

Telford Dairy Farm
610 Owaka Highway

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Welcome

Telford Dairy Farm recently had its annual field day with the key speakers Jim Gibbs and Jenny Jago providing an array of interesting topics from MilkSmart techniques to reducing lameness. Many thanks to Jim and Jenny for their contribution to our open day. We had great feedback for our new developments such as the twin weeping wall and K-Line effluent system.

A reminder to everyone that all the information on the Telford dairy project including our field day notes are available on the DairyNZ website, www.dairynz.co.nz. Our weekly production reports are available on the South Island Dairy Development Centre Website, www.siddc.org.nz

You can email us at ian.knowles@telford.ac.nz to go on the email list. If your email has changed please let us know.

Congratulations to Vaughan & Megan Templeton from Riverton and the Korteweg Family from Stirling, well deserved recognition in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.



Zac Haderbache Farm Manager informing attendees at the Telford open day

Feed Situation

The feed situation at Telford has been comfortable this autumn, the mild autumn meant pasture growth was relatively high and steady so our feed wedge was never in trouble. This allowed us to re-new paddocks that were targeted as poor producing following our PastureCoach and visual assessment.

The summer crop worked very well on the clay downs, we aim to put in a larger area of crop on the downs this year to maintain cow production, push a bank of feed ahead of us on these potentially dry soils through the summer and to help guarantee our summer re-grassing program stays on track.

Cow Production

Our stocking rate has been consistently high for our farm type at around 3.35cows/ha this year, we have purchased enough rising 2 heifers this year to maintain this stocking rate, our main focus now is to reach our target peak lactation this spring which will help increase our per head production target.

Milksolids targets for the season were:

208000kgMS total, 1200kgMS/ha or 381kgMS/cow

As we near drying off it looks likely our production will be approx:

195000kgMS total, 1127kgMS/ha or 357kgMS/cow

The cows peaked at 1.82kgMS/cow early October with 545 cows on twice a day. In March I reported our production to date had been 10% above last year and 3.5% above our farm record, the end of year result will be slightly less. We are well through drying off now with the remainder of cows on OAD. After heavy rains last week ground conditions are creating soil damage and farm cover is now down around 1850kgDM/ha. Cows were producing 1.3kgMS/day before going onto OAD, milk quality has only become an issue with high SCC for the last couple of pick ups after staying around 200,000 for the season.

Effluent Management

The new twin sludge bed and k-line effluent system is up and running, early data shows the K-Line is averaging 3.1mm/hr, while the traveling irrigator on fast speed applying 10mm per pass and with one arm blocked is applying 8.4mm per pass. We have both systems running which gives us the flexibility to apply effluent to a large area when conditions are suitable and better manage our storage.



Twin Sludge beds for filtering before application through the K-Line

Winter Planning

Winter crops have reached our minimum budgeted yields of 10tDM/ha on 1st May, the crops had an excellent set up this year and had the potential to be exceptional. However, the yields are disappointing as the dry autumn and moderate aphid infestations stifled crop production, we also didn't apply as many applications of urea to try to reduce costs. We are still on track to winter 560 cows on Kale and supplement on the Telford sheep farms. Regular condition scoring will be carried out again to monitor cows and improve management of early calvers and lighter condition cows.

Additional Projects

We have some new additional projects associated with the Telford Dairy Project, one that we expect will attract a lot of interest is the Nitrous Oxide inhibitor research (Eco-N & DCN type products). AgResearch are being funded to test the effects on the environment and pasture production in nationwide on-farm trials, Telford Dairy has been selected as one of these sites. If you have any ideas for new projects you would like to see conducted at Telford for the following season please let us know.

Many thanks to our major sponsors:

