



Gareth and Wyn Timothy

"We've halved our cell counts since installing ADF"

Wyn Timothy, Lumsden, Southland.

The Timothy family milk 950 cows on 389 hectares near Lumsden. The farms are managed by the entire family - Wyn and his partner Adele, Gareth and partner Pam and the boy's parents Mike and Sandra Timothy.

They installed an ADF Milking system in their 50-bale rotary shed in February 2012. It was in reaction to troubles with mastitis - they found they were constantly treating infected cows and it was impossible to keep on top of it.

"I reckon we've halved our cell counts since putting ADF in", says Wyn. "We would normally be getting counts of 250-300,000 at this time of year - we're averaging around 120,000 peaking to 150,000. We're still getting mastitis in some problem cows but over time we'll weed them out of the herd. We're definitely treating less cows. ADF is great - it's doing what we hoped and its results will only get better over time".

"It's been a good investment"

Bruce Donald, Tirau, Waikato.

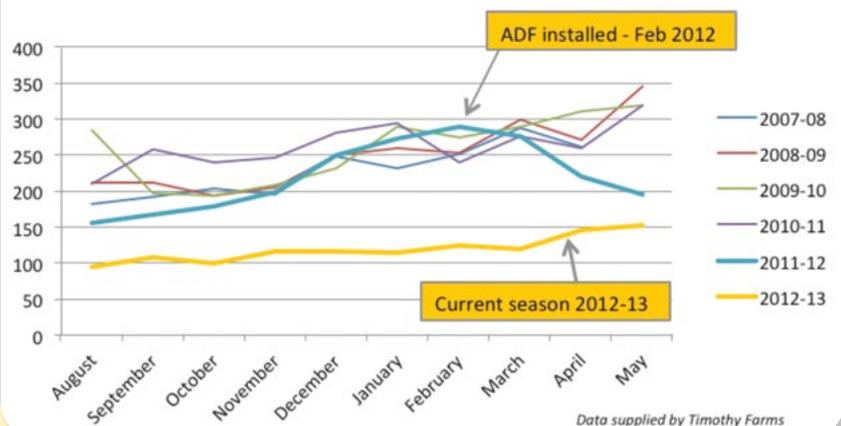
Bruce and Helen Donald milk 550 cows on their 200ha farm near Tirau in what may be the oldest milking shed in the district, a 38-year-old rotary.

An ongoing problem with mastitis saw Bruce and Helen have the ADF Milking system installed on their farm in August 2011. Their prior sharemilker, Irishman Bill Moore was already familiar with the ADF system as his parents had it installed some time ago on their farm in Ireland.

Today Bruce describes the system as "really good" and says the incidence of mastitis is now well down. "We're getting far less cows with mastitis, the system is simple to use and we are having no problems with it. It's been a good investment."

Timothy Farms - Lumsden

SCC readings 2007-2013



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Arjan Van't Klooster

"Our cell counts have reduced from an average of 318,000 to 179,000"

Arjan Van't Klooster, Waimate

The Van't Klooster family run a 340 hectare farm, milking 1,200 cows, near Waimate in South Canterbury. The farm is owned by Gert and Hermien Van't Klooster and in June last year their son Arjan and his partner Kelsi Chamberlain took over the running of the farm as sharemilkers.

The Van't Klooster's were the first dairy farmers in the South Island to install ADF in January 2011. They had been having issues with staph mastitis in their herd and were looking for a solution to get on top of it and maintain herd health. In the months prior to installing ADF they had culled over 100 cows, 10% of their herd at the time, due to persistent mastitis.

Since installing ADF they have seen their SCCs and cases of mastitis drop dramatically. "ADF has been great. Our cell counts have reduced from a season average of 318,000 in 2010 to 179,000 in 2012".

As well as losing milk production and the extra work required through managing sick cows, mastitis is costly to treat.

"We've seen our vet bills decrease by 12c/kg MS since the installation. Not only that, but the number of mastitis cases is on track to be just half of what it used to be. This combined with a reduction in culled cows has led to a payback period of just over one year."

"I'm sure glad the mastitis is now under control considering we've just had our first season as lower-order sharemilkers. It has been a challenging year for us - going from studying to running a farm operation. But it's pleasing to see that, with ADF's help, our herd is healthy and in the past season our milk production has increased by 8%. We're very confident going into the season ahead."

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