A green and black logo

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**Summer management plan**

**Successful summer management depends on planning, monitoring, and acting. Farmers in areas prone to dry conditions should have a well thought through contingency plan for the summer dry. The following information will be useful to develop your own summer management strategy.**

The objective of a contingency plan is to keep as many cows milking, as long as possible without jeopardising next season’s production.

Start by assessing your current situation and then insert dates and figures and display on the office wall.

Note: A different plan will be required for an early summer dry and a late summer dry.

**Build up feed before it gets dry. Use nitrogen to tactically increase available feed.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strategically apply Nitrogen by this date: |  | Rotation length by 10 Jan: |  |  |
| Application rate of Nitrogen (N/ha): |  | Rotation length by 10 Dec: |  |  |

There is no advantage going onto a longer round if it is not dry. In a dry summer where nitrogen has been applied a rotation of 26-30 days will be adequate.

**How much feed is on hand? Think about feed availability and supplement use in summer.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Supplements on hand now (A): |  | Supplement required for Winter (B): |  |
| Supplement required for Autumn (C): |  | A-B-C= Total feed available for Summer: |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Divided by number of cows: |  | Total Feed available per cow: |  |
| Divided by feed required per cow per day: |  | Total days feeding available: |  |

**For more information, check out dairynz.co.nz/summer-management**

**or contact your local DairyNZ team 0800 4 DairyNZ**

**Manage your summer crops. Think about how this will impact your feed supply and your alternatives.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Planting date for summer crop: |  | Application rate of nitrogen (N/ha): |  |
| Date of nitrogen application to crop: |  |  |  |

**Animal health and destocking**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| All known culls gone by: |  | Dry of high SCC cows once the count gets over: |  |
| Whole her pregnancy test date: |  | Dry off when daily L/cow drops below: |  |
| Herd test dates:  *To identify low producers and high SCC cows* |  |  |  |

**Cow condition. Monitor the BCS of the herd regularly and make decisions early to address low condition cows.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dry off cows at or under BCS 3.5 by: |  | Dry off cows at or under BCS 4 by: |  |
| I will dry off the whole herd if there is no rain by: |  | I will monitor BCS: |  |

**Make the best use of your trusted advisors and rural professionals.**

Rural professionals, veterinarians, farm consultants, DairyNZ Regional and Extension partners, bankers, and feed reps all have specialist knowledge that can help you manage a dry summer effectively. Don't be afraid to ask for help and advice as needed.

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