



**Why did you choose this system?**

- To maximise the genetic potential of the cows but still to remain pasture based
- Increase profitability
- To feed cows consistently in times of extreme weather and varying growth
- PEACE OF MIND!

**What made you change from the previous system you were running?**

- Grass/ maize system – good cheap feed that is readily available. Plus we own a support block that grows good maize
- We are now farming in more extremes
- New challenge as we seemed to have reached our profit and production plateau
- To enable us to have a long lactation by way of feed on hand and more even body condition score (cows as well as farmer!)
- Ease of mind in adverse winter conditions to stand cows off and feed more consistently
- Increase stocking rate

**What were the steps/processes involved in converting to a higher input system?**

- Identified short and long term goals
- Looked at options – Bigger, diverse or stay the same
- Got together with Jo – looked at in shed feeding system option but numbers didn't stack up at the time
- Looked at feed pads – talked to people who already were using them
- Researched effluent management of a pad
- Did the sums! Made it happen!

Pro's of high input	Con's of high input
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed cows better- more consistently</li> <li>• No shed drenching as trace elements added to maize</li> <li>• Minimal time spent following cows with use of Batt latch</li> <li>• Minimize lameness</li> <li>• Better cow condition all year bringing benefits to herd health and reproduction</li> <li>• Feed buffer on hand to "weather" the extremes</li> <li>• Higher profit</li> <li>• Easier pasture management</li> <li>• Peace of mind</li> <li>• A chance to get on TV!!!!!!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More work and longer milking times</li> <li>• More vulnerable to payout and feed costs</li> <li>• Can fall into supplement trap so have to keep remembering that grass is number 1</li> <li>• Cows can become lazy and reliant on supplement</li> <li>• Money tied up in capital e.g feed pad and bunkers</li> <li>• Smelly feedpad when nor'wester blows and I'm outside at the barby!! Or when Bev is at the washing line!!</li> <li>• Can be more complicated for relief milker</li> <li>• Feed balancing</li> </ul>