

Weekly Farm Summary 16 March 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)	200	125	200	124
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.7	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	2189	2284	2281	2330
Average Growth	30	31	38	31
Target rotation length	39	37	39	38
Last week act rotation (d)	41	40	46	36
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	6.1	3.7	4.4	2.8
Average BCS	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5
% of herd on priority feeding	15%	10%	18%	13%
Milk yield (L/cow)	17.3	19.8	16.9	17.3
Milk yield (kgMS/cow)	1.64	1.90	1.72	1.72
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	58% (104kg)	72% (36kg)	58% (104kg)	74% (37kg)
Effluent N YTD	19	16	16	10
YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	882	534	779	546
YTD MS/cow	378	400	371	395
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	1137 (1015)	995 (900)	1112 (993)	967 (875)
Business Area	Current Status			
Milk Production	Cows lifted this week as silage volumes reduced due to increasing pre-graze height (especially in new grasses, which also had a big quality advantage).			
Pasture & Feed	Covers coming up, and soil moisture and rain appropriate for N application. Forecasting better growth so we are reducing supplements now and speeding rotation up from 39 days to 26-30 days to avoid rising pre-graze mass leading to a surplus we can't manage			
Animals	Focussing on BCS gain of cows for winter. Keeping in-shed feed in for the priority cows when we reduce to rest of herd. Approx 12 cows need drying off end of month to hit pre-calve BCS target			
Environment	Nitrogen going on farm in-line with farmlet rules. 12.5kg N/ha for low impact farmlets to finish their annual allocation. 40kg N/ha for the standard farmlets, decreasing to 30kg N/ha for last of round in April			
Wintering	Working backwards to determine close-up date for paddocks to be wintered on, and for springer paddocks. Fodder beet yields so far: Direct Drill 10TDM, Conventional 16T-19TDM!			
People	Time to recruit for calf rearers and plan our spring resourcing.			
Research	Finished summer pasture botanical composition analysis – LI farmlet paddocks averaged 18% clover (2-42%) compared with 10% (1-26%) in the standard farmlets. Plantain % in new pasture ranged from 7-30%			

Milk Production

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk Production	Milk production relatively stable for all herds except the LI Baleage herd (blues) that have dramatically increased per cow production as a result of grazing predominantly new paddocks this week. Better quality pasture and less silage demonstrating the immediate effect increased energy intake can have on milk production.
Key Influences on Milk Production	Production continues to be a direct reflection of feed quality. In-shed feed system challenges meant intake levels were 1kg DM short, however this has been rectified and production has trended back upwards.
Cow Management	No changes in cow management this week. Continue to have a 3'n'2 milking frequency and preferentially feeding cows the following: less than BCS 4.0 - in-shed, at BCS 3.5 – in-shed and OAD milking and greater than BCS 5.5 no in-shed feeding.

	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
kg Milksolids per cow this week / (last week)	1.64 (1.69)	1.88 (1.68)	1.69 (1.62)	1.68 (1.70)
kg Milksolids per ha this year / (same time last year)	1137 (1015)	995 (900)	1112 (993)	967 (875)
% Var kg Milksolids per ha Season per ha to date vs last season to date	+8.0	+7.7	+13.3	+11.2
No. of Cows needing preferential feeding (% herd)	30 (15)	13 (10)	37 (18)	17 (13)
Animal Health peculiarities	4 cows detected with Staph 13 cows with reduced locomotion score	3 cows detected with staph 8 cows with reduced locomotion score	6 cows detected with staph 13 cows with reduced locomotion score	No cows detected with staph 6 cows with reduced locomotion score

Milk Production

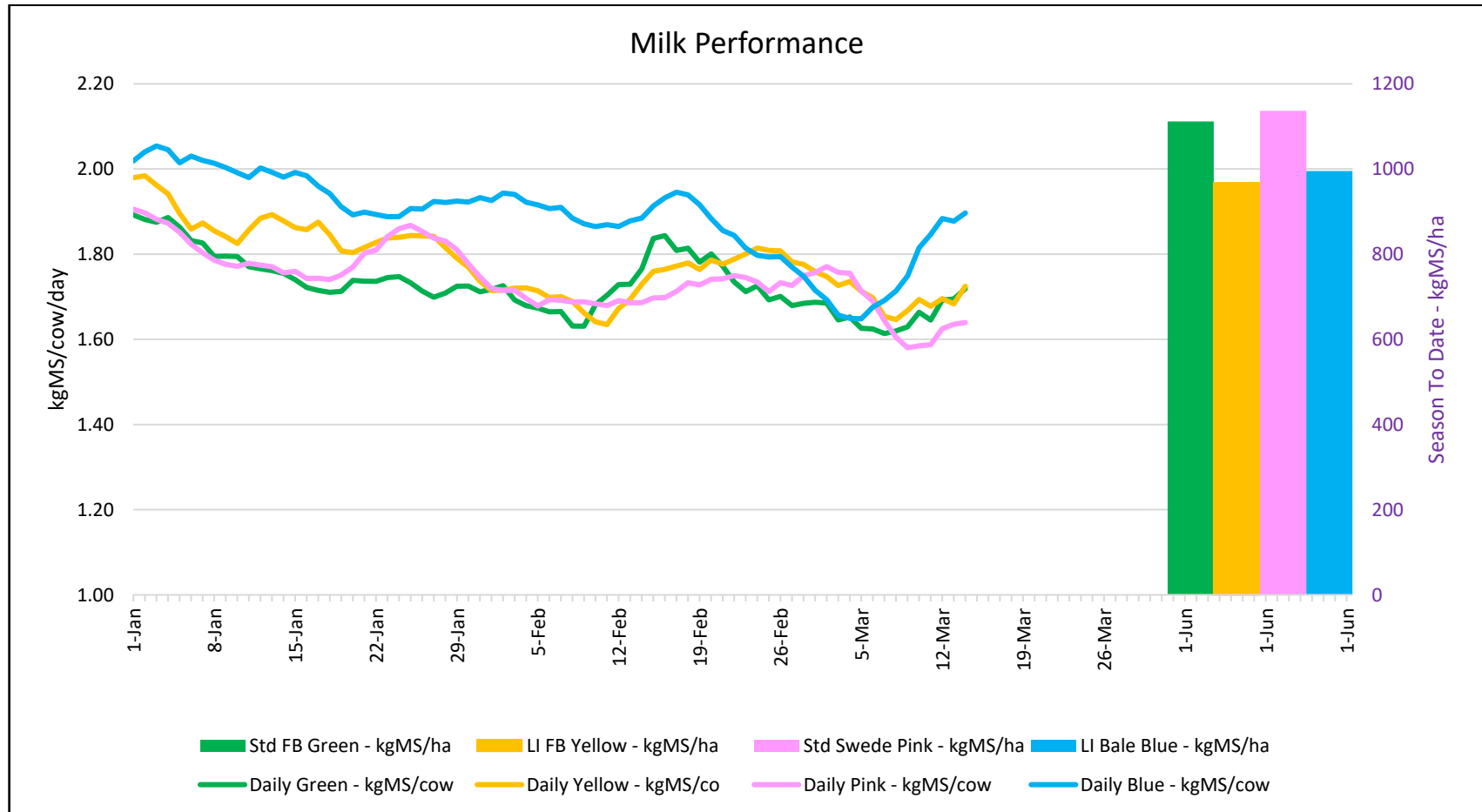


Figure 1: Milk solids production (/cow/day) plus cumulative season production (kg/ha) at 13th March 2023

Feed

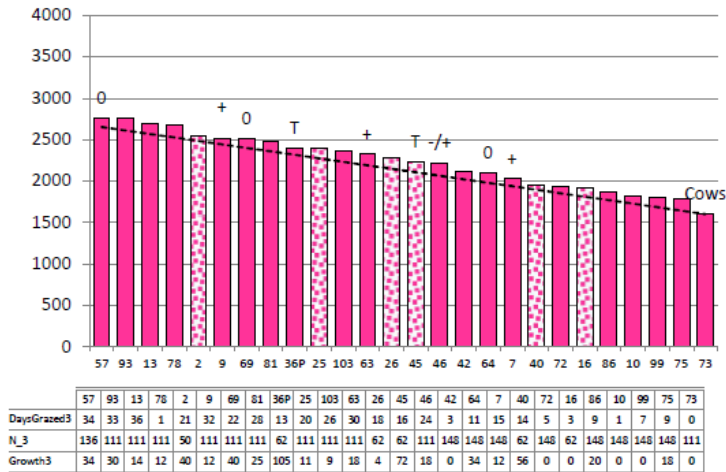
Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	Pasture quality through new grass paddocks is significantly higher than the older pastures. Quality of silage currently being fed is very high DM and low crude protein and ME so increasing pasture intakes with increasing growth will ensure a lift in overall feed quality.
Growth Rate Management	Due to autumn growth conditions and pre graze covers getting higher, round length will be pulled back to ensure a surplus isn't created later in autumn and the 2000kgDM/ha dry off APC is achieved.
Nitrogen Strategy	Nitrogen applications have resumed after dry spell. 50% of the standard farmlets received 40kgN/ha and 33% of low impact paddocks received 12.5kgN/ha. All remaining paddocks to receive N this round as weather and grazing windows allow.

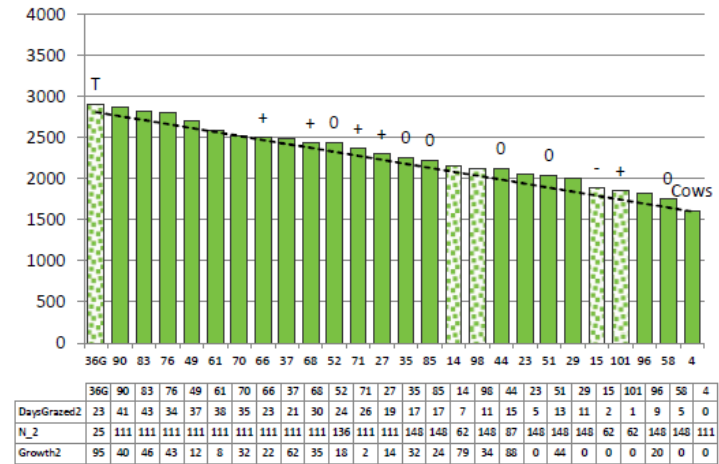
	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
Quantity	Deficit	Slight deficit	Slight deficit	Slight deficit
Quality	Variable quality and DM%	Variable quality and DM%	Variable quality and DM%	Variable quality and DM%
Surplus Management	None	None	None	None
Deficit Management for coming week- kgDM (diff from last week)	1.1 (-5)	-1.2 (-4.8)	-0.1 (-4.6)	-0.6 (-3.4)
Target Rotation Length (days)	26	29	26	29

Feed

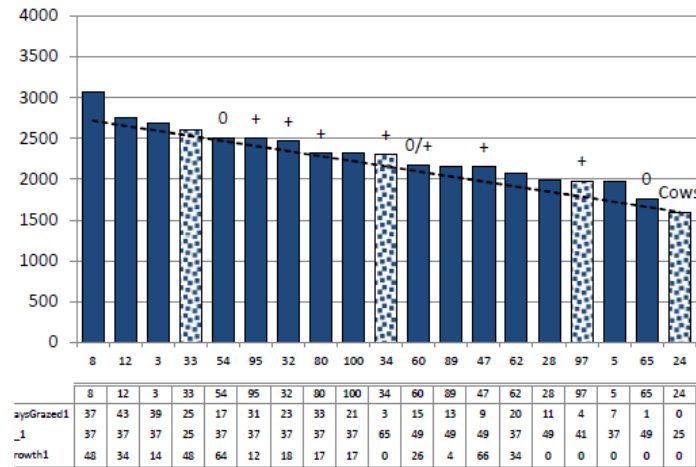
Standard Brassica/Baleage



Standard Fodder Beet



Lower Impact Baleage



Lower Impact Fodder Beet

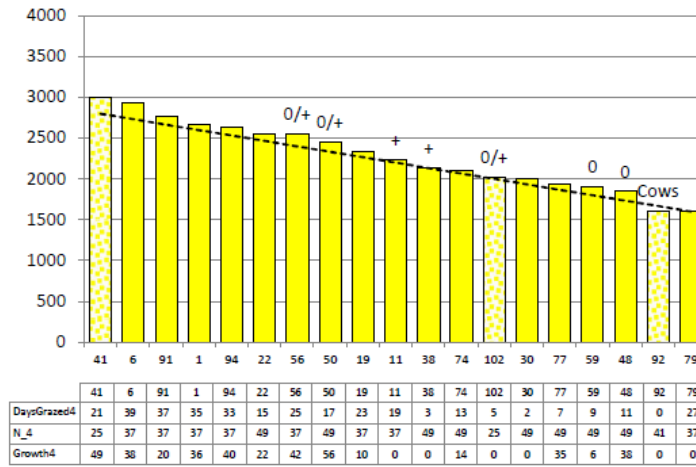


Figure 2: Feed Wedges as of 13th March 2023

Feed

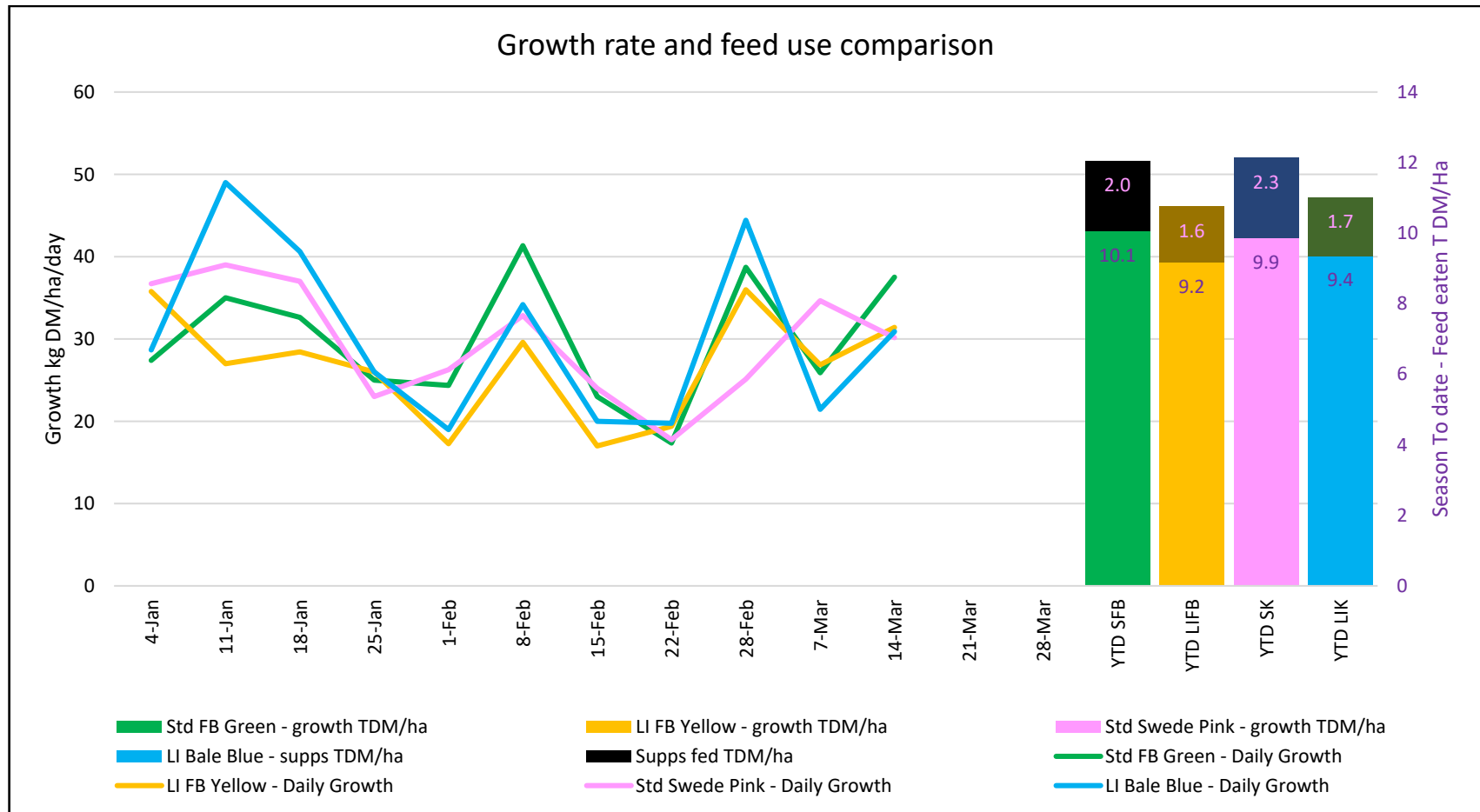


Figure 3: Weekly pasture growth rate at 14th March 2023 and year to date total feed eaten

Pictures from the Farm



Figure 1: Yield comparison between conventional and direct drilled Fodder beet



Figure 2: Our new tech Sam helping with the first round of crop yields