



From left, farm owner Paul Mackenzie and son Rhys, with contract milker Josh Walker.

Powered up to system seven

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Cows are fanatical foragers and will source through their feed for A-grade treats so having a decent mixer wagon to finely cut and jumble different supplements ensures the entire herd is eating the same diet consistently, Waikato veterinarian and farmer Rhys Mackenzie says.

“We’ve fed our cows kiwifruit and they will dig their nose into their food and try and hunt them out. It’s so important to mix it, cows are awesome at sorting through their feed.”

Their twin auger Jaylor 4750 chops feed up to an impressive consistency, Rhys says.

Rhys spends a couple of days on his family farm at Matamata and the rest of the week working for an emergency veterinary clinic in Hamilton.



The wagon measures to within a couple of kilograms and there is a remote display in the loading tractor to allow the driver to make basic changes and refer to when loading.

He also works as a nutritional advisor for a couple of local dairy farmers.

The Mackenzies moved to a high-supplement input system more than a decade ago. Paul and Christine built a 50-bail rotary on a 54-bail sized platform

and two 63m herd homes on their 49ha milking platform. They have since bought a neighbouring block and increased the effective platform to 83ha.

The biggest part of the herd’s diet is still grass and maize, growing up to 36ha of maize onfarm. The cows are fed twice a day in the herd homes throughout the season, getting fed 8.2t/DM/cow/year.



Contract milker Josh Walker and Rhys Mackenzie – the Jaylor mixer wagon makes their high-input system accurate to within the kilogram.

Key facts:

- Owners: Paul and Christine Mackenzie
- Animal Health & Nutrition: Rhys Mackenzie
- Location: Matamata
- Area: 83ha effective
- Cows: 380 Holstein Friesian crossbreds
- Production 650-670kg MS/cow
- Farm Dairy: 50-bail rotary
- Herd Homes: 2x 63m
- Split calving 80:20 autumn/spring

Typical milkers ration (kgDM/cow/day)

- Maize 7.0
- SBM 1.0
- Brewers Grain 2.5
- PKE 3.0
- Molasses 1.0
- Straw 0.4
- The balance is made up of grass and up to 2.0-3.0kg of additional supplement if required such as Tapioca/Broll/DDG to a target total of 24-25kgDM.



The Jaylor mixer wagon knives chop up the feed.

“We are probably a System 7 or 8,” Rhys jokes.

In the pasture-plus system the focus is still on harvesting as much grass as possible while feeding additional supplement to compliment the pasture as it changes throughout the season.

“The pasture-only diet would generally meet the minimum requirements our cows need, however, we aim to feed an optimum mix that means our cows always have the healthiest diet enabling them to perform at their best throughout the year.”

When they moved to the pasture-plus system and fed them more consistently it was amazing to see how much there was to gain. The same cows who were producing 430kg MS started producing 615kg MS, Rhys says.

When they increased the supplement use they invested in a second-hand Jaylor single auger mixer wagon, a reliable machine that lasted them 10 years.

“They’re easy machines to use. It held its value extremely well and we ended up selling it for close to what we paid for it – it was an awesome machine.”

They recently upgraded to a twin auger Jaylor from Power Farming. They purchased the bigger 4750 Jaylor model because it has nearly 22 cubic capacity which makes it easy to mix up to 12t in one mix.

They also purchased the DTM IC Software upgrade package from Power Farming. The feeding management software gives more accurate control and monitoring of feed, including the ability

Annual Feeding Regime

Supplement	Tonnes (Dry Matter)
Brewers Grain	330
Palm kernel	580
Soy Bean Meal	145
25% grass	
25-35% maize	
Molasses	180
Other	
Canola	37
Tapioca	50
Straw	120

to alter diets, ration adjustment and mob management.

“It allows us to save the diet on the mixer wagon and when you’re loading up you just follow the recipe. “You can change the number of cows and the recipe will automatically adjust.”

The wagon measures to within a couple of kilograms and there is a remote display in the loading tractor to allow the driver to make basic changes and refer to when loading. It all connects wirelessly back to the computer in the farm dairy, which Rhys can then connect to and adjust the diet from anywhere.

“It makes it possible for me to do what I do and keep an eye on it. I can refine their diet more often in smaller increments allowing me to keep the complete diet more consistent.

“It allows me to remotely manage the diet, track mixes daily, timing of feeding, accuracy of feeding and loading.”

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