

GRAZING & ANIMAL OPPORTUNITIES AT HOFC

There are possibilities here on the farm for goats, poultry or pigs.

Land

The majority of the 30 hectares (ha) of the farm are available for grazing in some form: 4.0 ha sit under orchard, 0.5 ha under buildings and utilities, and 0.5 ha under intensive horticulture (nursery and bushfoods).

Currently Sellar Dairy utilises the rest of the property, however, there are grazing opportunities that can multi-stack on top of the cows. One of the learnings of the coop has been that this country is not ideal for dairy, so the long-term plan is to transition cow grazing across to more appropriate livestock.

Some of the specific grazing opportunities include:

- **Orchard.** The 4 ha under orchard could provide an excellent opportunity for someone grazing poultry at certain times of the year with portable infrastructure. This would offer benefits to both enterprises (fertility and pest control for orchards; shade, water infrastructure, and feed for poultry). This would however require a strong relationship and communication between businesses with the orchard remaining the primary lease holder.
- **Picnic Gully.** This is a 6 ha north-facing block. Previously head high in gorse, blackberry, and briar rose, this block has been managed by Sellar Dairy for the past 6 years with annual slashing, pasture seeding, paddock divisions, water infrastructure, and tree planting. This block is far more appropriate for, and would benefit greatly from, the grazing of goats, pigs, and poultry which could either stack alongside the dairy cows or replace them. This block requires management but also holds many opportunities and rewards.
- **Paddocks.** Across a large portion of the other 24 ha there is a possibility to run other grazing livestock such as pigs, goats, and poultry. This currently would be secondary to the dairy cows rotations, however in the long term may replace them. Around 2.1 ha of this is not permanently guaranteed to be available (the old plum block and old apple/cherry block) but is available unless another appropriate horticulture enterprise requires the space.
- **Quarry block.** This 7 ha hill block is very rocky with no permanent water supply but may be available for winter grazing.



Picnic gully block before and after autumn slashing and then spring pasture growth



Ant and Tess previously ran pigs in the orchard

Irrigation

Water is available in some form to every block for livestock. Irrigation infrastructure is supplied to the edge of the leased land by the lessors (Hugh and Katie), and any further infrastructure required within the leased land (e.g. troughs, pipes, tanks, sprinklers) is supplied by the lessee.

The old plum block is currently being irrigated with overhead sprinklers and there is water allocation capacity for this. Pressure in pasture irrigation is always secondary to horticulture irrigation.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure available includes stockyards and boundary fencing. There is also access to the farm coolroom (shared with orchard) for short-term produce storage and rainwater for washing.

The farm power connection is 3 phase and a 32kw solar system is installed.

The farm shop is a shared resource with display fridges.

Equipment

Any equipment (mechanised or manual) required for the enterprise will be supplied by the lessee.

