

Weekly Farm Summary 13 April 2023

Farm-system impacts of: Bales/Brassica vs Beet for winter AND Reducing N loss to water by 30%.

	Std Swede Pink	LI Bale Blue	Std FB Green	LI FB Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	82.7	60.9	82.7	60.9
Peak cow numbers	222	137	221	135
Milking Area	73.8	55.1	73.8	55.1
Current Herd size (cows)	203	125	199	124
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.8	2.3	2.7	2.3
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Swede/Bale	Baleage	Beet 80 days	Beet 60 days
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover	2485	2409	2343	2442
Average Growth	57	41	42	41
Target rotation length	26	28	25	29
Last week act rotation (d)	36	39	37	45
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Average BCS	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
% of herd on priority feeding	13%	13%	17%	11%
Milk yield (L/cow)	15.4	15.7	14.1	15.3
Milk yield (kgMS/cow)	1.67	1.72	1.62	1.72
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	80% (144kg)	106% (53kg)	83% (149kg)	100% (50kg)
Effluent N YTD	21	17	20	16
YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	924	556	818	569
YTD MS/cow	420	444	411	440
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	1264 (1128)	1103 (998)	1231 (1099)	1077 (974)
Business Area	Current Status			
Milk Production	Milk production has reduced this week. As it has been across all herds it is likely a weather effect rather than a feed allocation effect. 3n2 milkings will continue for at least another week as production holds and BCS is trending in the right direction, however the herds will be monitored carefully for lameness which may trigger OAD milking.			
Pasture & Feed	Growth rates continue to exceed demand and we are in surplus again this week, despite making baleage over the weekend. We will continue to post graze mow some paddocks to get residuals under control before winter. No options to increase demand so working on strategies to control growth.			
Animals	The second to last herd test was completed last week and one cow was identified with mastitis from the SCC data. 22 cows have been dried off today and will be shut down in a recently mown paddock with poorer quality baleage for 5 days to speed up the drying off process. We are suspicious of increasing tender feet and risk of lameness following the change in weather so will be monitoring closely and if required will drop milking frequency to OAD.			
Environment	Last nitrogen fertiliser has gone onto all farmlets. Effluent applications are continuing to balance nutrient return across the farmlets.			
Wintering	Crop yields are being completed this week to get a better estimate of final yields. Milker mobs and heifers will be used to open the crop paddocks prior to dry off as part of their transitioning onto crop. Liver biopsies are to be taken from cull cows to assess copper and selenium status to determine pre-winter supplementation requirements.			
People	We are currently on the hunt for a farm assistant to join the team for the 2023-24 season.			
Research	Nothing of note to report this week.			

Milk Production

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk Production	Milk production has been variable in the past week, however the LI herds continue to produce more per cow/ day than the standard herds. Herd test results show average fat % sitting between 5.5-5.7% and protein 4.9%. Higher milk solids content reflects the 3-2 milkings and stage of lactation.
Key Influences on Milk Production	The drop in milk at the end of this week has been across all herds, suggesting that it has likely been driven by the change in weather conditions rather than a feed supply issue as residuals have been OK for all herds.
Cow Management	With the changes in laneway and weather conditions, there is an indication that more lameness cases may be on the horizon. Billy and the team will assess all herds to determine if there are more animals showing early signs of lameness. If found to be an increasing occurrence, the switch to OAD milking to reduce walking will be made.

	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
kg Milksolids per cow this week / (last week)	1.6 (1.74)	1.91 (1.96)	1.69 (1.71)	1.84 (1.88)
kg Milksolids per ha this year / (same time last year)	1264 (1128)	1103 (998)	1231 (1099)	1077 (974)
% Var kg Milksolids per ha Season per ha to date vs last season to date	9.1	9.5	14.1	13.4
No. of Cows needing preferential feeding (% herd)	26 (13)	16 (13)	34 (17)	14 (11)
Animal Health peculiarities	More tender feet after the rain	N/A	More tender feet after the rain	N/A

Milk Production

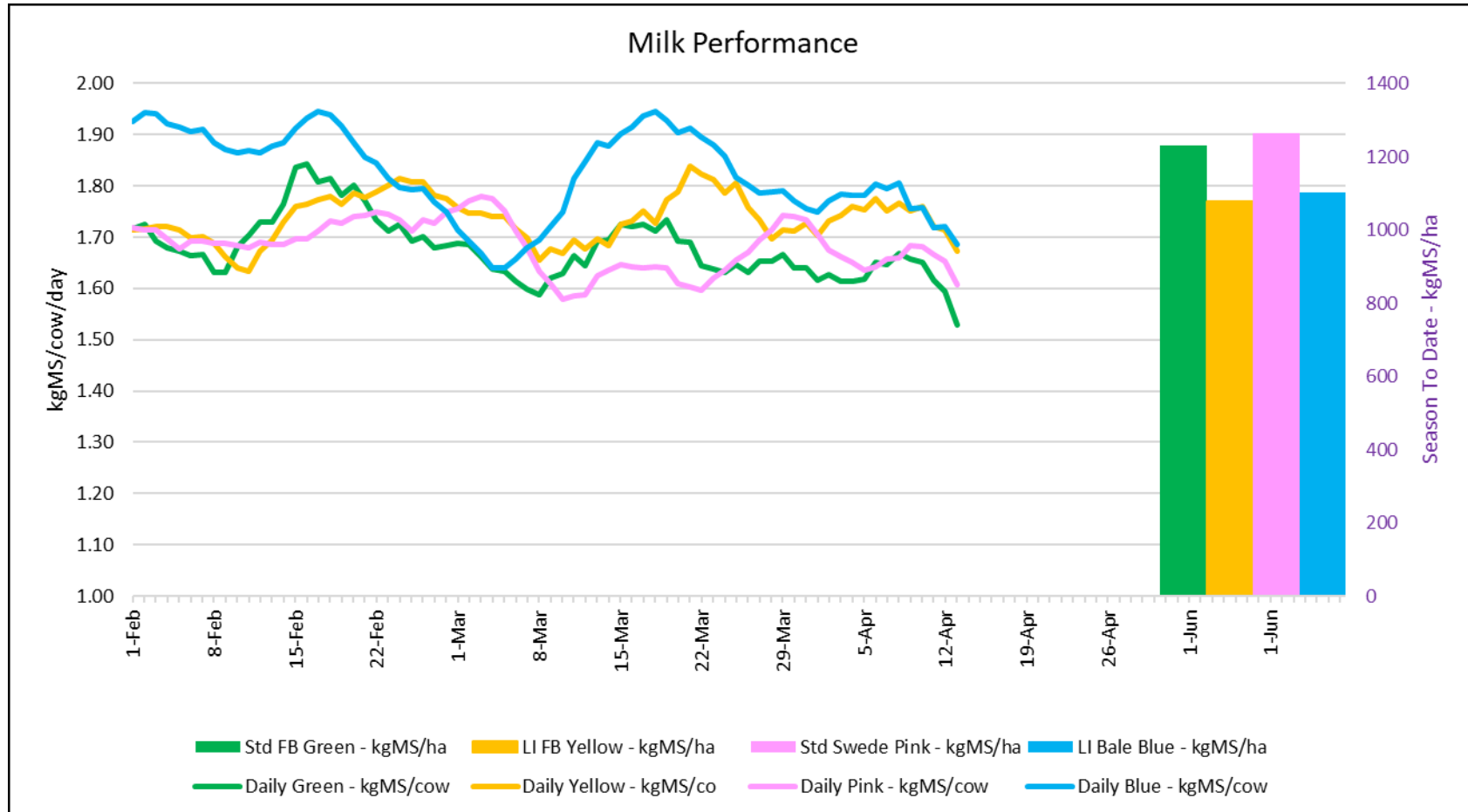


Figure 1: Milk solids production (cow/day) plus cumulative season production (kg/ha) at 12th April 2023

Feed

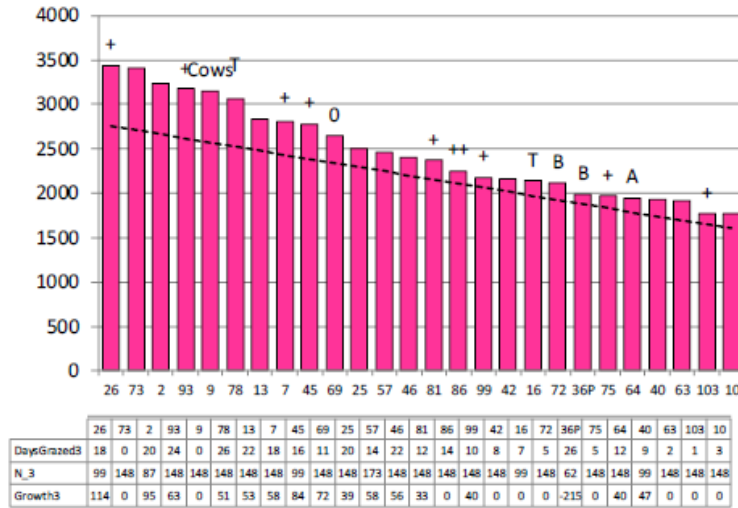
Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	Feed quality continues to improve across the farm. The appearance of urine patches has significantly reduced with the moisture and nitrogen in the system. Paddocks are uniformly green and vegetative.
Growth Rate Management	We have no levers to pull to increase demand at this stage of the season so will be focusing on managing supply through conservation and post graze mowing as required to tidy residuals. Paddocks for winter baleage are now being dropped out of the rotation and springer paddocks will be next on the list. Growth in the aerated paddocks has definitely slowed in the last couple of weeks.
Nitrogen Strategy	N applications have now ceased for the season as per the farmllet decision rules. Effluent applications continue and will continue until soil and weather conditions dictate that it is not environmentally safe to do so.

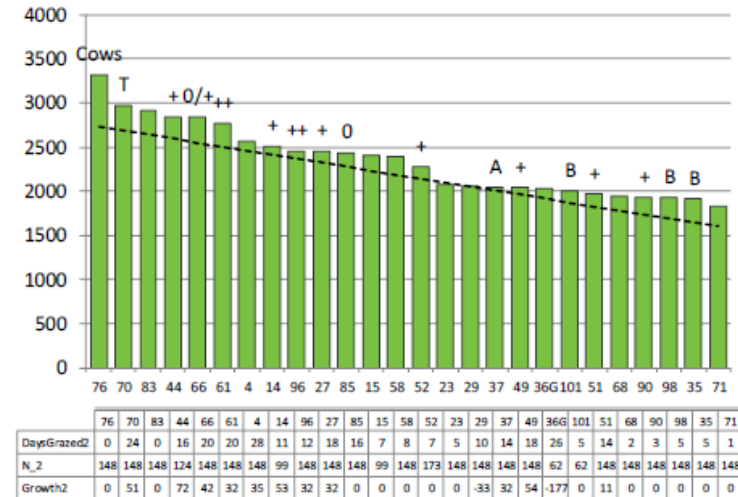
	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
Quantity	Increasing	Increasing	Increasing	Increasing
Quality	Quality maintaining	Quality maintaining	Quality maintaining	Quality maintaining
Surplus Management	Mowing to slow growth when required	Mowing to slow growth when required	Mowing to slow growth when required	Mowing to slow growth when required
Supplement for coming week- kgDM (diff from last week)	0.9 (0)	0.9 (0)	0.9 (0)	0.9 (0)
Target Rotation Length (days)	26	28	25	29

Feed

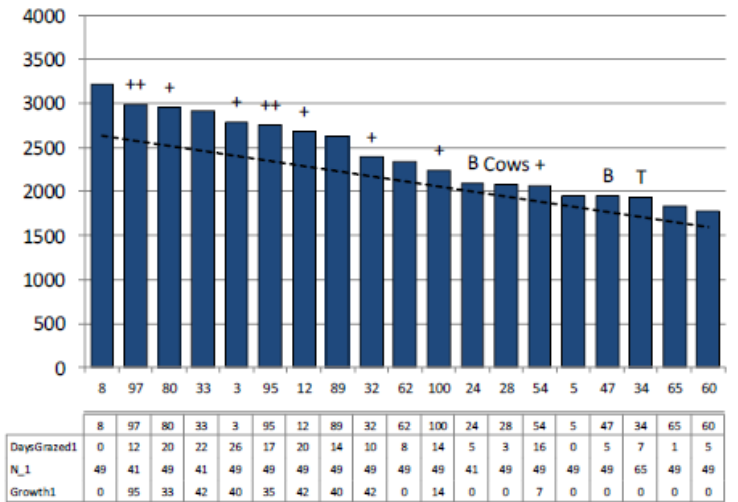
Standard Brassica/Baleage



Standard Fodder Beet



Lower Impact Baleage



Lower Impact Fodder Beet

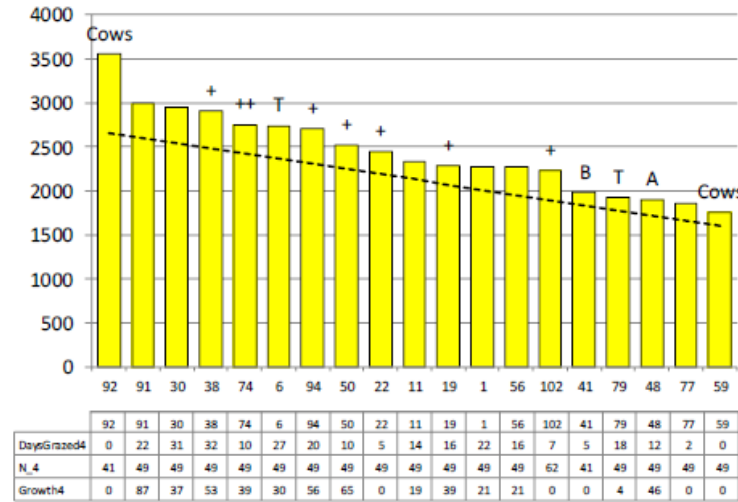


Figure 2: Feed Wedges as of 12th April 2023

Feed

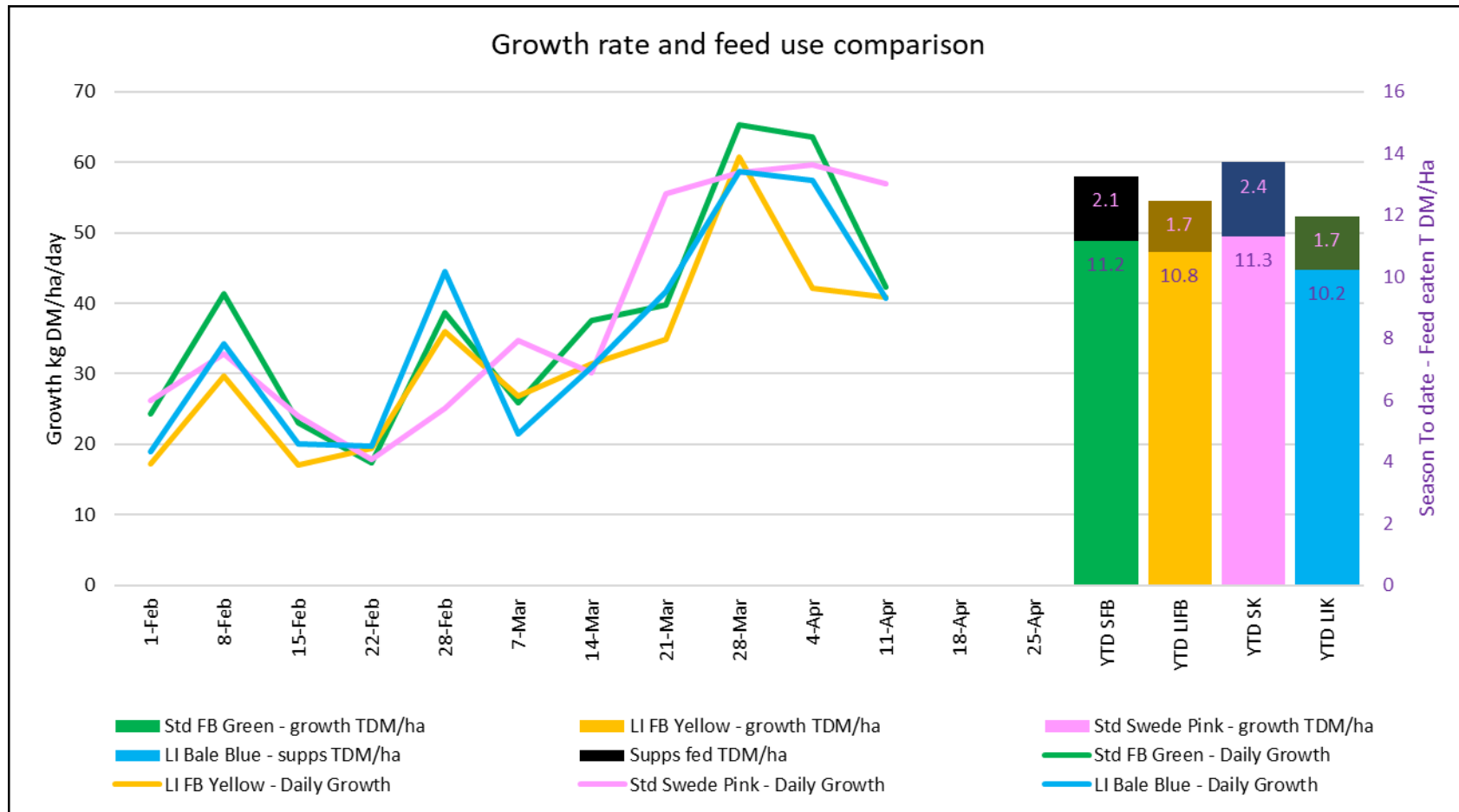
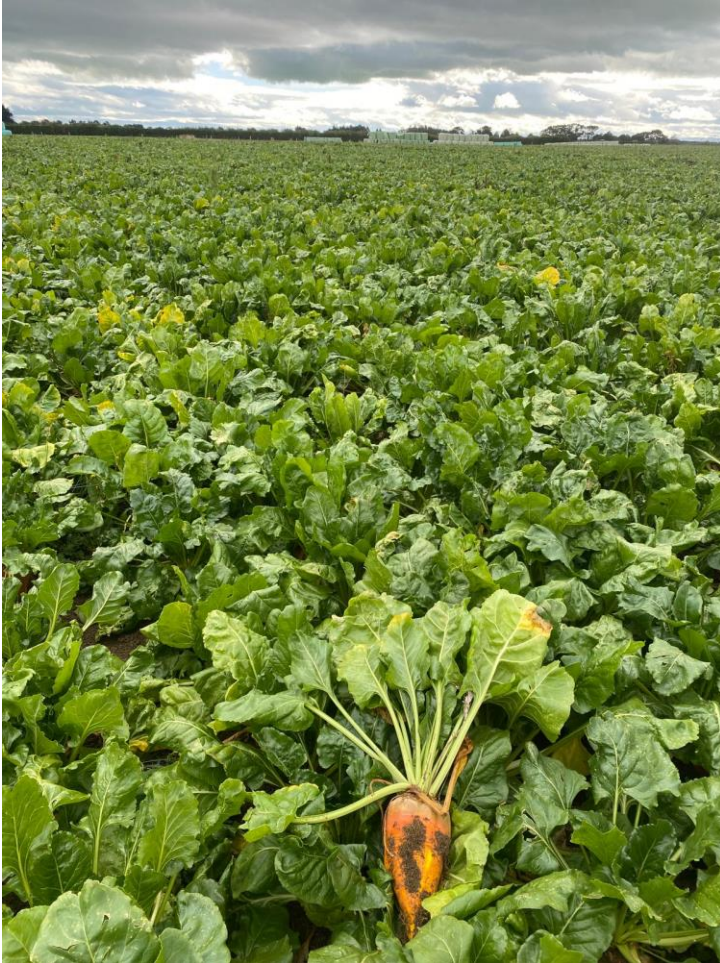


Figure 3: Weekly pasture growth rate at 12th April 2023 and year to date total feed eaten

The week in pictures

Conventional fodder beet (left), direct drilled fodder beet (right)



The week in pictures



First group of 22 cows being dried off



Our new tractor