

Thought of the Month

“Life is not measured by the breaths you take but by its breathtaking moments”.

Tip of the Month

Nitrogen and Sulphate applications are critical for quick pasture establishment

GST Increase

GST goes up to 15% on 1 October.

Great Features of our Grazing Scheme

- Specialists in carryover cows, weaners, heifers, bull leasing and winter grazing.
- All animals are regularly monitored and weighed and reports are sent to the owner.
- Target weights are set so the grazier is fully aware of what is expected.
- Payments are based on weight gain, so it works as an incentive scheme for mutual benefit to owner and grazier.
- Monthly automatic payment help spread the costs.
- A legal contract ensures that both parties are clearly

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Welcome to our third edition of the Dairy Grazing Newsletter.

Firstly, I would like to welcome all our new clients to Dairy Grazing Ltd. The regular weighing and monitoring we do is paramount to ensuring success.

Don't forget to secure your grazing for your weaners for the 2010/2011 season.

State of Play

Calving is now underway and the wet weather continues. Roll on spring and the sunshine. However, this wet weather has had a major impact on our ability to weigh stock. The wet, muddy and slippery yards have made weighing and also administering Dectomax and B12/Selenium impossible. The next fine break in the weather will produce a flurry of activity. Please bare with me.

Technology Update

We hope that you have all had a chance to have a look at our website www.dairygrazing.co.nz we have always looking to improve so if you have any ideas, comments or suggestions please do not hesitate to forward them on.

Dairy Grazing in the News

You may have seen an article in the Waikato Times in August. Unfortunately, this is an on-going dispute between Dairy Grazing and SF Wellman (Mr. Wellman's debt remains unpaid). Outlined below are the facts:-

The livestock were a mixed lot, from a weight perspective, with many being well below the weight we generally accept. However, we were confident of turning the stock around during the whole course of our contract. To remedy winter feed issues we placed the stock with one of our top Graziers and brought in supplementary feed. At this time Mr. Wellman insisted that he remove the animals, breaking his contract and denying us the opportunity to produce our normal good results. We had experienced a small number of farmers entering grazing contracts on a weight gain basis only to remove the stock after the difficult winter grazing period. This cynical tactic meant that the farmer paid a reduced winter grazing rate and then contracted another Grazier at cheaper summer grazing rates when feed was plentiful and cheap. The “justification” for breaching the contract being the light condition of the animals after the winter season.

MAF was asked to investigate the complaint in October 2009 and concluded that the matter was one of a civil dispute with **no existing animal welfare issues occurring**. MAF also spoke to the Vet involved in reporting on Wellman's cattle and the conclusion was that “although the cattle were healthy looking and on plentiful feed at the time of visual inspection they appeared to be small in stature and have had a lack of feed historically”. This finding supported our contention of the animals being well below generally accepted weight/condition at the time we commenced grazing them. Offers to go to mediation have not been responded to and Mr. Wellman continues a media and personal smear campaign.