

# Wolff Farm's traffic light colours and metrics



- 1 Number of late calvers in the herd this season** – 7%, orange light. A key metric because late calvers will have less time to cycle before mating begins.
- 2 Percentage of older cows in the herd** – 2%, green light. Older cows can be harder to get in calf. Frank culled a number of older cows last season. Good reproductive performance gives you more chance to selectively cull.
- 3 Percentage of heifers in the herd** – 26% green light. Heifers are statistically easier to get in calf.
- 4 Heifer calving** – 52%, calved by August 1, green light. Earlier calving heifers will have more time to cycle before mating.
- 5 Total cows calved in first three weeks of calving** – 65%, orange light. More cows calved early, greater chance of cycling and getting in calf early again.
- 6 Total cows calved in first six weeks of calving** – 86%, orange light. Same as 5.
- 7 Peak milk** – 2.2kg milksolids (MS)/cow/day, orange light. If cows are peaking higher, at 2.3kg MS/cow/day or above Chris says it could create a challenge given a lot of energy is going into milk production. "Some would argue otherwise but when you're getting up over an average of 2.5kg M/cow/day I think that's really putting some pressure on them energy-wise."
- 8 Synchrony use** – 56 cows or 6% of the herd treated, orange light. Cows not cycling selected and treated pre-mating based on a range of criteria.
- 9 Cows cycling by start of mating** – 69%, orange. "That could be better, ideally for that to be a green light we'd want it over the mid 70's mark."
- 10 Cows cycled in the first three weeks of mating** – 87%, orange. Anything below 84% will get a red light from Chris. "We really want to see all the herd cycling within that first three weeks. The later they start the less chance they have of getting in calf within the mating period."
- 11 Short returns** – 19%, green light. This can be an indication of how well cows were selected for mating so how many cows were actually on heat.
- 12 18-23 day non-return rate** – 73%, green light. You want this number as high as possible.
- 13 Conception rate to first service** – 54%, green light.
- 14 Six-week in-calf rate** – 76%, green light
- 15 10 week empty rate** – 11.5%, green light.
- 16 Mating length** – 72 days (10 weeks), green light. Empty rate figures are almost meaningless without knowing mating length.

