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Monitor farm field day	Robert and Colleen Ervine
October 26 th 10.30 am till 1.30 pm. Bring your lunch	

Supply # 45282	1304 SH 56 Rangiotu
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From	To
375Kg MS/cow	470Kg MS/cow
1200Kg MS/ha	1500Kg MS/ha
At a cost of 3.55/KgMS	

**Sustainable Repeatable
Profitable ... Flexible**

Key points on the day

- Introduction to Robert Ervine, the farm, resources, limitations, history and future direction
- Strategy for this season
 - Increase production from 375 to 450/cow this season
 - Cows to eat an additional 300t of supplement
 - Grow 18t DM/ha from the milking platform
- the drivers that led to the system succeeding as it was at \$3.55/KgMS
 - how to push these forward with a new system
- high production high supplementation but simple decision rules
- We dropped the empty rate from 14% to 7% in one season but was this the right decision?
- Planting 15-19% of the farm in chicory (20-26ha) this season

Follow the weekly progress of the farm at www.dairyteam.co.nz on the monitor farm tab

This farm has achieved respectable levels of production so far but there is more to be gained. The focus of the monitor farm is to lift production both per cow and per ha. This will be done by modifying the current system through increasing the feed that can be converted into milk. The aim is to make the system high production high profit and easy to change if the payout drops.

The focus of the farm is to clearly identify the drivers to profitable high input farming and sort the fact from the fiction in terms of balancing feeds to cows and the main limiting factors of production. There is much conflicting advice in terms of how to profitably feed cows, when to do so, and when to change tack relating to payout and cost of supplements.

This year the aim is to lift the production from 375 to 450/cow – how much feed will this require and what times will it need to be fed? What are the costs of changing the system? Can cows lift this amount of production in one season?

Over the next three years the focus is to clearly show how to profitably use supplements with variable payout and cost of supplements by looking at one farm in depth considering the physical and well as financial information. Weekly farm walk data is available at www.dairyteam.co.nz

Roberts's farm is 134ha milking platform, 22 aside shed milking 430 cows with three full time staff and relief. Robert has measured 18t pasture grown in some paddocks but this is not consistent across the farm and across seasons. Discuss with us our plans to maximise production and profit and critique us on how we aim to do it.

Robert aims for this farm be in the top 5% for production and profit in New Zealand. It is not without its limitations and challenges. Come and discuss how he plans to achieve this.