

# THE DAIRY FARMER

SPRING 2012

GEA Farm Technologies' (GEA FT) focus on improving farm productivity through innovation sees two exciting new releases for farm dairies this spring.

## INNOVATION DELIVERS ON TEAT CARE & COW ID

FIL ACTIVE TEAM CREAM  
500G FLEXIPACK AND 2L PAIL,  
FIL UDDER MARK 500ML



FIL Active Teat Cream and Udder Mark are both out in time to meet the needs of dairy farmers throughout New Zealand at their busiest time of year.

Active Teat Cream represents three years of intensive development and trial work to produce an iodine/ Manuka honey based teat cream with excellent skin healing properties. It is the second product from GEA FT's FIL brand to successfully capture the well-known healing properties of Manuka honey in a product aimed specifically at dairy cows to assist with teat care and udder health.

**Four years ago Iodoshield Active was launched and now ranks among GEA FT's most successful FIL animal health products, with farmers around New Zealand reporting significant improvements in teat quality and mastitis control following regular use.**

Active Teat Cream comes in a 500g squeezable, capped flexipack, which can be hung from a hook in the farm dairy, and a handy 2L pail.

The only product of its type in New Zealand, Active Teat Cream is a completely water soluble compound that will not leave greasy residues on hands when applying. This was a key requisite farmers sought at the development stage, along with a product that is also easily absorbed into the sensitive teat surface.

"Putting a product in cream form like Active Teat Cream into a suitable container that is farmer and dairy friendly was the biggest challenge. We needed a pack that could contain the iodine, and prevent leaching through the pack itself. The result is a very handy pack that also provides 15 months shelf life on a product that trial farmers have spoken very highly about," says GEA FT's Hygiene Technical Manager Drew Chadwick.

Other salve type teat creams on the market are typically greasy, and lack the same antibacterial properties of Active Teat Cream's strong iodine base.

The cream formulation with Manuka honey added ensures rapid absorption into the teat pores, eliminating any residual product that could build up on rubberware surface, or attract dirt to the teat surface after application. Farmers have uniformly appreciated the resulting formula, with many happy to apply it to cracked hands after milking.

The other innovation welcomed by farmers this spring is revamped FIL Udder Mark, cow ID paint. Specifically formulated for cows' udders, Udder Mark was developed to identify cows treated with antibiotics, requiring identification readily and clearly to avoid expensive and damaging grades from treated milk entering the milk silo.

**GEA FT listened closely to what farmers wanted in something they will regularly use in the farm dairy over the busy spring season.**

"It soon became apparent Udder Mark needed to be in a 500ml aerosol can, a good size without being too big, and it needed a multi-directional actuator to allow it to be sprayed on from any angle.

Most importantly, we developed longer lasting pastel based paint in red and green, to ensure it can remain visible for up to 14 days, depending on conditions," says Trevor Gulliver, National Sales Manager.

"Udder Mark is a response to a greater need in the industry to clearly identify cows, and avoid expensive milk silo, and even tanker load, contamination."

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pays dividends

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with WestfaliaSurge

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for change

### A WORD FROM GEA FT: THE TIME TO INNOVATE IS NOW

Pressure on farm budgets this season means the need to work smarter is greater than ever. GEA Farm Technologies offers the smartest, highest quality equipment and solutions to help our clients get more out of the resources they have. GEA FT can help staff become more productive with the renowned WestfaliaSurge dairy equipment, milk quality to be improved with products like the ID paint Udder Mark, or ensure better per cow performance thanks to a world beating range of teat care products - GEA FT staff are ready to boost your productivity cost effectively and sustainably. We are proud to offer a suite of solutions keeping Kiwi dairying competitive. **GREG MILLS - MANAGING DIRECTOR**

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## Farming to Succeed




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ACCURATE HEAT DETECTION IN DAIRY HERDS OFFERS THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ENSURING A HIGH IN-CALF RATE, AND MORE DAYS IN MILK OVER THE FOLLOWING SEASON.

# HEAT DETECTION PAYS DIVIDENDS

DairyNZ’s reproductive team leader Dr Chris Burke has been closely involved with dairy herd managers in the South Island, completing a study on how herd operators can increase their in-calf performance. His work represents a concerted drive by the industry to improve all aspects of mating management to lift the industry’s average six week in-calf rate.

Chris’s work has put some sobering numbers around the value of detecting cows in heat.

**“Heat detection is probably the cheapest, most cost effective means of ensuring a cow gets in calf. Typically a missed heat will cost around \$150.00 in lost profit, yet can often be avoided with good practice, observation and attention to detail, and they come at barely any cost,” he says.**

His work on the costs and benefits of good mating management represents part of significant work being done within the industry to lift herd six week in-calf rates. The InCalf programme launched three years ago aims to turn around declining performance in herd fertility rates, now sitting at around 65% for six week in calf rates.

A target of 78% six week in-calf rate is set to be achieved by 2016, and forms a key benchmark in the InCalf programme.

Key drivers for a herd’s in-calf rate are submission rate, or number of cows selected to be mated, and the conception rate, or number of cows actually getting in calf as a result of being submitted.

Chris’s South Island experience with herds showed those enjoying higher submission rates had their main manager acknowledging the importance of heat detection as a key task. They either completed the job themselves, or they ensured their 2ic was well skilled in the role.

“The key thing was that the person assigned with that job had that as their sole role, and were not being distracted by other jobs or demands.”

The worst instance he has seen was an operator in a herringbone trying to cup cows, identify those on heat, and draft them out.

Training to observe heats is vital, and not simply a case of looking for rubbed tail paint. Secondary signs of heat include mud on the cow’s flanks, restlessness and hanging back while being yarded.

One of the farms Chris studied has the operator observing the cows as they come into the yard for behaviour that identifies them on heat.

A lack of training or experience results in the first of two problems in heat detection. That is simply missing cows that are on heat. The second is a failure of specificity, or putting up cows that the operator thought were on heat, but are not.

The first problem can be identified from last season’s mating by referring to InCalf Focus report’s Heat Detection Indicator. This shows the three week submission rate of cows over four years old and calved at least 8 weeks prior to the start of mating.

“You should have 95% of those cows put up in three weeks. If that is low, it could be heats are being missed.”

The second problem of finding false positives can be checked against a breeding company’s return to service interval analysis.

This will highlight cows having impossible heat intervals around 2-7 and 13-17 days. An undue amount indicates more training is needed to detect true heats.

Work on automated systems has shown while they can be accurate, human skills can be even more so.

**“And even if you do rely on automation, you always need to have that back up there - the returns from accurate detection are well worth the effort.”**



## NEED TO MAKE YOUR MARK?

**WE’VE GOT YOU COVERED.**

**TELL TAIL** is part of FIL’s range of markers, designed to let you see everything you need to know about your herd. Highly visible and available in six fluorescent OIL-BASED colours, **TELL TAIL** makes herd marking simple. Made in New Zealand and available in tins, aerosols and applicator bottles, for whichever method of application suits you.

**CHOOSE TELL TAIL.** Make your job easier.



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GEA Farm Technologies



# GEA FARM TECHNOLOGIES OFFERS OPTIMAL BLOAT SOLUTIONS

ALMOST A GENERATION AGO BLOAT WAS THE CONSTANT SCOURGE OVER SPRING AND SOMETIMES SUMMER.

It would cause significant losses not only in cow numbers, but lowered milk production due to resulting cow discomfort. It is a disease plenty of farmers are aware of, but one that can seem almost random in the way it affects some herds more than others, and even how some paddocks seem more prone to it than others.

This may in part be due to how much is still unknown about bloat. Plant protein creates a stable foam from immature pastures high in protein and low in fibre, creating a complex imbalance in the rumen that is still not completely understood.

However the outcomes *are* fully understood, and best avoided. The resulting gases that ferment in the rumen in the foam become trapped, causing pressure to rise in the rumen. The cow becomes distressed and can die of asphyxiation or heart failure due to pressure from the distended rumen. At a subclinical level, bloat can contribute to ongoing cow discomfort and lowered herd production.

Part of the difficulty in identifying the likelihood of bloat on any particular day relates to the many farm, weather and management factors contributing to its cause.

Over spring time cows are typically hungry, resulting in intensive dry matter intakes over a short period - pastures can be fast growing, immature and often affected by frost. Supplements can also influence rumen activity, while higher or lower grazing residuals will also have an effect.

To help deliver season long certainty to dealing with a complex disease GEA Farm Technologies has two cost effective, easily administered solutions to help deal with seasonal bloat - FIL Bloateze and Bloateze DFA (designed for alkathene).

Bloateze is a reliable solution for farmers having to deal with bloat on an occasional seasonal basis, either drenching or pasture spraying. It has an easy to mix formulation that will blend even under cold conditions, enabling batches to be mixed up as required.

Recognising the time pressure most farmers are under, GEA FT also offers Bloateze DFA, which is specifically formulated for use with in-line dispensing systems. It enables efficient delivery of bloat control through Dos-a-tron type systems, without the risk of damaging alkathene pipes.

## TIPS FOR IMPROVED BLOAT CONTROL

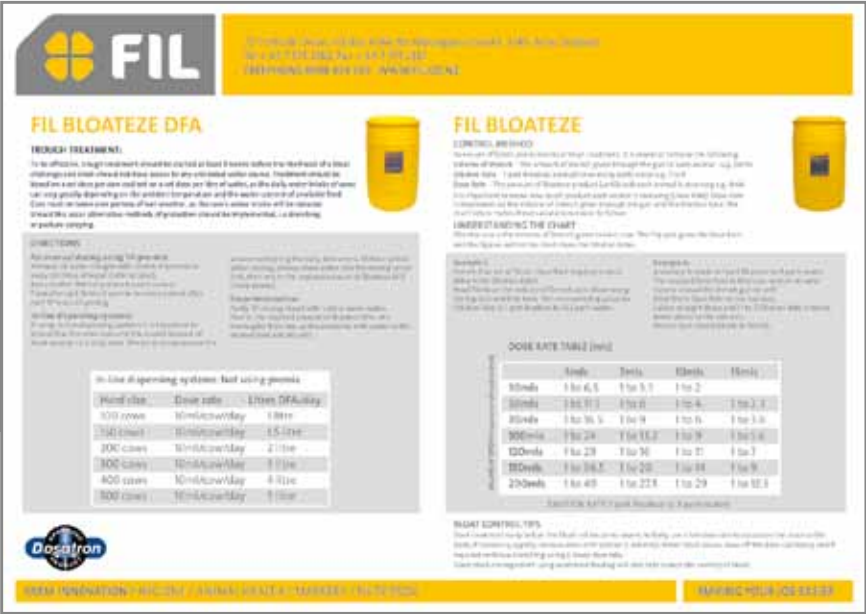
### DRENCHING

When mixing up a drench solution always add the bloat remedy to the water, and mix thoroughly. If combining with Magnesium Oxide (Nutrimag) ensure the Magnesium is mixed in a separate vessel, left

to hydrate then cool before adding Bloateze, or other products to the mix. Good water quality will protect the product's efficacy and assist with solubility.

### TROUGH TREATMENT

For maximum effectiveness commence trough treatment 3 weeks prior to the likelihood of a bloat challenge, and ensure stock do not have access to untreated water.



### MIXING CHART

All Farm Service Area Managers can provide a handy, easy to follow mixing chart. Ideal dilution rates for both products are shown, and the hard wearing surface makes it ideal for placing near the drench mix/dispenser. It will ensure the optimal mix with minimal waste and maximum effect.

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**Keep New Zealand Beautiful.**

If you're thinking about the future then dealing with your herd's effluent is probably a key priority. Our range of Houle effluent management systems are designed to cope with heavy loads, and have a proven track record on farms around the world. Available as stand-alone or fully integrated with your other farm equipment, the Houle range can be scaled to meet your farm's specific needs.

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# EARLY LACTATION TEAT SPRAYING

**MASTITIS IS A COMMON AND COSTLY DISEASE AFFECTING NEW ZEALAND DAIRY COWS. IN 2006 DAIRY INSIGHT RESEARCH ESTIMATED THAT IT COST THE NEW ZEALAND DAIRY FARMER \$36.50 PER COW AND \$11,500 FOR AN AVERAGE 315 COW HERD WITH THE COST TO THE NEW ZEALAND DAIRY INDUSTRY AN ESTIMATED \$180 MILLION.**

PHIL RENNIE BVSc MANZCVS,  
TAURANGA VETERINARY SERVICES





Mastitis is caused by bacteria that are either sourced from the environment or from infected cows. An important form of spread of mastitis bacteria is from an infected cow to susceptible cows during milking, so called contagious mastitis. Bacteria from an infected cow can contaminate the liners and milking cluster, remaining in that cluster for up to the next 5 cows milked by that same cluster. The bacteria can enter the teat canal between milkings to cause mastitis.

Application of disinfectant onto the cows’ teats after milking to kill the bacteria on the teat skin before they have a chance of entering the teat canal is well proven. This is particularly important in early lactation when cows are milking around their peak production with looser teat sphincters than later in the season. In addition higher risk of infection occurs due to the higher challenge of wet climatic conditions, when environmental bacteria such as *Strep. Uberis* are more prevalent.

**THE OPPORTUNITY**

The recent promotion of the new look SmartSAMM by DairyNZ has created another means of motivation for individual herds to improve their Bulk Milk Somatic Cell

Counts (BMSCC). BMSCC provides a guide of the level of subclinical mastitis present in the herd and indeed milk quality. NZ trial work from 2001 showed that without an effective teat spray BMSCC can be increased by 40%. In addition it was found clinical mastitis incidence can be increased by 50%, and there were 3 times more teat sores and cracks.

For instance by lowering the BMSCC from 250,000 cells/ml to 150,000 cells/ml milk solids can be increased by approximately 1.5%. The SmartSAMM Gap Calculator can calculate the potential gain in dollars. For a herd producing 100,000kg MS per lactation at a \$6.35 payout, this could result in an extra \$9,525 return. This does not include benefits likely to result from reduced clinical mastitis and culling rates nor other management improvements.

**THE SOLUTION**

The products currently available on the market based on active ingredient group are:

Iodine, Chlorhexidine, Chlorine based and Quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC)

A recent summary of peer reviewed publications by the US National Milk Council reflected that iodine based products are far and away the most trialled and reputable relative to other actives since 1980.

The main methods for application are manual teat spraying or automatic teat sprayer units. Both have relative pros and cons. While automatic spray units may reduce the labour cost and remove operator error, most automatic teat sprayers tend to provide variable coverage. This compares to the time consuming manual process only needing relatively inexpensive hand held pressurised teat spraying units may requiring an extra labour unit and coverage of all four teats is often dependent on how conscientious the operator is.

For a teat sprayer to be effective, it is necessary to ensure the correct concentration of a reputable approved teat spray is used and clearly that the teat spray covers the barrel of all four teats.

*NB: Teat spray should be used at a high concentration rate during the high risk spring period.*



FIL Ultracare Teatshield and Iodoshield Active represent proven quality choices for complete teat care and udder health.

**ULTRACARE TEATSHIELD**

FIL chlorhexidine teatspray Ultracare Teatshield is formulated to ensure excellent flow through vacuum driven teat spraying systems to deliver an even droplet size and dispersal upon the teat surface. Like the Iodoshield Active range, Ultracare Teatshield has Protocol A approval under the Animal Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act, gained through testing at the national mastitis laboratory to determine the level of bacterial knock down delivered.

Ultracare Teatshield provides farmers with an option to the more commonly used iodine based teat care sprays, particularly those who may be affected by allergies to iodine based solutions.

Protocol A is accepted within the industry as the most accurate and accredited means of assessing a teat spray’s sanitising ability.

## FIL TEAT CARE RANGE - QUALITY CHOICE

GEA FT OFFERS A TEAT SPRAY FOR ALL SITUATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS USING EITHER A CHLORHEXIDINE OR IODINE BASED SANITISERS TO DELIVER A CONSISTENT LEVEL OF BACTERIA CONTROL AND TEAT CARE TO DAIRY HERDS.

◀ FIL ULTRACARE TEATSHIELD 200L AND IODOSHIELD ACTIVE 200L

**ULTRACARE TEATSHIELD FEATURES:**

- Excellent product viscosity for spray application through all types of teat spraying systems
- Consistent bacteria knock down ability
- A viable choice to iodine based sprays

**ULTRACARE TEATSHIELD BENEFITS:**

- Excellent viscosity and flow through automated teat spray units regardless of temperature
- Long lasting sanitising ability
- Assured sanitising performance with a fully accredited Protocol A teat spray

**IODOSHIELD ACTIVE**

Iodoshield Active has been one of FIL’s most popular new product releases in recent years, with farmers impressed with its excellent antibacterial qualities that enhance the proven ability of iodine to reduce teat surface bacteria. The presence of Manuka honey and its antibacterial properties have proven effective in the demanding conditions of commercial dairy farms in preventing infection as it has in its use as wound dressings for humans.

Iodoshield Active’s success was no accident - FIL involved multiple farmers in extensive field testing around New Zealand to ensure it could deliver

regardless of conditions. This included whole herd evaluations of teat condition, using the National Mastitis Council’s protocol for teat condition scoring. Carried out under veterinary supervision, the scoring included inspection for dryness, chapping and teat end damage. The cows treated with Iodoshield Active recorded a perfect 5, against 3.5 for those treated with a conventional iodine spray.

**IODOSHIELD ACTIVE FEATURES:**

- Unique combination of Manuka honey and quality skin care emollients
- Single mix formulation
- Iodine base
- Fully field trialled by New Zealand farmers

**IODOSHIELD ACTIVE BENEFITS:**

- Skin care ingredients improve teat condition and smoothness, while Manuka honey locks in moisture around teat surface ensuring excellent adherence and surface coverage
- No extra emollient is required as an additive, keeping costs and mixing time down
- High quality iodine base ensures a proven means of reducing infections and to assist in controlling somatic cell counts throughout season
- Results from field trials in difficult farming conditions across the country revealed superior healing ability and bacteria reduction.



WHEN CAMBRIDGE FARMER GARRY REYMER FIRST INVESTED IN A WESTFALIASURGE DAIRY SYSTEM 20 YEARS AGO, HE UNWITTINGLY FOUND HIMSELF IN THE SPOTLIGHT.

# BACK TO THE FUTURE WITH WESTFALIASURGE PLANT

His double 14 aside Low-Line herringbone was the first truly commercial dairy in the country to be installed by WestfaliaSurge New Zealand. It featured technology that even today is not always provided in new dairies. But even more remarkable is the fact the same technology continues to operate in the same dairy today, unchanged from when first installed.

When he bought the 87ha property back in the early nineties, Garry wanted to increase the size of the herd on the existing milking platform. He wanted to do so without incurring the additional cost of labour, and being smart about the delivery of the supplements this would inevitably require.

“The only other technology even close at the time was still fairly basic, whereas the WestfaliaSurge plant had the ability to monitor all your key indicators including milk volume, conductivity, cow weight, and run auto drafting, all through electronic tags on the cows - it was well ahead of the rest.”

Garry modestly claims he was excited rather than far sighted in installing the plant which generated significant interest in the dairying community.

“For the first couple of years we regularly had bus loads of farmers, and field days to demonstrate the shed.”

Professionally he found the decision to go high tech not only exciting, but also on a personal level it offered a challenge. It put him in a position having to explain his investment in front of some pretty switched on operators.

**“It made me think hard about what we had done with this technology, and how we were going to use it and get the most out of it.”**

One of the key variables the plant’s technology measured was milk flow rate per cow. “It meant we knew from a very early stage with heifers how long they took to milk out. Those that were plainly going to take too long we could avoid breeding from, and know they were not going to get any faster as they got older.”

Making some culling decisions on those grounds alone means today he milks 300 cows in the same time he milked 230, 20 years ago through the same plant, producing 500kg MS a head.

The farm would be categorised as a 4 for feed intensity on the DairyNZ scale, with cows receiving around 1.5 tonne per head a year of maize grain and palm kernel. Garry also attributes the smart features of the WestfaliaSurge system to ensuring more efficient use of these feed supplements.

The in-shed feeding system, almost unheard of at the time of installation, allows him to adjust the feed rations based on cow weight, lactation volume, lactation stage or a combination of all three.

The automated drafting system removed the stress of drafting years ago, for both colostrum cow and mating demands, keeping the shed a quiet, efficient, one man operation.

Garry describes the wealth of information generated as the platform for knowledge to understand the herd better on an individual cow basis. Meantime his manager appreciates having the information at hand, something Garry believes is a significant motivator and also enabling him to make quicker decisions around feed levels, and addressing individual per cow performance.

With greater pressure coming on dairy’s use of pastoral land, Garry sees the WestfaliaSurge system setting the pathway for future farming where farmers can get more off the land and the cows they have.

The success of the dairy has been complimented by the excellent relationship Garry says he has enjoyed with FIL over the years.

PICTURED ABOVE: FARM MANAGER ANDREW ROACH AND OWNER GARRY REYMER (BACK LEFT) IN THE WESTFALIASURGE SHED

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GEA Farm Technologies



# “The best call I ever made.”

Simon Belton, Te Poi

WestfaliaSurge, Houle, FIL, Rescounter and DairyPlan, by [GEA Farm Technologies](#).

“I knew that the new shed was going to be a big call, that’s why I wanted to know all my options. The team from [GEA Farm Technologies](#) worked with me to figure out what was best for my farm today, and thought through what I might need down the line. Then they developed the complete solution and got it all up and running. It was easy, affordable and lets me focus on my business.”

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# MAINLAND VIEWS



## COASTER FUTURE PROOFS EFFLUENT DEMANDS

WHEN REEFTON FARMER ANDREW VERWEY WAS TOLD BY WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL HE NEEDED MORE EFFLUENT STORAGE CAPACITY, HE DECIDED TO CREATE A SYSTEM THAT WOULD BE AFFORDABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND FUTURE PROOF.

The 160ha property milks 400 cows receiving up to 300 tonne a year of maize silage on a feed pad. The higher supplement level brings its own pressures to an effluent system, with fibre blocking the irrigation nozzles of in-paddock sprinklers.

“We had even tried a large single 14mm diameter nozzle and we had problems with that,” he says.

In assessing his options, Andrew was adamant he did not want a system that involved repeated slurry applications, and the capital or contractor costs it would bring.

He liked the idea of a screw-separator system producing solids that are drier and easier to apply onto paddocks. Two days walking around Mystery Creek Fieldays and he came upon the GEA Farm Technologies (GEA FT) stand, and the company’s component system that includes Houle effluent pumps and solid screen separators.

“I liked the idea of no moving parts with the screen. Most separators had screw separators in them.” He was interested enough to drive back up to Matamata and visit the system of Simon Belton’s.

“I was amazed at Simon’s system. I could not believe the screen would separate solids from liquids - anything as good as a screw press would do, but it did and I could not fault it.”

Working with GEA FT’s effluent expert Murray McEwan has resulted in a system comprising of a 50,000 litre effluent sump, a screen separator with

a 90sq metre bunker for dry solids, and a massive 3 million litre liquid pond storage.

The effluent collected in the sump off the feed pad and dairy is chopped and transferred by the first horizontal Houle pump sold in New Zealand.

**“We have slope sides on the pond rather than drop, so the horizontal was the ideal choice.”**

He is impressed at the capacity and power of the pump, with its extremely robust design capable of fine chopping the densest waste fibre in the sump. The solids separated out will be applied with a wide belt SAM spreader.

Meantime the liquid is pumped through four groups of four plastic sprinkler pods capable of covering a hectare at a time.

Coming into his first season with the system fully operational, Andrew is looking forward to peace of mind knowing the storage system can handle extended periods of wet weather. “We also know we have the ability to pump a lot of liquid in a short period over a decent area of the farm, without fibre blockage problems.”

He fully expects to see more of the Houle systems by GEA FT on the Coast as compliance demands intensify around effluent use.

## SOUTHERN OPPORTUNITIES CALLED OVER DITCH

MARTIN AXTENS KNEW HE WOULD HAVE TO DELIVER A PRETTY REWARDING OUTCOME TO HIS WIFE KIM IF HE WAS TO CONVINCE HER TO MAKE THE MOVE BACK TO DAIRYING IN SOUTHLAND AFTER A STINT LIVING IN SYDNEY.



MARTIN AXTENS

Today the couple are well on their way to justifying the move back to this side of the Tasman, and stepping back into the dairy industry after a break.

They started their dairying career on Martin’s parents’ property in the early nineties south of Auckland, moving through the traditional ranks up to be equity partners in the 730 cow property.

When Martin’s parents opted to sell the property the couple decided to take the opportunity to have a break from dairying.

“We had been split calving autumn-spring for about six seasons and it is a pretty tiring operation, I think we felt we just needed to stop and have a bit of a rest from the business for a bit,” says Martin.

Along with their four (then) young children they seized the chance to have some family adventures, which included moving and living in north west Sydney, getting fully integrated to Aussie living and culture.

Martin and Kim had invested their farm portion in other investments, including warehousing, but he admits soon finding the passive nature of the investments limiting, and to all intents somewhat boring.

“I had seen the higher payout through 2007, and started thinking about getting back into the industry. Southland had always held a strong appeal after what we had seen visiting back in the early nineties, the potential seemed greater.”

After a little convincing, Martin had the family back and they commenced contract milking for Roger and Rosemary Hamilton of Winton, helping get their 330ha conversion completed and on track.

Today the couple are in the second season of a three year contract with the Hamiltons, now milking 1000 cows. As last year’s runners up in the Southland Dairy Industry Awards the couple have set themselves some big goals on re-entering the industry. This includes growing their herd to 5000 cows in the next

10 years, and they have already secured 600 on a 255ha equity partnership farm they also contract milk on at Lochiel.

Martin says the break gave the couple a chance to not only rest, but to re-focus as they came to appreciate the investment and growth opportunities dairying offered, compared to where they had been investing after exiting.

“It is an industry we know, and you feel there is more control over how things are done. The time off was however an excellent opportunity as a family to try some different things.”

This season marks their first relationship with GEA Farm Technologies, committing to FIL products through Farm Service Area Manager Graham Beggs.

“Graham is a top bloke, and I always believe it is as much about the person behind the product as the product itself.”



ON THE BRINK OF EL NIÑO

Conditions in the tropical Pacific are currently on the brink of El Niño, and it is likely El Niño will develop during the early spring period. In the New Zealand region, however, lower pressures to the north of the country, and higher pressures to the south, are likely to dominate for the August - October period. Thus, the stronger than normal spring westerlies often associated with El Nino periods are not expected to be very prominent in the coming August-October period.

Early spring air temperatures are likely to be near average or above average for all regions of the country. Nevertheless, cold snaps, frosts and snowfalls typical of early spring may still occur from time to time. Sea temperatures around New Zealand are likely to be near normal for the season as a whole.

August - October rainfall totals, soil moisture levels, and river flows are all likely to be near normal or above normal in the north of the North Island, below normal for the eastern South Island, and near normal in all other regions.

OVERALL PICTURE

TEMPERATURE

Early spring air temperatures are likely to be near average or above average for all regions of the country. Nevertheless, cold snaps, frosts and snowfalls typical of early spring may still occur from time to time. Sea temperatures around New Zealand are likely to be near normal for the season as a whole.

RAINFALL, SOIL MOISTURE AND RIVER FLOWS

August - October rainfall is likely to be near normal or above normal in the north of the North Island, below normal for the eastern South Island, and near normal in all other regions.

Seasonal soil moisture levels and river flows are likely to be near normal or above normal in the north of the North Island, below normal for the eastern South Island, and near normal in all other regions.

REGIONAL PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS:

NORTHLAND, AUCKLAND, WAIKATO, BAY OF PLENTY

August to October temperatures are equally likely to be in the near average or above average range. Seasonal rainfall totals, soil moisture levels, and river flows are likely to be in the near normal or above normal range. Probabilities are assigned in three categories: above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	RIVER FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	40	40	35	35
NEAR AVERAGE	40	40	40	40
BELOW AVERAGE	20	20	25	25

CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND, TARANAKI, WANGANUI, MANAWATU, WELLINGTON

Seasonal temperatures are equally likely to be in the near average or above average range. Near normal early spring rainfall, soil moisture levels and river flows are likely. Probabilities are assigned in three categories: above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	RIVER FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	40	20	20	20
NEAR AVERAGE	40	50	50	50
BELOW AVERAGE	20	30	30	30

GISBORNE, HAWKE'S BAY, WAIRARAPA

Seasonal temperatures are equally likely to be in the near average or above average range. August - October rainfall totals, soil moisture levels and river flows are all likely to be near normal. Probabilities are assigned in three categories: above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	RIVER FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	40	25	25	25
NEAR AVERAGE	40	50	50	50
BELOW AVERAGE	20	25	25	25

NELSON, MARLBOROUGH, BULLER

August to October temperatures are equally likely to be in the near average or above average range. Near normal seasonal rainfall totals, soil moisture levels, and river flows are likely. Probabilities are assigned in three categories: above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	RIVER FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	40	25	25	25
NEAR AVERAGE	40	50	50	50
BELOW AVERAGE	20	25	25	25

WEST COAST, ALPS & FOOTHILLS, INLAND OTAGO, SOUTHLAND

Seasonal temperatures are equally likely to be in the near average or above average range. Early spring rainfall, soil moisture levels, and river flows are all likely to be near normal. Probabilities are assigned in three categories: above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	RIVER FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	40	20	20	20
NEAR AVERAGE	40	50	50	50
BELOW AVERAGE	20	30	30	30

COASTAL CANTERBURY, EAST OTAGO

August to October temperatures are equally likely to be in the near average or above average range. Below normal seasonal rainfall totals, soil moisture levels, and river flows are likely. Probabilities are assigned in three categories: above average, near average, and below average. The full probability breakdown is:

	TEMPERATURE	RAINFALL	SOIL MOISTURE	RIVER FLOWS
ABOVE AVERAGE	40	20	20	20
NEAR AVERAGE	40	30	35	30
BELOW AVERAGE	20	50	45	50

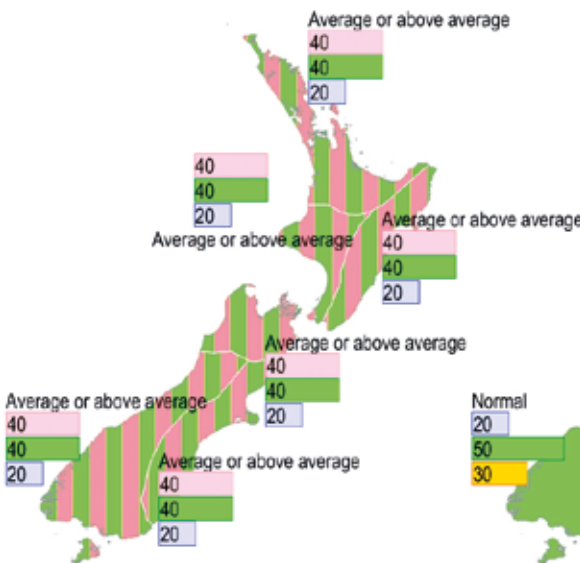
BACKGROUND

Sea surface temperatures continue to warm in the equatorial Pacific. Tropical sea temperatures currently verge on the accepted El Niño threshold. The majority of climate models which NIWA monitors predict that the El Niño threshold will likely be exceeded during the August - October period. However, the Southern Oscillation remained close to zero in July, indicating the ocean-atmosphere feedbacks necessary for El Niño development are not yet fully in place.

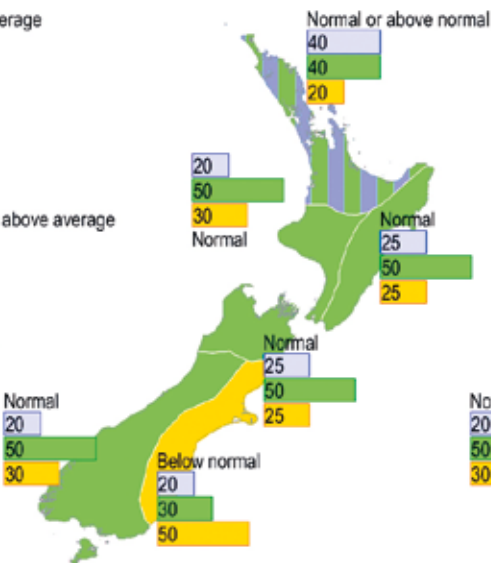
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OUTLOOK FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER 2012:

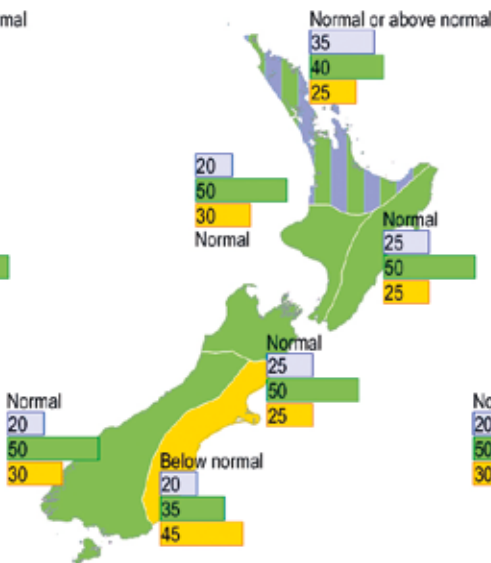
Mean air temperature



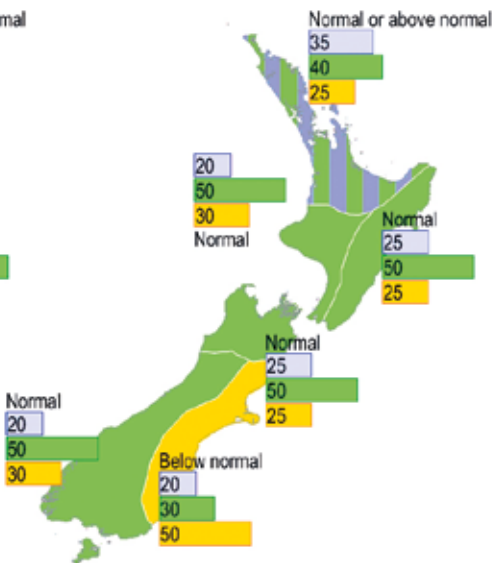
Rainfall



Available soil moisture



River flows



Key to maps (example interpretation)

Below normal  
Upper tercile: 20% chance of above normal 20  
Middle tercile: 30% chance of normal 30  
Lower tercile: 50% chance of below normal 50

In this example the climate models suggest that below average conditions are likely (50% chance of occurrence), but, given the variable nature of the climate, the chance of normal or above normal conditions is also shown (30% and 20% respectively).





THEY ARE THE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN MACHINE AND COW, BUT OFTEN THE LAST TO BE CONSIDERED WITH REVIEWING FARM DAIRY MAINTENANCE.

# LINERS LAST IN LINE FOR CHANGE

The humble liner is required to perform its pulsating action around 2.7 million times in its lifetime. It may be a zero-maintenance component, but it is simply too important to leave off the to do list of dairy shed priorities, says Farm Service Area Manager and rubberware expert Clint Humphrey.

Clint has been tasked with helping develop the distribution of quality WestfaliaSurge rubberware through Farm Service Area Managers nationally. The strategy provides GEA Farm Technologies (GEA FT) clients with the opportunity to stock up on rubberware along with other farm dairy consumables from one source at the farm gate.

“By having the liners available through our field staff we aim to fix the biggest issue of all about them - the fact they are often not being changed as frequently as they should be.”

It is not so much that liners are not changed at all, but that they may only be changed once in a season, when they need to be changed more frequently. “Typically if you are milking 10 rows of cows twice a day the liners will need to be changed every 125 days - for some dairies strictly speaking that is just over twice a season.”

The impact of not changing liners is on both a herd performance and hygiene level.

On a hygiene level, pushing liners beyond their useful life will see them split, bringing a world of hygiene headaches with them. Milk can seep back behind the contact surface into the liner shell, where it putrefies and results in grading. Long term fat build up on liner surfaces can cause thermoduric grades, difficult to detect and inevitably hitting twice before the source has been identified.

Pitted and cracked liner surfaces can bring problems heading into the hot summer months, capturing minute milk deposits and bacteria that can build back up to critical levels even between milkings.

Herd health can also be compromised if liners are not changed frequently enough. Bacteria can be transferred between cows, exacerbating mastitis issues.

“Loss of liner memory will also lead to cup slip, and that brings problems with getting cows milked out properly. Failing to milk out can cause oedema or swelling, and limit milk yield through the season - you can put your whole herd onto a slippery slope to poorer total production by neglecting their liners.”

Milk quality problems can also arise beyond simple grading issues. “Surges in your milk flow will have an effect on the protein and fat molecules in the milk, and can affect the yield of milk solids.”

Clint and his team stock WestfaliaSurge’s Kiwichochoice and Meltec liners suitable for a wide range of cup types,

along with quality air and milk line tubing. Clint has also helped develop a simple laminated flow chart carried by all Farm Service Area Managers.

“It makes it very easy to work through the shed size, cow type and shell to arrive at a recommended liner replacement, and the interval it should be done at.”





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