

High input system
Mayfield Dairy Partnership
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<i>Farm Details</i>	253ha milking platform 78 ha runoff nearby Located in Heddon Bush area Braxton soils
<i>Cow Numbers</i>	810 winter 790 peak milk
<i>Production</i>	530 kgms/cow 1650kgms/hectare
<i>Stocking Rate</i>	3.15
<i>Breed</i>	Friesian and Crossbred cows
<i>Fertiliser</i>	soil test levels pH 5.8 - 6.0 P 25– 35 Capital fertiliser applied per Ravensdown recommendations
<i>Nitrogen</i>	between 180 and 200 units per year.
<i>Supplements Fed</i>	up to 1500 kg dm per cow of concentrates and silage
<i>Staff</i>	3 Permanent and 2 partime

Why the high input system and what makes it work.

- Dilution of costs thru higher production for example wintering cost are the same for a cow doing 420 solids as a cow doing 520
- Making the most of an high value asset farm was converted in 2008 at a time of high land prices
- Enjoy the challenges in the system like nutrition
- Keeping the cows fully fed makes it easier to achieve BCS, in-calf and animal health targets

- Pasture management as important as for all grass systems pasture utilized main driver of profit per ha
- Target intake of 4%DM/liveweight feeding concentrates on top of grass intake rather than replacing one with the other
- Having good forward contracts in place so no need to go on spot market where prices can be high
- Replacing silage with pke where possible as cheaper feed down the cows throat
- Keeping things simple with most of the feed being fed thru in-shed feeder
- High production per ha and low cost structure creates plenty opportunity
- More options when in a feed deficit situation

Downsides of the high input system

- Lack of knowledge within the New Zealand dairy industry about high input systems
- More/different knowledge required
- Feeding supplements can be addictive for cow and farmer
- Relying on feed companies to have feed there when you need it
- More labour intensive at times
- Feed contracts made on higher expectations of payout (can also go the other way)
- More udder breakdown when pushing per cow production