

Fortnightly Farm Summary 13 July 2023

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

	Std Infrastructure Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std FB Green	LI FB Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	79.0	60.9	86.9	60.8
Peak cow numbers	218	141	241	139
Milking Area	73.2	49.3	69.5	52.1
Current Herd size (cows)	215	141	240	137
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.9	2.9	3.5	2.6
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover	2402	2366	2422	2297
Average Growth	5	8	6	4
Average BCS	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3
Crop allocation (kgDM/c/d)			9.5	9.5
Baleage Allocation (kgDM/c/d)	12.5	12.5	3.5	3.5
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	0	0	0	0

Business Area	Current Status
Milk Production	N/A
Pasture & Feed	Crop yields and quality samples have been taken in the last week with yields now ranging between 28-31 tonne for the fodder beet that is remaining. New grasses continue to grow despite the cooler weather patterns, however there are a number of longer paddocks that have been negatively impacted with the rain over the past 2 weeks.
Animals	BCS has been completed and is trending in the right direction for mobs to hit pre calving targets. A breakout of pink eye has occurred across all herds infecting 30 cows in total (with the majority in the FB herds). First springer draft is planned for the 18 th of July. The transitioning has started for the early FB calving cows with the first 55 cows coming off crop this week and onto grass and baleage to ensure they have 1 month off crop before calving. These animals are being supplemented with DCP.
Environment	Our current environmental focus is around minimising the environmental risks that wintering brings. All wintering paddocks with the exception of one do not boarder any water ways so nutrient/ sediment loss is avoided in these paddocks and the one that is in close proximity to a water way has a 5m grass buffer to control/ mitigate any losses.
Wintering	Crop yields have lifted to above 30t for some paddocks. Due to very wet periods and flooding in some of our wintering paddocks, break out areas were utilised and mobs were moved off crop paddocks where necessary. We have increased the baleage allocation to one of the baleage herds to help increase BCS before the end of winter.
People	Annual leave periods have been taken with everyone back on board by the 24 th of July. A herd managers position has been advertised and farm assistant role has been filled with our newest team member starting in the last few weeks. We are looking forward to have out new GM Andrea starting with the team next week.
Research	BAU for this time of year regarding research. Testing and sampling to resume once the milking season starts.

Animals

Principles of Milk Production management this week

<p>Animal Health Peculiarities</p>	<p>Pink Eye/ Baleage Eye- There has been a pink eye type infection in 30 cows over the past few weeks, with majority of the infected cows being in the Fodder beet wintered herds. Due to the contagious nature of the infection these cows are removed from the herds, however remaining on crop to avoid transitioning issues. Based on previous comments regarding mouldy baleage, this could be one of the causes of the eye infections. The team are disinfecting the ring feeders each day to mitigate further spread.</p> <p>Pregnancy Losses- 7 total for the winter to date (since 1 June) including 1 set of twins.</p>
<p>Body Condition Score</p>	<p>BCS was completed for all cows, FB herds on crop are increasing inline with what is expected. Mobs that haven't seen as big an increase in BCS have had baleage levels increased to promote an increase in BCS. Overall, all mobs are on track to hit BCS targets at calving, the cows are already achieving targets and heifers are not quite there.</p>
<p>Young Stock</p>	<p>Young stock (2022 born) have been weighed and supplemented with copper. Weights are slightly back on last year; however they are in line with industry targets for their age (243kgs actual vs ~240kgs industry target for 12 months old). These animals started grazing swedes on the 5th of July.</p>

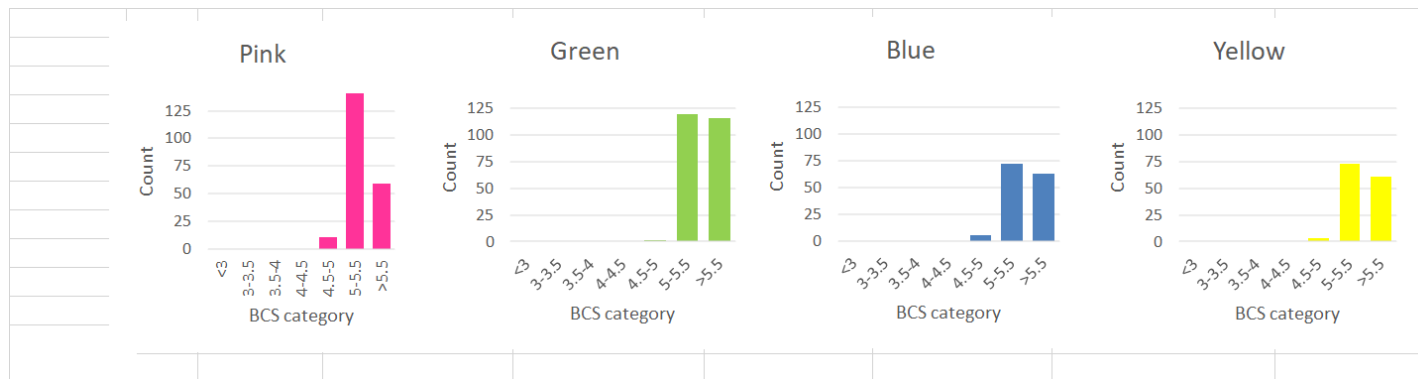


Figure 1: Range of BCS across the farmlets

Feed

Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	<p>We are seeing a wide range in baleage quality across the farmlets, with some patches of mould being found in a small percentage of baleage.</p> <p>Pastures have been damaged from the bad weather the past week with some quality deterioration in several paddocks sitting at the top of the wedge, some even showing signs of rotting in the base.</p>
Growth Rate	<p>Due to exceptional growth late in the 22/23 season, the fodder beet continued to grow and are yielding between 28.8t and 32.3t as of the 6th of July. This is higher than any previous years yields at this time in the winter.</p> <p>Pasture growth rates over the past two weeks have been minimal, however the young grass paddocks are an exception. Average pasture cover is ranging across the farm from 2300-2400kgDM/ha. Despite best efforts to run dry cows through longer paddock at the end of the season, there are several paddocks that did not reach target dry off residuals that are now losing quality especially after the wet period over the past 2 weeks.</p>
Nitrogen Strategy	<p>N applications won't start again until soil temperatures are above 7 degrees and rising in the spring. This is likely to occur late August/ early September.</p>

	Dry Matter	Crude Protein	Metabolisable Energy
Fodder Beet Bulb	18.00%	7.80%	12.90%
Fodder Beet Leaf	10.00%	19.40%	11.10%
Baleage	33.60%	21.60%	10.80%

	Dry Matter	Crude Protein	Metabolisable Energy
Fodder Beet Bulb	17%	10.40%	12.70%
Fodder Beet Leaf	9%	21.20%	11.60%
Baleage	38.80%	20.30%	11.10%

	Dry Matter	Crude Protein	Metabolisable Energy
Baleage	35.70%	13.60%	9.50%

	Dry Matter	Crude Protein	Metabolisable Energy
Baleage	35.00%	19.80%	9.70%

Table 1: Average feed quality results for fodder beet and baleage

Wintering in pictures



Figure 4: Cows enjoying their fodder beet and baleage



Figure 3: Biggest fodder beet bulb found during last weeks crop yields.

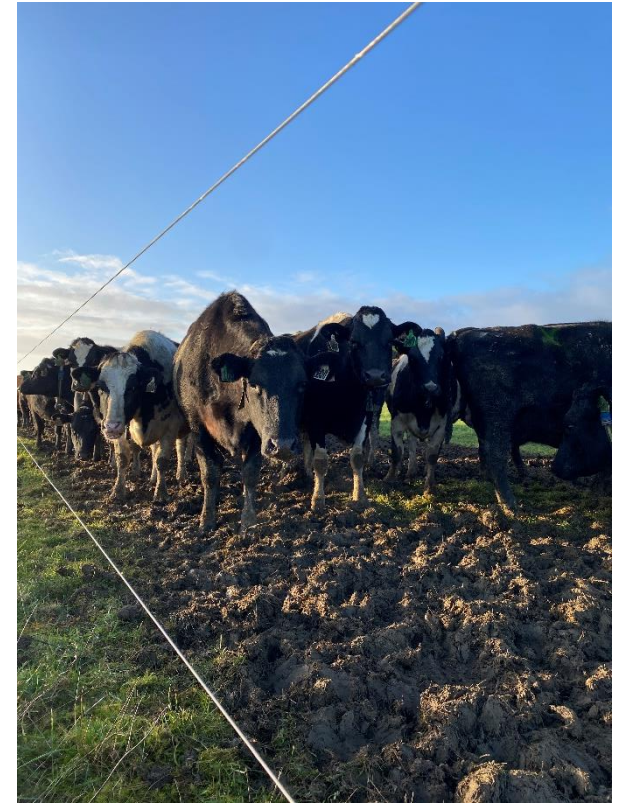


Figure 2: Nosey heifers