

DairyNZ Farm Management Calendar

	Dry Period		Start of Calving to Start of Mating		Mid Lactation		Late Lactation to Dry Off	
Pasture Management	Avoid damaging wet soils	Manage rotation length	Avoid damaging wet soils	Manage rotation length	Monitor pasture cover and grazing residuals	Implement summer management plan if dry	Monitor pasture cover and grazing residuals	Update feed budget
	Monitor pasture cover		Monitor pasture cover and grazing residuals	Identify and harvest surplus pasture as silage	Identify and harvest surplus pasture as silage		Implement summer management plan if dry	Adjust feeding and rotation to achieve target pasture cover at calving
Supplementary Feeds and Crops	Graze winter crops		Prepare and plant summer crops		Plant summer crops	Monitor crops for insect and diseases	Plant winter crops	Sow new grass. Graze lightly with young stock when ready
	Responses of up to 100g MS/kg DM where spared winter pasture eaten by milking cows		Only get good responses in spring if pasture intake is very low (milkers' residuals below 1400kg DM/ha)		Only get good responses in spring if pasture intake very low (milkers' residuals below 1400kg DM/ha)		Maize silage made or purchased	Good responses to supplements if used to extend lactation
Herd Management	Monitor body condition score of cows	Transition cow management	Calving	Monitor body condition score of cows	Identify possible cull cows based on SCC, empties, production, temperament	Weigh cows to establish herd liveweight	Cull cows based on SCC, empties, production, temperament	Dry cows off based on body condition score to achieve calving targets
	Preferentially feed animals that are below target body condition score			Preferentially manage light cows	If dry, reduce stock numbers by culling		Consider Once A Day milking to manage cow condition and feed supply	
Reproduction	Preferentially feed animals that are below target body condition score		Record and check 'at risk' cows, such as cows with metabolic problems difficult calving, retained membranes	Identify non-cyclers and if treating treat one week before mating starts	Artificial Breeding (AB)	Record all artificial and natural mating	Remove bulls 9 to 12 weeks after start of mating	
			Record cows on heat pre-mating	Begin artificial breeding (AB)	Use bulls for natural mating. Remove bulls 9 to 12 weeks after start of mating		Pregnancy test 13 weeks after start of mating and again 6 weeks after mating ends	
Animal Health	Supplement cows with magnesium		Give 'at risk' cows starter drench immediately post calving. Treat 'downer' cows promptly	Monitor for bloat	Monitor for bloat	Supplement cows with magnesium if needed	Monitor Facial Eczema spore levels and administer zinc to the stock	Supplement with minerals as needed, such as copper and Vitamin B12, if it's a bad Facial Eczema year
	Supplement with trace elements if needed		Supplement cows with magnesium	Monitor for and treat mastitis and lameness	Blood test copper and magnesium	Monitor for and treat mastitis and lameness	Liver biopsy on cows to check copper and selenium levels	Monitor for and treat mastitis and lameness. Consider options for dry cow treatment
Nutrient Management	Carry out maintenance of effluent system	Avoid nitrogen applications if soils are cold and wet	Take soil and herbage tests. Use Farm Enviro Walk	Avoid applying effluent to pasture if soils are too wet	Apply spring fertiliser. Use Farm Enviro Walk	Check riparian planting and release young plants if necessary	Soil test if not done in the spring	Apply autumn fertiliser and lime
	Use Farm Enviro Walk to evaluate environmental performance		Prepare a nutrient budget and fertiliser recommendation as part of a nutrient plan	Apply nitrogen fertiliser if required	Apply dairy effluent to pasture unless soils are wet	Take some clover only herbage samples if necessary, to check clover nutrition	Update nutrient budgets and fertiliser recommendation	Apply dairy effluent to pasture and desludge ponds
Staff	Carry out orientation of new staff	Negotiate objectives with staff	Train staff for heat detection and mating processes		Confirm holiday rosters with staff	Conduct quarterly performance appraisals with staff	Interview and select new staff	
	Attend SIDE conference	Organise and confirm rosters and time off for the spring	Conduct quarterly performance appraisals with staff		Discuss intentions for next season with staff		Conduct quarterly performance appraisals with staff	
Young Stock	Regularly check the health and liveweight of young stock		Calf rearing		Calf rearing	Wean calves based on liveweight	Drench and administer copper bullets to calves if needed	Regularly check health and weight of stock grazed off-farm
			Weigh young stock. 24 month liveweight should be 90% of mature liveweight		Weigh young stock. 15 Month liveweight should be 60% of mature liveweight		Weigh young stock. 6 month liveweight should be 30% of mature liveweight	

For more information on each activity visit the farm calendar on the DairyNZ website www.dairynz.co.nz/farmcalendar

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