

EASTBOURNE DAIRY FARM LIMITED

2017/2018 Fourth Quarter - Autumn Report

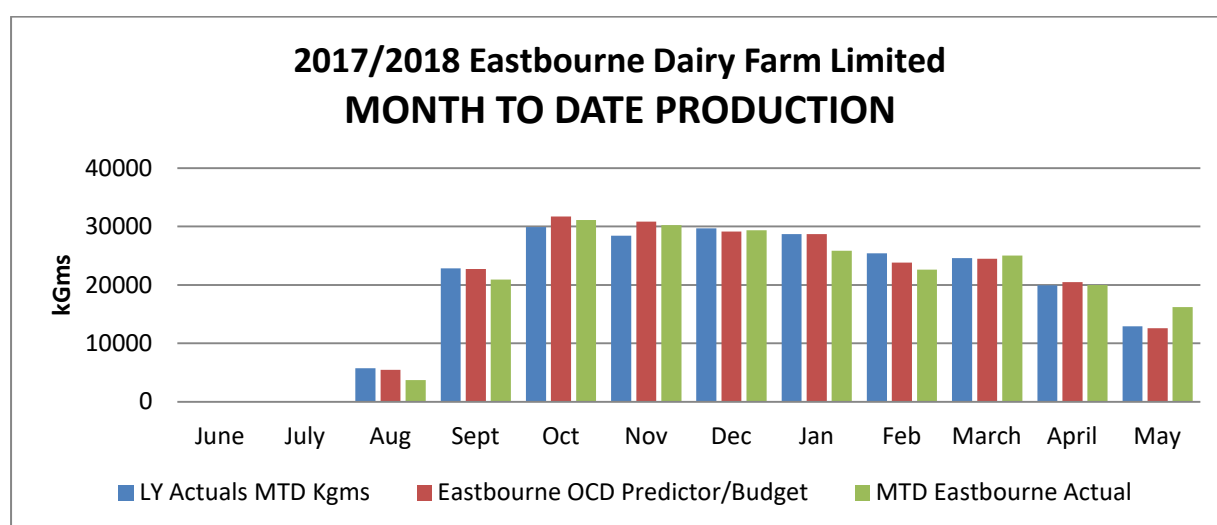
Hello,

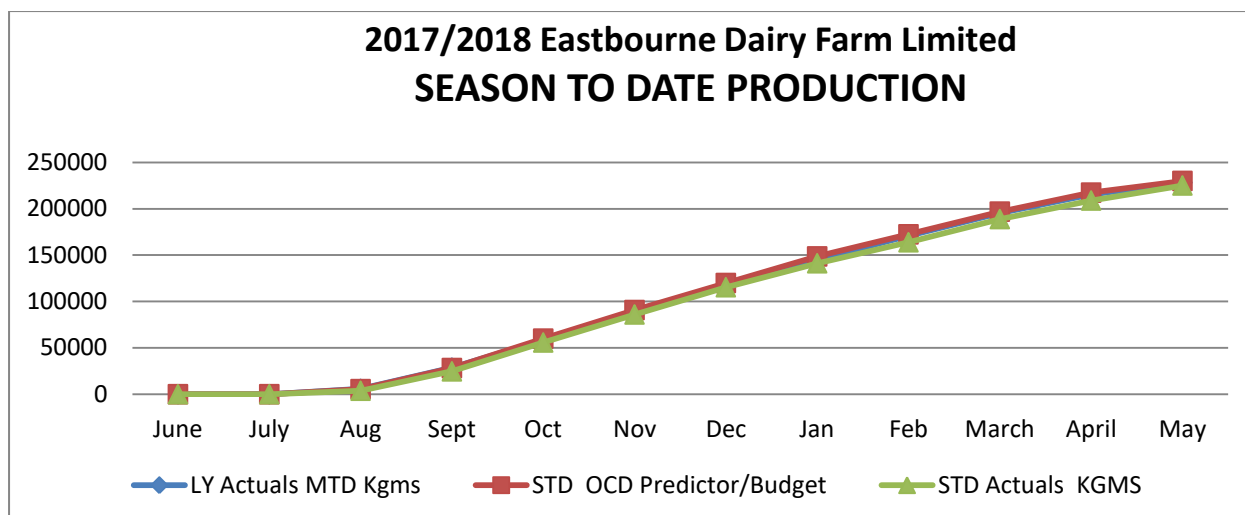
The production at Eastbourne finished slightly behind last season after a very dry period. According to Jack Ballam, farm advisor for Eastbourne, the stock are looking in extremely good condition and the farm looks a picture under Ben's care. Ben like all the farmers in the South Island had a tough few summer months from January where he was 10% behind his previous year and February just 5% behind, he recovered in March being 2.4% ahead of the previous years March production and then was behind again in April only to rocket home in May being 28.7% ahead of his 2016/17 production in the previous May. The very difficult season saw him finish the 2017/2018 season just 2.1% behind the 2016/17 production. He has maintained excellent stock health and the fertility rate for the cows have increased by 4%.

Somatic cell count averaged 81,134 which is below the Open Country Dairy Target of 150,000 (lower is better). This means Eastbourne received the full 8 cent premium paid by Open Country for this milk. Closing forecast for the 2017/2018 average milk price including all incentives and settlement payments but before the Dairy NZ Levy is \$6.71.

There has been some capital expenditure during the last part of the season with the addition of a garage to the main house with a lockable area for tools, and a mineral dispenser in the milking shed.

The full season report will be circulated with the annual account information shortly.





2017/2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The date for the Annual General Meeting has been set for Friday 9th November 2018. The AGM is to be held in Wellington, at the Miramar Golf Club, Bunker Lounge, which is located across the car park from the Wellington Airport. Further details of the AGM will follow with the Annual Report.

www.miramargolfclub.co.nz

SHARES FOR SALE

There are a number of shares available for Coldstream, Eastbourne and Murray Creek Dairy Farm Limited. If you are interested in purchasing additional shares please contact Grant Morris (06) 346 5329 or email grant@rogerdickie.co.nz

Kind Regards

Roger Dickie
Director



ROGER DICKIE
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EASTBOURNE END OF SEASON SHAREMILKERS REPORT 2017/2018

The 2017/18 milking season was overall a good one for Eastbourne Dairy Farm, with a reasonable winter and a fantastic spring which lead to a great calving. There was lots of feed ahead of the cows and the stock were in good condition leading into mating.

Thankfully the weather played its part during mating this season. We were able to achieve a successful result of a 74% 6 week in calf rate, 4% up on last season, and an overall 8% empty rate, an improvement of 4% on last season.

With the very dry summer down in Southland we were lucky we had plenty of feed on hand and were able to continue fully feeding cows and keep them milking well heading into autumn.

After the dry summer we had a great autumn, with a lot of grass growth and the cows in good condition we were able to milk all 400 cows right up till the end of May and make up for some of the production we lost over summer. We dried off the cows on the 29th and 30th of May and trucked the cows off to winter grazing at McKee's.

On farm this year, we were able to do some capital drainage at the runoff which has already made a big difference to the paddocks. We also had a car garage built at the main house which will be great asset as I had a lot of gear stolen from the farm workshop in January.

Our aim for the coming season is to carry on where we left off, with our number one goal of fully feeding the cows and getting the best feed utilization possible, while keeping cost as low as we can.

	2016/17	2017/18
Effective hectares	164	164
Peak cows milked	484	480
Milk production	228,251	225,125
kgMS/cow	471	469
kgMS/Ha	1391	1373
Somatic cell count	82,000	81,134
6 week in-calf rate	70%	74%

With the cows away at winter grazing and some maintenance jobs to do on farm, we are all looking forward to a well-deserved winter break. We have had a new mineral dispenser installed in the shed while the cows are dry. The cows are in excellent condition and we look forward to an easy start for the 2018/19 Season.

Your sharemilker

Ben Worker



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Photos from Will and Dots visit to the farm 06/12/2017



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