



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Supplement Use in a Variable Climate

Trial Outline

Farmlets

1. **Pasture Only:** No imported supplement, home grown grass silage. Peak numbers 2.7/ha – starting numbers 77 cows on 28 ha
2. **PKE Only:** PKE to be fed according to decision rules but constrained by acceptable milk FEI. Peak numbers 3.1/ha – starting numbers 88 cows on 28ha
3. **PKE + Other Supplements:** PKE and other imported supplements to be fed according to decision rules but constrained by acceptable milk FEI. Peak numbers 3.1/ha – starting numbers 88 cows on 28ha

Treatments 1 and 2 will test and demonstrate options to managing feed supply shortages such as OAD milking, early culling, drying off etc. Treatment 3 will provide a comparison of using other imported supplements to fill feed gaps.

Farmlet structure

- Each farmlet is 28 ha
- Paddocks allocated to farmlets to balance:
 - Historic cropping and pasture renovation, Kikuyu presence
 - Pasture growth potential, Location on the farm
 - Effluent application, Soil type

Trial establishment

- Cow distribution to occur to balance BW, PW, age, condition and calving date.
- Pasture cover balanced to ensure average cover and wedge similar across farmlets by 1st July.

Supplement management

- All farmlets can make baleage when pasture surplus is evident, and feed as required.
- Imported supplement is to be used to fill feed deficits on farmlets 2 & 3.
- Feeding of PKE on treatment 2 will be limited by keeping milk FEI in acceptable levels.
- Feeding of PKE on treatment 3 will be limited by keeping milk FEI in acceptable levels at which point it may be substituted for the next cheapest feed source (\$/ MJ ME). Spot market feed sources only to be used (no stored maize silage)

For more information go to www.nddt.nz

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