



Coldstream Downs Dairy Farm Limited

VOSM WINTER/SPRING 2016 UPDATE

JASON CHECKETTS



The saying goes round here that “Southland will get you down, but never let you down” and it certainly hasn’t this spring, it’s been as good of a start as anyone could hope for.

With very little rain over August/September and a very warm spell in the last couple of weeks the grass is rocketing out of the ground, which in turn is allowing us to feed cows to their full potential at a very early stage in the season. They are currently on pretty much a grass based diet which is great for milk production and also from a financial sense.

We are currently just over 6,000 milk solids ahead for this time last season which equates to 16% ahead. September was 12% ahead on last season, October has started well also and hopefully we can continue on with increasing production.

Overall the calving period has gone well, with very few cow losses and hardly any other animal health issues, it’s made it very stress free and enjoyable.

This year we have 150 heifer replacements that have been kept, which are on farm being fed milk, meal and grass until they are 100kgs live weight, then away to the graziers.

Looking ahead as we have a short break between calving and the start of mating, there’s plenty to do with spraying lanes, creeks and sidelings for weed control, along with all the other day to day tasks that take place. We are currently preparing for planting of crops, with summer turnips to be planted in the next week for the cows to eat over the dryer summer months, as well as planting out new grass in two paddocks.

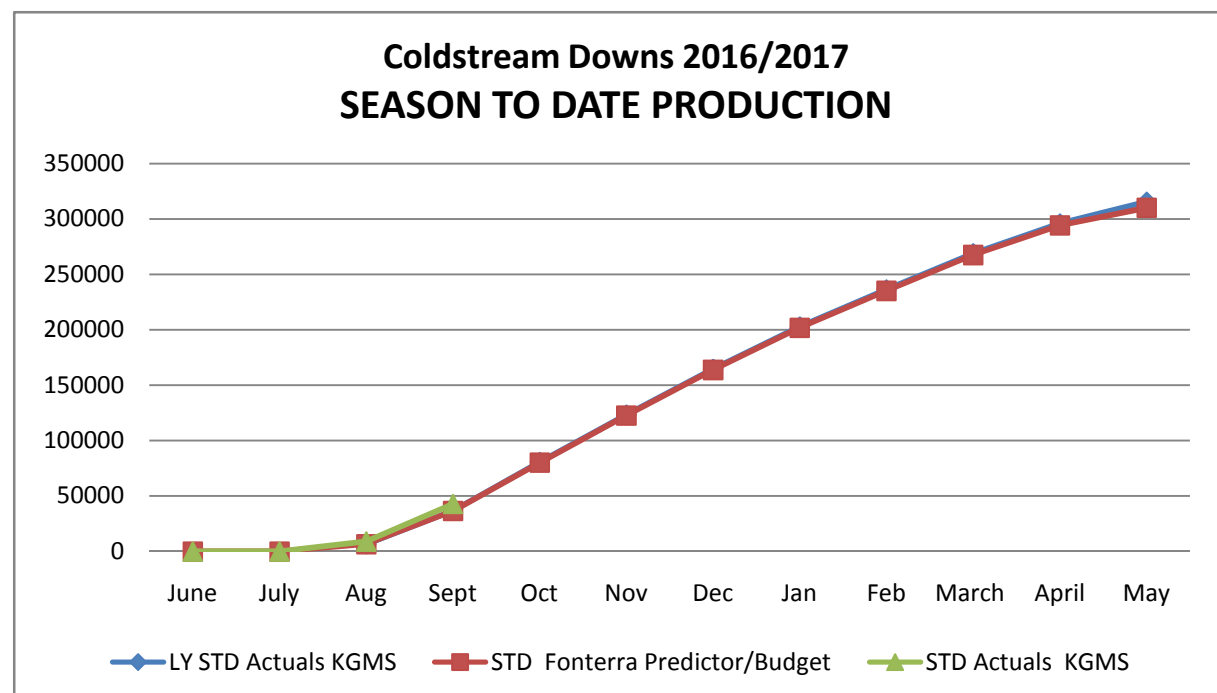
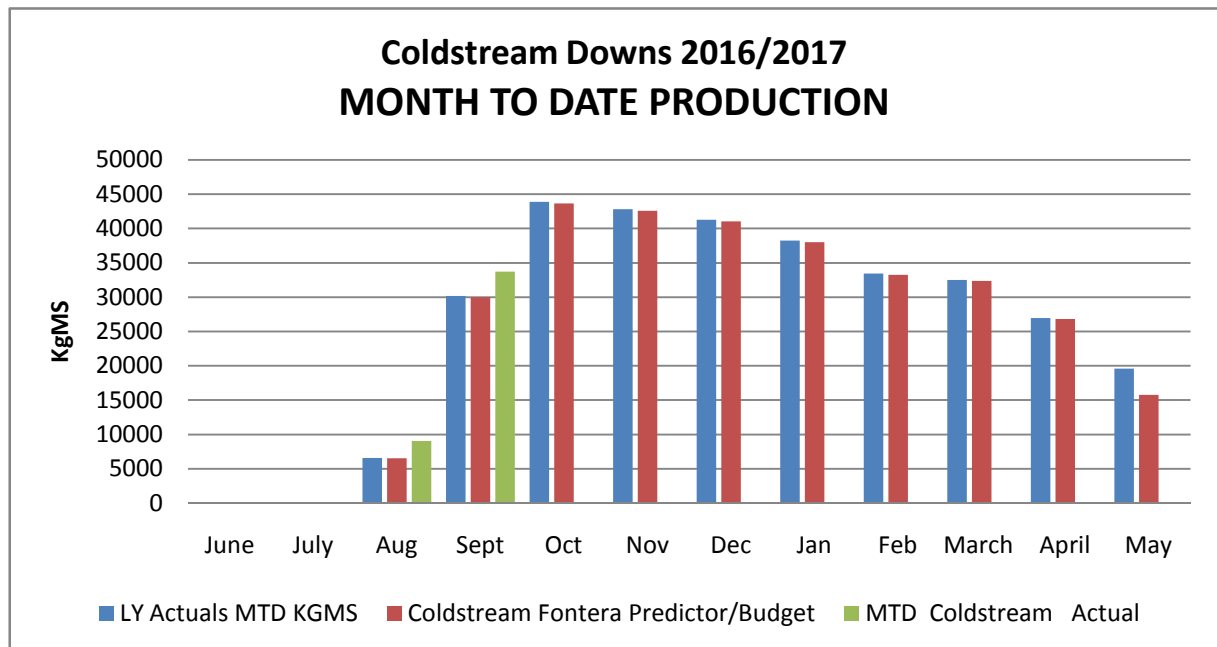


ROGER DICKIE
NEW ZEALAND

PO Box 43, Waverley 4593 PH: (06) 346 5329 www.rogerdickie.co.nz

For the winter crop next season, we are going to use a different variety than in the past. We are going away from a winter kale crop, to now grow a fodder beet crop to give a higher yielding crop, which has a more diverse use. Cows will graze it behind a wire and we can also mechanically lift the beet from the ground to be stored for several months if need be or can be fed to cows in grass paddocks.

Production



Hopefully the weather stays kind to us, the payout keeps trending in the right direction and the milk keeps flowing.

Regards

Jason Checketts