Key Summary Points

1. Capital/maintenance autumn fertiliser has gone on this week

2. We are about to dry off a further 45 cows to reduce feed demand and allow us to milk through May with the remaining cows (research trial being conducted)

3. We ran irrigation during the week to keep soil moisture at optimum levels
We are slowly building average cover but with silage reserves close to running out we have decided to dry off a further 45 cows to reduce current feed demand and make the most of the short autumn growing period to build average cover. We plan to milk the bulk of the remaining cows through most of May (partly to allow a planned research trial). Dry cows are being managed in two mobs based on condition score. R2 & R1 have recently been weighed. Weights are behind this time last year (primarily due to the season) but average weight remains on track with targets (R2 currently average 411kg, R1 average 172kg). However, there is a tail end on both groups which we will try and preferentially feed over the coming months to help rectify. Milk production is currently 4% up on last year at this time but with milking numbers being reduced we are likely to finish on par with last year for the season.
8 April 2013

Average farm pasture cover (kgDM/ha) = 1928
Area in Rotation (ha) = 102
Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day) = 32
Predicted Growth Rate Next 7 Days (kgDM/ha/day) = 23

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