

EASTBOURNE DAIRY FARM LIMITED

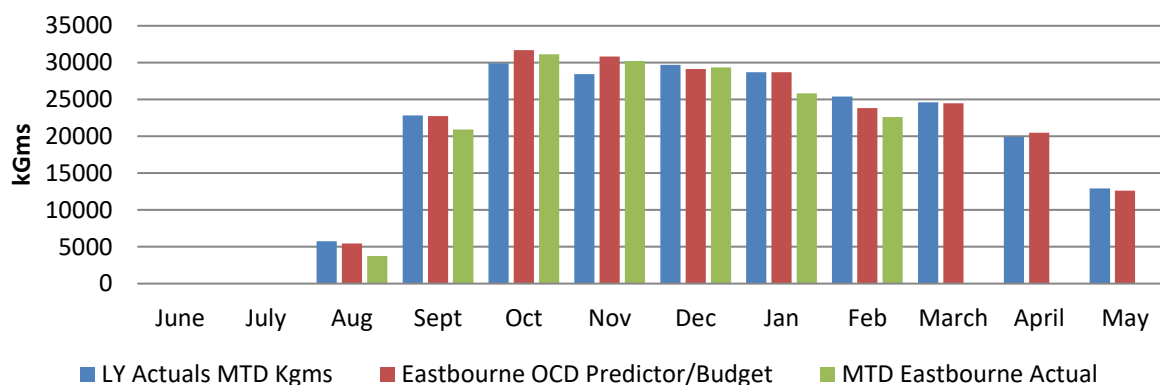
2018 SUMMER REPORT



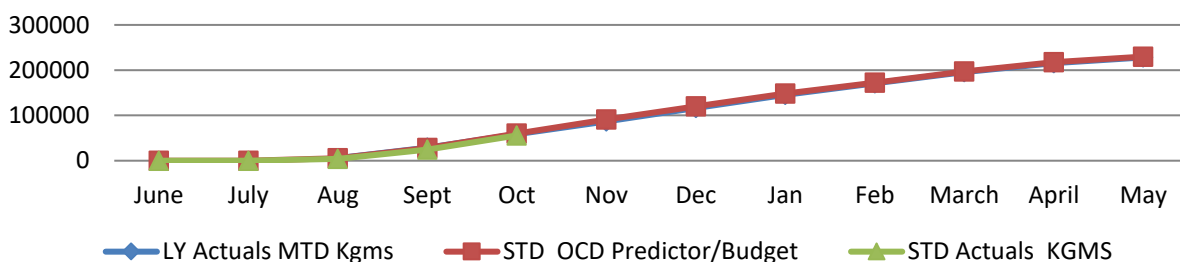
What a Summer we had here at Eastbourne Dairy Farm, with one of the driest on record for Southland.

This time last season we were in the middle of a very average, overcast and wet summer praying for some nice dry sunny weather. Well we certainly got what we asked for this year, just a little to dry though (can never keep us farmers happy), with no substantial rain for most of November, December, January and first half of February, and any forecast for rain just teasing us and keeping our hopes up, we finally had three inches of very welcomed rain mid February and good consistent rain up till now.

2017/2018 Eastbourne Dairy Farm Limited MONTH TO DATE PRODUCTION



2017/2018 Eastbourne Dairy Farm Limited SEASON TO DATE PRODUCTION



We changed our milking roster from twice a day milking to 3n2 milking on the 27th of December, about a week earlier than planned however our cards were handed to us with the dry weather and the rapidly slowing grass growth rate we were running out of feed on the dairy platform quickly. With our main concern cow condition and being only two thirds of our way through mating, it was very important to not put the cows under too much pressure.

We were already maxed out feeding a PKE/DDG blend through the dairy shed; we started feeding out baleage we had stored up for this very reason. This meant we could still fully feed our cows and keep them milking well through this dry Summer and more importantly they could hold their condition. Through January and February we were feeding 4.5kg of PKE/DDG and 3.5kg of baleage per cow per day so a lot of extra supplement is being fed over an already very busy time of the year.

This did hurt production for two months of January and February being 10% down on last season's months however we are only 3% behind season to date so we are still tracking well.

Once we finally had good rain mid February and into March grass growth has been out of control the last 3-4 weeks which has let us rebuild our feed wedge and average cover back to where we want to be for this time of the season.

Because we were lucky enough to still be able to fully feed the cows over the summer it meant they were still milking well and could continue to milk well now we have lots of grass again.

This has also contributed to some great mating results for the season with a 74% 6 week in calf rate and an overall empty rate of only 8%, I am very happy with these results and makes all the extra work of feeding out baleage over summer so very worth it.

The young stock are doing great and got through the summer very well, with the R2 heifers in great condition, and with only 4 empty heifers out of 106, means we can bring in 102 heifers into the milking herd next season.

The 141 replacement heifer calves are growing well, being regularly weighed they are on average 15kg ahead of target so I am happy with how they are tracking heading into their first winter.

We have got 7.5 ha of kale crop which is growing very well for both R1's and R2 heifers winter feed, and our Winter grazer for the mixed age cows is very happy with how his crops are growing considering the dry Summer which is great news as I was a bit worried how the winter feed would establish and grow.

A few other jobs that have happened around farm are all the shelter belts and macrocarpa hedges have been fenced off and some of the boundary fences have been fixed or replaced.

The cow lanes have had their annual clean off and we have finally fixed the last section of clay lane that has been on the to do for a few seasons.

The new garage on my house section is in the process of being built with the concrete floor getting boxed and poured this week.



The farm is looking nice and green and in a great growing state our aim now is to lengthen our grazing round heading into Autumn, grow as much feed as we can and milk as many cows as we can, right up till the end of May before we dry the herd off.

Your sharemilker

Ben Worker

Shares for Sale

There are a number of shares available for Eastbourne Dairy Farm Limited.

There are also shares available in another of our dairy farms Murray Creek Dairy Farm Limited and our sheep and beef station Pukekaka Sheep & Beef Farm Limited.

If you are interested in purchasing additional shares please contact Richard Bourne on (06) 346 5329 or email richardb@rogerdickie.co.nz.

Ben has faced a number of challenges this season and is coming through with great results. We look forward to a strong end to the season.

Kind Regards



Roger Dickie
Director



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