



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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.nddt.nz)

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