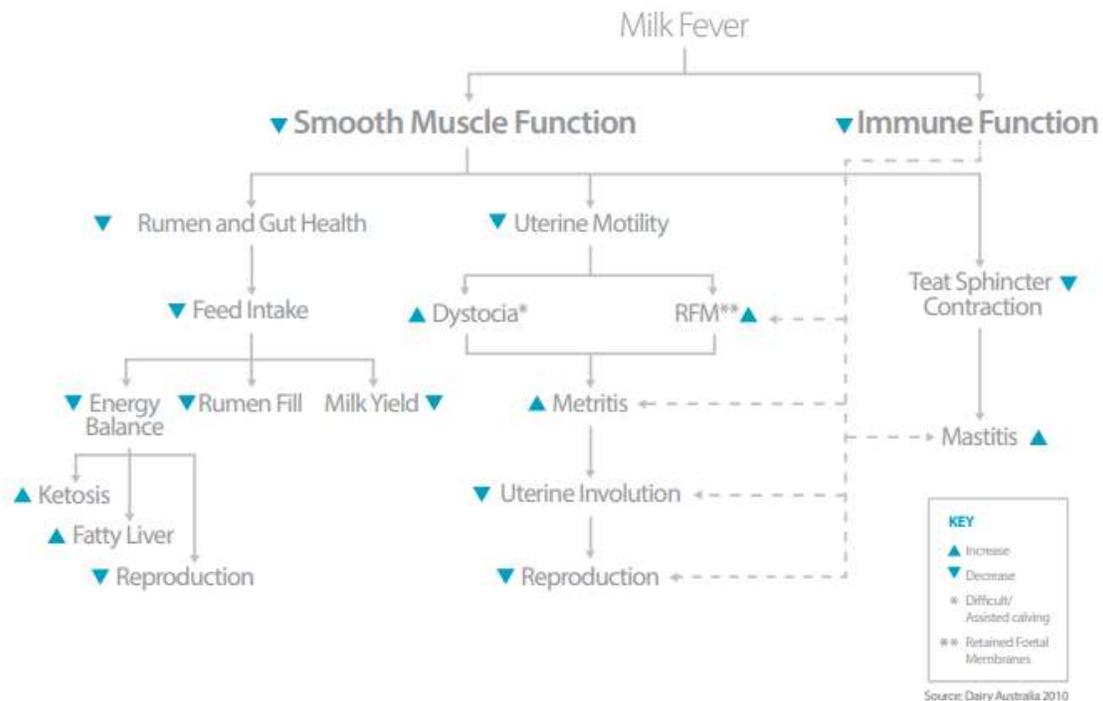
If energy requirements cannot be supplied through her intake alone, starter drench or other mineral supplements can be used to help. B12/Cobolt will help support the cow's energy demands post calving and help to stimulate appetite. The more energy and glucose in system the more she will eat and the more she will produce. A starter drench may be useful for animals that have shown signs of metabolic issues and also to stimulate energy and appetite.

Calcium is hugely important post calving and for every Kg of DM consumed a cow should be receiving 1% as Calcium. This is roughly 150-200g per day. Dusting paddocks is the simplest form of offering calcium although mixing with supplement will add certainty to intake. Not only will calcium post-calving reduce downer cows, but it will also support milk production and smooth muscle activity. Smooth muscle plays a key role in teat end closer, ability to eject the placenta and rumen function.

If you have experienced phosphate deficient or creeper cows in the past, supplement DCP at low levels, 50g/cow/day mixed as a slurry and pouring over the feed. This may be a common occurrence on farms that winter on Fodder beet. DCP can be supplemented pre-calving during this stage with care.

Keep magnesium going!

Here is a good graph to see how milk fever has flow on effects.



Source: Dairy Australia 2010



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Milking Herd: What does good feeding look like?

During the first 2 months of the season while calving is happening and springers and colostrum cows are at the front of our mind, it is very easy to forget about the milking herd. It is crucial that these cows are being fed well as they head into peak production and will be the early cyclers.

Here are a few things to focus on when it comes to good feeding.

- Target pasture cover of paddocks 2800-3100 residuals of 1500-1600.
- Appropriate allocation of area so cows don't have to go back to clean up. This action will limit intakes for the period it takes to reach target residual.
- Avoid sacrificing intake to retain pasture cover. These cows will never recover from an early negative energy balance.
- Consistency is key. Avoid fluctuations and changes in DM intake and energy. This will influence ketosis and acidosis levels and ability to keep climbing towards peak milk and hold this level.
- High energy, high quality, digestible feeds allocated to the diet.
 - Energy: your crossbred cow will typically start with a requirement of 150 – 160 MJME/day. But to peak at 2.2+ MS/cow/day this energy requirement will build to 220 MJME/day. Down the throat.
 - To achieve this the cow needs to have an appetite, it needs to have enough available feed to enable the intake and the utilisation environment that minimises wastage.
 - So, 150 MJME for a cow eating high quality pasture, 12 MJ/kgDM = 12.5 kg DM down the throat. If utilisation is 75% then its 16.7 kgDM available.
 - At 220 MJME with high quality feed its 18.3 kgDM down the throat, which at 75% utilisation means 24.4 kgDM/cow available.
- Crude protein levels at 18%
- Appropriate paddock selection for herd size and weather. It's easier to manage a small milking herd in a small paddock.
- Protein to Fat Ratio (target >0.8). This is indicative of the energy balance of the herd. As this ratio drops, cows may be losing weight to meet energy status resulting in ketosis.
- Access to drinking water with every feed.
- Target of less than 0.5 BCS loss.
- A cows daily energy requirements are met. Where intake is limited up to 10weeks post calving energy shouldn't be restricted as peak milk occurs around 6-8 weeks post calving.

If we get the first 90 days right, energy levels are met and target peak milk is met and maintained, this will set the season up in terms of meeting total milk production, supporting reproduction and body condition maintenance at the end of the season.

BUT do not compromise your pasture targets to do so. Target cover at balance date is also crucial to set up the next round so some feed may need to be imported to do so.



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Pasture Management: What to do with the long stuff

Having an APC to high can be the bearer of bad news on a farm. Having a target cover of 2300-2600 at calving is the happy zone to ensure there is enough quality feed available to milkers and enough feed to hold the dry and springer herds. When we reach above this, we run into the issue of what do we do with the long pasture?

Milking quality pasture ranges from 2800-3200 depending on the farm but above this milk production and target residuals become compromised.

To prevent this situation from accruing the key is herd management and pasture monitoring.

- Pasture walks weekly. If short on time 3 longest paddocks and 3 shortest paddocks give a rough estimate of availability and growth.
- Weekly feed demand from animals on farm compared to growth rates.
- Use the feed wedge. How many paddocks are above milking quality and how many are under. Will those low covers be back in the round when the milkers need to go in there.
- Plan for taking paddocks out of the round for early silage. This isn't the most ideal situation, but it is better than crashing milking production early on.
- Bring cows wintered off home earlier.
- Knowing what your cows are getting each day. Is there room to increase pasture allowance.
- Use the Dairy NZ [Spring Rotation Planner](#) to stay accountable. See article earlier in this issue.

Improving empty rates in our dairy herds. (Sarah Hawkins)

Nationwide there is a trend of an increasing empty rate in our dairy herds. For the 2020/2021 season the empty rate increased to a high of 19% empty in the Wairarapa (up from 18% the previous year).

Given that farms tend to rear 22-25% replacement animals, with a death rate of 2-3% on farm, this does not leave much room for selective culling of low performing or old animals.

Going forward, this is not a good spot to be in. Without being able to selectively cull animals on performance the rate of genetic gain is slowed, resulting in less productivity gains. Especially bad timing when as a nation we are wanting to maintain our milk production with 15% less milking cows, to achieve our climate change goals.

The biggest, most recent impact on our in-calf rate has been the shortening of the mating period. With a shorter mating period, submissions/cow are reduced. From around 2012 onwards (during the phase out of inductions) there was an increase in 6 week in calf rate, and a decrease in length of mating. Those farmers who had relied on inductions to improve days in milk, now had to tighten up calving and mating periods instead.



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The increase in 6 week in calf rate (from ~63.5% 2009-2011 to ~67.8% in 2020) shows that we are getting better at getting the early calving and healthy animals in calf.

However, the increase in empty rate shows that more work needs to be done to improve our ability of getting the tail enders back in calf- as the wastage from not in calf cows (especially R3's) is concerning.

Narrowing down the cause of a high empty rate is not an easy thing to do (excluding the shortening of the mating period), as often there are many contributing factors.

If concerned about your farms Empty Rate, it is recommended to gather data to set your benchmark and see where the gaps might be. This information includes:

- Detailed aged pregnancy data and historical reproduction results.
- Regularly weigh young stock to see how their growth is tracking against their potential. Consider using MINDA weights to get the best possible feedback on individual animal performance.
- Body Condition Score (BCS) of cows- at calving and again pre-mating.
- Management of first calvers- separate herd or run with MA cows. Testing colostrum cows using the BOH test for ketosis is a valuable way of determining if young cows are receiving sufficient energy to perform.
- The coming seasons mating plan- pre-mating heat recordings, treatment of non-cycling cows, AI/Bull, timing & length of mating.
- Maintain a detailed calving record of any high-risk animals; twins, assisted calving, retained membrane, metabolics, mastitis. These are going to be your cows who will be most difficult to get back in calf. Early identification and intervention is crucial.

If any holes in the system have been identified, act to counter them:

- Submission rates- BCS, calving pattern, heat detection identification of any non-cyclers.
- Conception rates- heat detection, cow drafting, animal stress, operator skill and semen quality.
- Poor young cow management- growth, mating start date, management post calving/ first lactation, especially feeding and diet.

Three common holes in the system tend to be:

1. **Condition score at calving**- cows can only eat so much to provide energy for milk, BCS and reproduction- if your animals are not at optimal BCS, then their energy levels are lower, reducing likelihood of successful mating's.
2. **Heat detection**- new and upcoming technologies (Cow manager, Halter) can assist in heat detection- but are only as good as the manager. Ensure a good heat detection system is in place, and all staff are on board.



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- 3. **Young stock management**- if your young stock are not meeting their growth potential, and are not achieving high in calf rates, something in the system is wrong. Animals genetics have improved in past 20 years, but youngstock grazing systems haven't.

It is essential to **review your system**- it is an annual system and 365 days is a long time to remember details- keep records as you go along. MINDA has a good system to record information and provides helpful reports.

The recommendation from our friendly local vet is to identify what you and your farm consider to be the **most likely 2 or 3 factors** and focus on righting them.

You need to laugh – especially in the middle of calving!





SITUATION REPORT		Jul - Aug 2021			
PASTURE GROWTH (Pasture growth figures include the use of nitrogen)					
		Jul-21		Jul-20	Forecast August
Manawatu	Irrigated	22		20	32
	Non-irrigated	22		20	32
Tararua		18		18	30
Wairarapa	Irrigated	27		18	32
	Non-irrigated	27		18	30
Canterbury		8		8	18
Otago		8		6	16
Tasman		5		15	24
Southland		6		6	20
PASTURE COVER (End of month)					
		Jul-21		Jul-20	Forecast August
Manawatu	Irrigated	2550		2500	2300
	Non-irrigated	2550		2500	2300
Tararua		2300		2350	2200
Wairarapa	Irrigated	2500		2400	2300
	Non-irrigated	2500		2400	2300
Canterbury		2300		2450	2150
Otago		2300		2300	2150
Tasman		2400		2600	2150
Southland		2500		2150-2400	2150
DAILY MILK PRODUCTION (MS / cow) Derived from DSM data, typically representing upper quartile performance					
		Jul-21		Jul-20	Forecast August
Manawatu	Irrigated	1.60	Winter milk	1.60	1.80
	Non-irrigated	N/A		N/A	1.80
Tararua		N/A		N/A	1.70
Wairarapa	Irrigated	1.60	Winter milk	1.50	1.80
	Non-irrigated	N/A		N/A	1.80
Canterbury		N/A		N/A	1.60
Otago		N/A		N/A	1.60
Tasman		N/A		N/A	1.70
Southland		N/A		N/A	1.60

SITUATION REPORT		Jul - Aug 2021				
LIVESTOCK		Now		Last Month		Last Year
Lower North Island						
Cull Cow	170-220kg CWT	800-1100		750-1000		750-1000
Friesian bull calves	at 4 days old	100-150		100-160		100-160
Late Spring Calved Cows		1250-1500				
South Island						
Cull Cow	200-240kg CWT	650-1000		550-950		750-1100
Friesian Bull Calves	at 4 days old	\$50-\$80				\$50-\$70
Hereford/Friesian Bull Calf	at 4 days old	\$70-\$110				\$100-\$110
Hereford/Friesian Heifer Calf	at 4 days old	\$70-\$90				\$100-\$110
FERTILISER						
Prices as at 3 Aug 2021						
Urea @ 100 kg/Ha	\$/Ha applied	97.40		97.40		75.00
Superphosphate @ 350 kg/Ha	\$/Ha applied	138.65		138.65		122.55
Ammo 36 @ 100 kg/Ha	\$/Ha applied	87.19		87.19		69.35
EXCHANGE RATE (USD)		0.699		0.699		0.662
Fonterra Unit Price		Co-op Group Shares	\$3.25		\$3.65	\$3.83
Fonterra Fixed Milk Price (Net)	Next application 9-10 August	\$7.57	Jul-21	\$7.82	Jun-21	
Milk Price Futures (Sept 2021)	NZX Global Dairy Futures	\$7.61		\$7.61		\$6.62
Milk Price Futures (Sept 2022)	NZX Global Dairy Futures	\$7.91		\$7.65		\$6.33
Milk Price Futures (Sept 2023)	NZX Global Dairy Futures	\$7.25		\$7.10		
International Commodities						
Maize (Corn) Futures Contract	USD/MT	215		258		146
Whole Milk Powder	USD/MT FAS	3,598		3,864		3,003
Crude Oil WTI (Nymex) Price	USD per Barrel	71.26		72.20		41.01
Please note we include these three international commodities for readers as a guide. These commodities are connected to the US milk supply and the short to medium term milksolids price.						

FEED MARKET											Utilised		
Lower North Island		Now	Last Month	kgDM OR	MJME	Utilisation	Cents / MJME	Cents / kgDM					
				kgDM/day									
Barley ex silo (indicative contract price)	\$/tonne	445	440	860	12.5	95%	4.4		54				
Palm Kernel spot price, incl. delivery	\$/tonne	345	375	920	11.0	85%	4.0		44				
Soybean Hulls - pellets incl. delivery	\$/tonne	440	460	910	12.0	95%	4.2		51				
Dried Distillers Pellet (Wheat) incl. delivery	\$/tonne	545	550	920	12.7	95%	4.9		62				
Molasses (feed grade) spot price, incl. delivery	\$/tonne	410	410	750	12.0	95%	4.8		58				
Grass Silage - in the stack	c/kg DM	34	34	180	10.5	80%	4.0		43				
Baleage	\$/round	95	95	250	10.5	85%	4.3		45				
Straw	\$/round	55	55	200	8.0	80%	4.3		34				
Hay Large Round	\$/round	85	85	240	9.5	80%	4.7		44				
Calf grazing	\$/hd/week	7.50	7.50	4	11.0	80%	3.0		27				
Yearling grazing	\$/hd/week	11.50	11.50	7	11.0	80%	2.7		23				
South Island													
Barley - ex silo (indicative contract price)	\$/tonne	440	440	860	12.5	95%	4.3		54				
Palm Kernel spot price, incl. delivery	\$/tonne	347	375	920	11.0	85%	4.0		44				
Soybean Hulls - pellets incl. delivery	\$/tonne	460	435	910	12.0	95%	4.4		53				
Dried Distillers Pellet (Wheat) incl. delivery	\$/tonne	565	585	920	12.7	95%	5.1		65				
Molasses (feed grade) spot price, incl. delivery	\$/tonne	390	390	750	12.0	95%	4.6		55				
Grass Silage - in the stack	c/kg DM	31	31	180	10.5	80%	3.7		39				
Baleage	\$/med. Square	80	80	250	10.5	85%	3.6		38				
Straw	c/kg DM	20	20	220	8.0	80%	3.1		25				
Calf grazing	\$/hd/week	8.00	8.00	4	11.0	80%	3.2		29				
Yearling grazing	\$/hd/week	13.00	13.00	7	11.0	80%	3.0		27				

Thank you to our contributors for monthly feed and livestock prices: AgVision Ltd, Agrifeeds, Carrfields (LNI) and PGG Wrightson (SI).

All prices are **exclusive of GST** and provide a guide on the current market. Where an average delivery cost is included (PKE, DDG, SBH, CGFP) \$45/tonne used for NI, \$25/tonne for SI.

Actual prices can and will vary.

NB: Condensed Distillers Syrup is currently available but mostly manufactured into a pelletised product.

(N/A - insufficient market evidence at this point)

Utilisation and MJME figures are from DairyNZ Facts and Figures publication.

Dairy System Monitoring provides a guide on upper quartile performance and is a service provided by BakerAg and Macfarlane Rural Business.