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Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki

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Milksolids production of dairy cows grazing lucerne, pasture, and lucerne-pasture temporal allocations

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New Zealand's specialist land-based university

Introduction

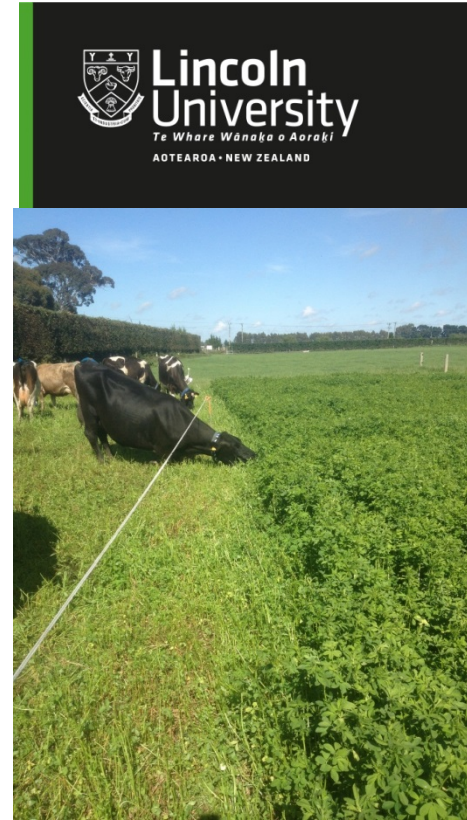
- Lucerne is a productive forage for irrigated and dryland systems
- Limited information on milk production from grazed lucerne
- Concerns about how to integrate lucerne with pasture, and high N losses to environment
- **Objective:** Determine milksolids production of dairy cows grazing lucerne, pasture and lucerne-pasture temporal forage allocations

Milk Production and N losses – late spring

	Pasture	Lucerne	Lucerne- pasture temporal	P value
Milksolids (kg/cow/day)	1.80	1.93	1.96	0.16
Urine N concentration (g N/L)	3.1 ^a	5.5 ^b	4.9 ^b	<0.001

Summary & Conclusions

- Milksolids production similar for irrigated lucerne and pasture
- Temporal allocation did not improve milksolids production, but may provide management option for including lucerne in diet
- Higher urinary N losses from lucerne may potentially lead to greater N losses to environment



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