

Future Dairy Farm Systems Project – NARF (Dargaville)

This project compares the impact on productivity, profitability, people and the environment on three farms:

1. **Baseline Farm** – Spring calving, twice-a-day milking, 3.0 cows/ha
2. **Extended Lactation TAD Farm** – 50% herd calving each year, full season twice-a-day milking, 3.0 cows/ha
3. **Extended Lactation OAD Farm** – 50% herd calving each year, full season once-a-day milking, 3.0 cows/ha

This project is funded by DairyNZ.

Update 11 June 2026	Baseline Farm	EL TAD Farm	EL OAD Farm
Average Pasture Cover	2,251	2,204	2,254
% farm out of rotation	-	-	-
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/d, last 2 weeks)*	23	29	27
Rotation Length (days)	66	49	52
Cows in milk/Total Cows	0/81	40/81	40/81
BCS	4.7 D	4.8 D 4.35 M	4.95 D 4.35 M
kgMS/cow/day	-	1.55	1.30
Litres/cow/day	-	13.0	11.3
kgMS/cow, season to date	-	15	13
kgMS/ha, season to date	-	22	19
Supplement offered (kgDM/c/d)	Dries 4.4 PKE	Dries 4.5 PKE Milkers 4.5 PKE Milkers 3.3 bale	Dries 0 Milkers 4.5 PKE Milkers 3.3 bale
Purch Supp Fed, season to date (kg DM/c)	PKE 32 Baleage 7	PKE 32 Baleage 20	PKE 32 Baleage 20
Homegrown Silage Fed to date (kg DM/cow)	-	-	-
Homegrown Silage on hand (kg DM/cow)	-	-	-
Managers Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	3	4	4
Rainfall (last two weeks)	80mm		

*Pasture growth rates are calculated using platemeter readings in conjunction with Halter estimates

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

- Our mobs are all settled into their new trial groups including heifers. It has been interesting watching their behaviour over Halter and tracking their gradual integration amongst the herd.
- All dry cows are well on track to reach BCS targets at calving on 10th July and supplement use will drop accordingly.
- Milk production is higher than expected, with OAD cows only dropping around 15% when moved onto OAD. These cows have all been milking since last spring.
- We have been following the herds with N at 70kg/ha Sustain since 1 June, avoiding wetter days and paddock areas. We have kept 6 paddocks as no-N pdks (2 per farm) and will report growth rates with and without N through the season.
- Blood tests and cull livers have been checked and mineral levels were good. We have started Mg going onto supplement and through the Dosatron in preparation for spring.