

<b>PASTURE SUMMIT 2018 - ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSTED ON SLI.DO APP</b> <b>Day 1 – Session C – Greg Roadley, Dairy Farmer (South Island)</b>	<b>Event / Session</b>
<p><b>Question:</b> Would you use machinery to maintain pasture quality?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b>  No topping as if pregraze is right cows can easily eat to a 1500 residual all year.  Silage is cut during times of surplus.</p>	South Island - Session C
<p><b>Question:</b> Surely you could make more money feeding some supplement if you can buy right and payout is good?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b>  Keeping our system simple and repeatable is key to getting consistent results. There is more value for us to focus on low cost pasture based farming and avoid the distraction that comes with a system change.  There are not many points of time when the two commodities (Milk and imported feed) are counter cyclical in value which means that some seasons (or parts of) there is profit potential and at other points it would be a loss making exercise.</p>	South Island - Session C
<p><b>Question:</b> What would it take for you to consider putting a 50:50 Sharemilker on?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b>  The right person and stage of life.</p>	South Island - Session C
<p><b>Question:</b> As contract milkers there are contracts that would barely have us break even. How do you provide growth for your sharemilkers and your own investments?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b>  For our system it is critical that the Contract Milker is profitable – people are the most important resource for our business. It is counter intuitive and non-sustainable to structure a business relationship where one party is disadvantaged.  Growth Opportunities – These are created by running a farm system that is profitable across seasons. If the business is strongly focused on creating cash, growth opportunities are easy.</p>	South Island - Session C

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<p><b>Question: How important is 6 week rate to you and do you use cider programs?</b></p> <p><b>Answer:</b>  6 week is important as calving rate is a driver of pasture demand and getting a close match of pasture demand and supply is a real driver of a pasture based system.  CIDR intervention. Very limited intervention used. Range across seasons from 0-5%.</p>	<b>South Island - Session C</b>
<p><b>Question: Do you alter milking frequency throughout lactation?</b></p> <p><b>Answer:</b>  Some strategic OAD in spring to manage BSC pre mating and again in Autumn.  Have used some 16hr milking in Autumn – not a material part of the farm system.</p>	<b>South Island - Session C</b>