

# Weekly Farm Summary 15 May 2024

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

	Std Baleage Blue	LI Baleage Pink	Std FB Green	LI FB Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	49.3	93.6	86.9	60.8
Peak cow numbers	139	208	233	136
Milking Area	46.4	79.1	69.5	49.2
Current Herd size (cows)	111	167	186	108
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.4	2.1	2.7	2.2
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover (kgDM/ha)	2208	2103	2171	2051
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	29	27	29	23
Target rotation length (d)	40	41	48	44
Last week actual rotation (d)	39	31	40	42
Last week supp (kgDM/c/d)	6.0	8.2	5.7	6.4
Latest Average BCS	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9
% of herd on priority management	0%	0%	0%	0%
% in Milk (of Peak cow)	70%	68%	64%	74%
% dried off (of current cows)	13%	15%	19%	6%
7-day Average Milk yield (l/c/d)	10.5	11.2	10.8	10.8
7-day Average Milk yield (kgMS/c)	1.24	1.32	1.30	1.30
<b>Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>
% Nitrogen used	60% (108kg)	100% (50kg)	62% (111kg)	98% (49kg)
Effluent N YTD	19	20	18	18
YTD Pasture growth TDM/ha	15.7	13.6	15.3	13.5
YTD supp (kgDM/c)	594	550	694	553
YTD MS/c (of Peak cows)	465	457	482	491
YTD MS/milking ha (YTD MS/farm)	1391 (1309)	1203 (1016)	1616 (1293)	1356 (1098)
<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Current Status</b>			
<b>Milk Production</b>	Milk production has steadied out this week, slightly lifting in some mobs. This is a good result, as it has been a challenging week with lower utilisation earlier on in the wet, the low ME silage being fed. Cow behaviour suggest we may be overestimating the pasture dry matter available.			
<b>Pasture &amp; Feed</b>	Growth rates have been reasonable at 24-29 kg/DM/ha/day considering dropping soil temperatures (9.7 this week from 10.5 last week) and weather conditions. Calibration cuts have indicated that the plate meter and visual assessments are overestimating pasture cover this week, potentially due to the lower DM% of the pastures (13.5-16.9%). We are feeding 5-6 kg of silage per cow per day now to help make the budgeted pasture cover of 1900 on 1 June. All milking cows are now on 2.3 kg inshed feeding.			
<b>Animals</b>	Culls left the farm on Monday, so we are at winter stock numbers. There has been no change in the sick mob this week, but hopefully a herd test tomorrow will identify some problem cows in the low impact fodder beet herd, as the SCC in the fodder beet vat has remained high at 240000.			
<b>Environment</b>	Soil moisture has meant no effluent has been applied, and it is unlikely we will see conditions good enough to restart it this season.			
<b>Wintering</b>	Fodder beet transition plans are being made, and baleage placement for the second half of wintering. A subsample of baleage bales have been weighed and samples taken for DM determination so we can determine the average, and range in bale DM across the batches and adjust feeding levels accordingly.			
<b>People</b>	A shout out to DJ this week, he really stepped up when several of the team were off. A special thanks to Sam, Catherine, Natalie, and Corbin for stepping in and lending a hand.			
<b>Research</b>	There are a lot of measurements being planned for the winter period to assess the impact of paddock conditions on animal behaviour across a range of baleage wintering setups and a fodder beet paddock.			

# Milk Production

## Principles of Milk Production management this week

<p><b>Milk production</b></p>	<p>Milk production is tailing off as is to be expected at this time of the season, with the focus firmly on BCS gain and dry off less than a fortnight away. Real attention needs to be paid at this time of lactation to not letting milk quality slip - there are few things less annoying than maintaining a grade free status all season and having a whoopsie in the last week, or even last pick up. Regular stripping is a valuable tool, as SCC will go up naturally and clinical and sub-clinical mastitis cases will have a larger impact than normal. Cows tend to shed a steady number of somatic cells during lactation when not under inflammation pressure (mastitis), the SCC measurement is cells shed per fixed volume, so as lactation volume drops SCC concentration rises naturally.</p>
<p><b>Key Influences of Milk Production</b></p>	<p>Intakes and feed composition have an impact on milk production, but the stage of lactation and milking frequency change to OAD also have an impact. Interestingly the milk graphs from last year and this year both show a decline and then slight recovery after going OAD, and the standard fodder beet herd which went OAD earlier was at no point the lowest production per cow herd.</p>
<p><b>Cow Management</b></p>	<p>Cow dry down and dry off procedures are very important. You need to ensure the cow shuts down milk production as quickly as possible so you can return to feeding levels that will gain BCS as soon as possible. Refer to "Dry Cow Strategies" on the DairyNZ website for more advice and information.</p>

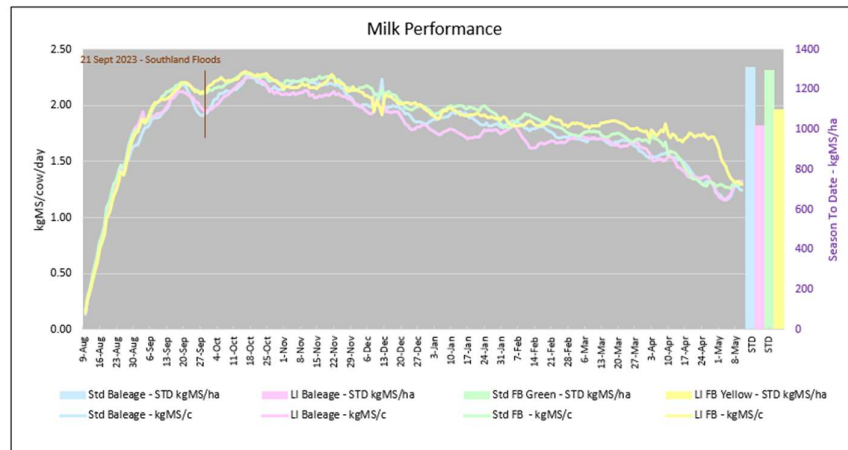


Figure 1. Milksolids per cow/day STD and kgMS/ha STD

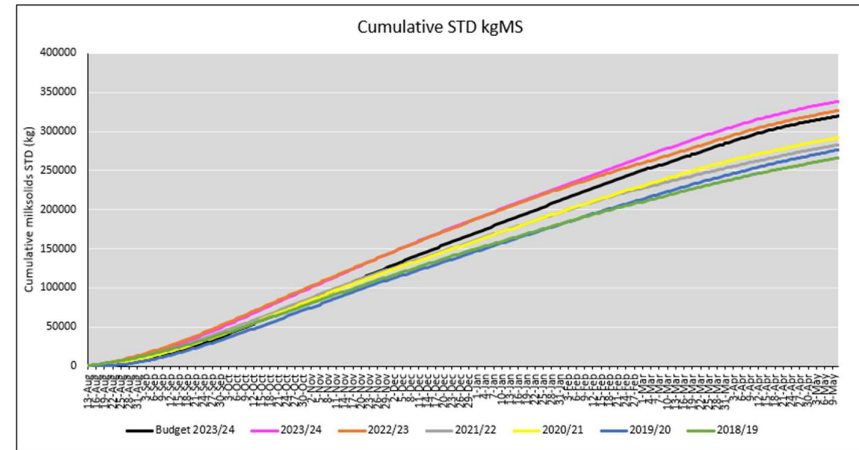


Figure 2. Cumulative kg Milksolids & Budget season to date

# Feed Wedges

## Principles of Feed management this week

<p>Feed Quality</p>	<p>Dry matter % has remained on the low side, at 15% average. This is at the bottom end of the % the winter plate formula uses, so quantity is more likely to be an issue than quality. Given the time of the season, and focus on BCS gain, it is a good idea to monitor when the cows are “finishing” their assigned grazing area ie. reaching the desired residual, and making a call to either provide more supplementary feed or speed up the rotation by moving the cows on. Different factors to consider are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pasture cover and track to target cover on 1 June (on the graphs below our standard herds have room to speed up and our low impact herds don’t without a lot more supplement)</li> <li>• Amount of supplement on hand available to feed.</li> <li>• Just how early the cows are finishing - an hour is probably not enough to worry about, 4 hours are a definite problem.</li> <li>• When dry off is, and how many paddocks are needed to dry cows down - you need to work your grazing plan backwards to make sure you can hit all your targets.</li> </ul>
<p>Growth Rate</p>	<p>Growth rates are coming down in line with soil temperatures, with a drop of nearly a degree this week, from 10.5 to 9.7 degrees. Growth rates of 23 –29 are likely to be the best we’ll see for the rest of this season. Our autumn feed budgets have been developed assuming 20 kg DM/day growth through the back end of May.</p>
<p>Nitrogen Strategy</p>	<p>All N has been applied.</p>

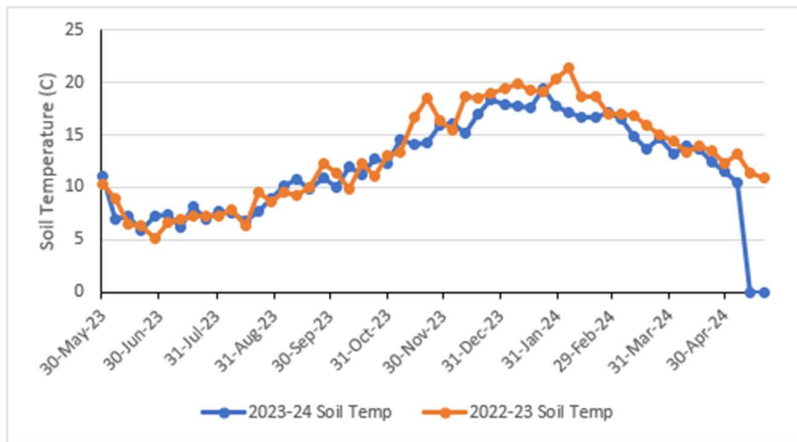


Figure 3. Soil temperatures 2023-24 vs 2022-23

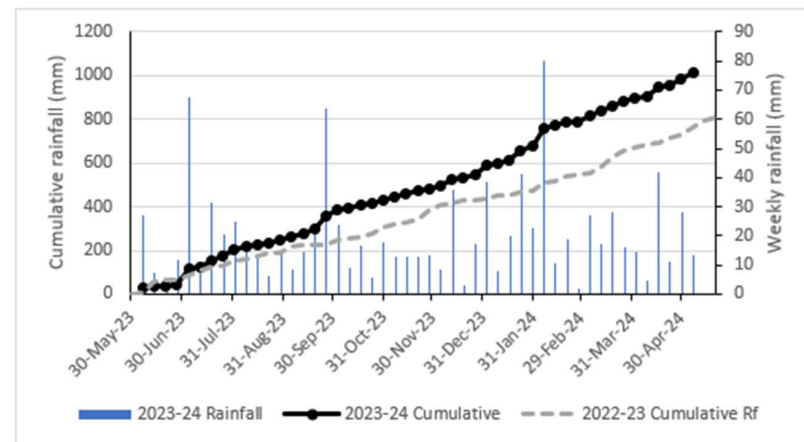


Figure 4. Season to date rainfall compared with cumulative rainfall 2022-23

# Feed Wedges

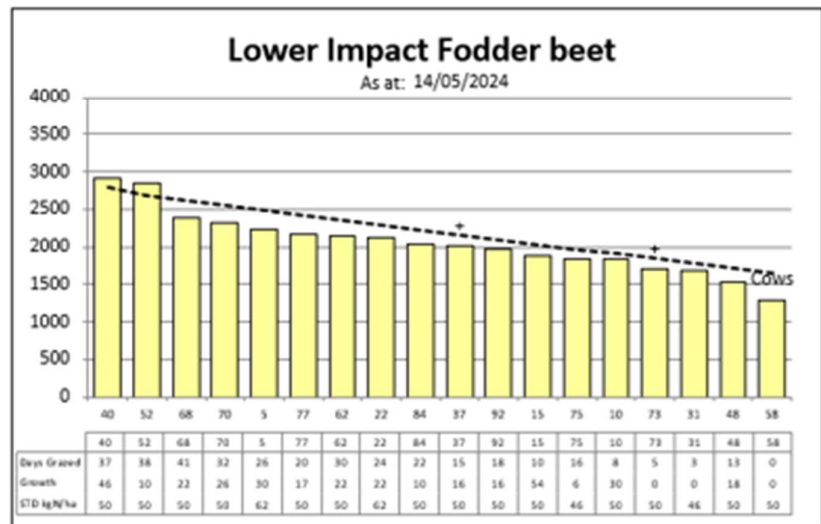
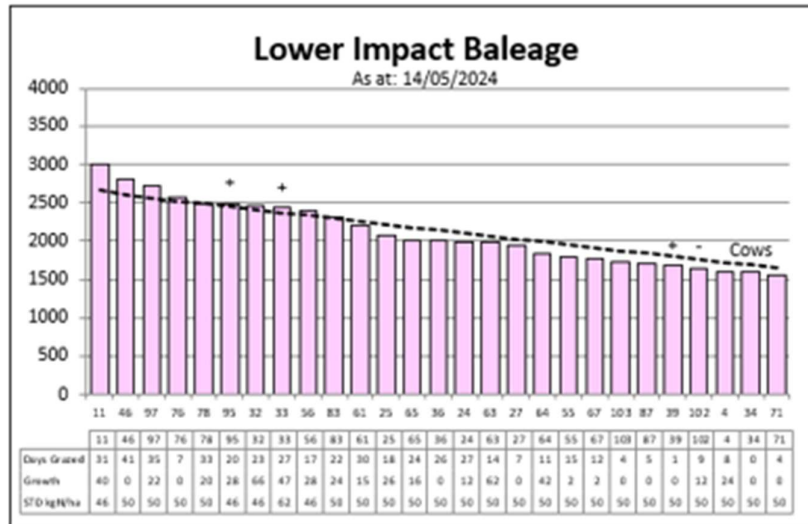
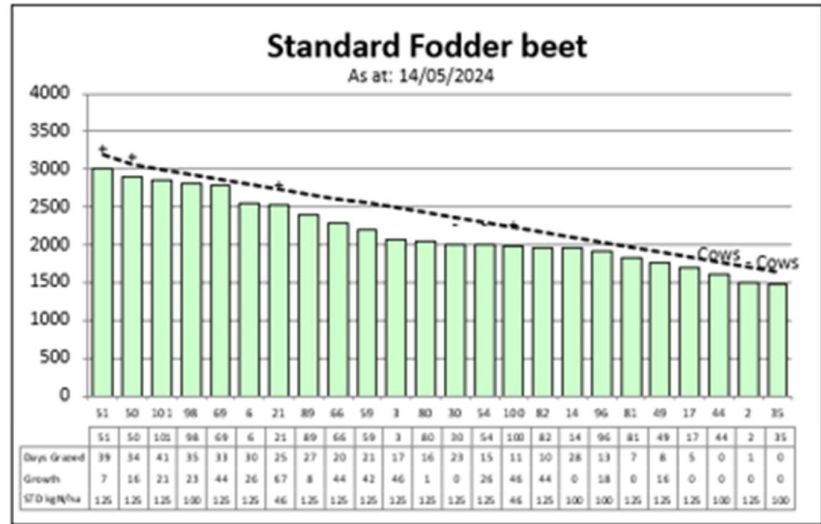
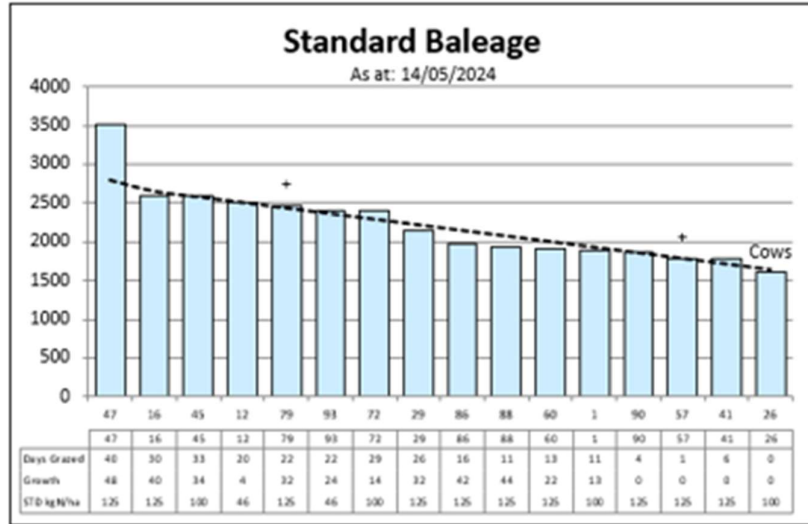
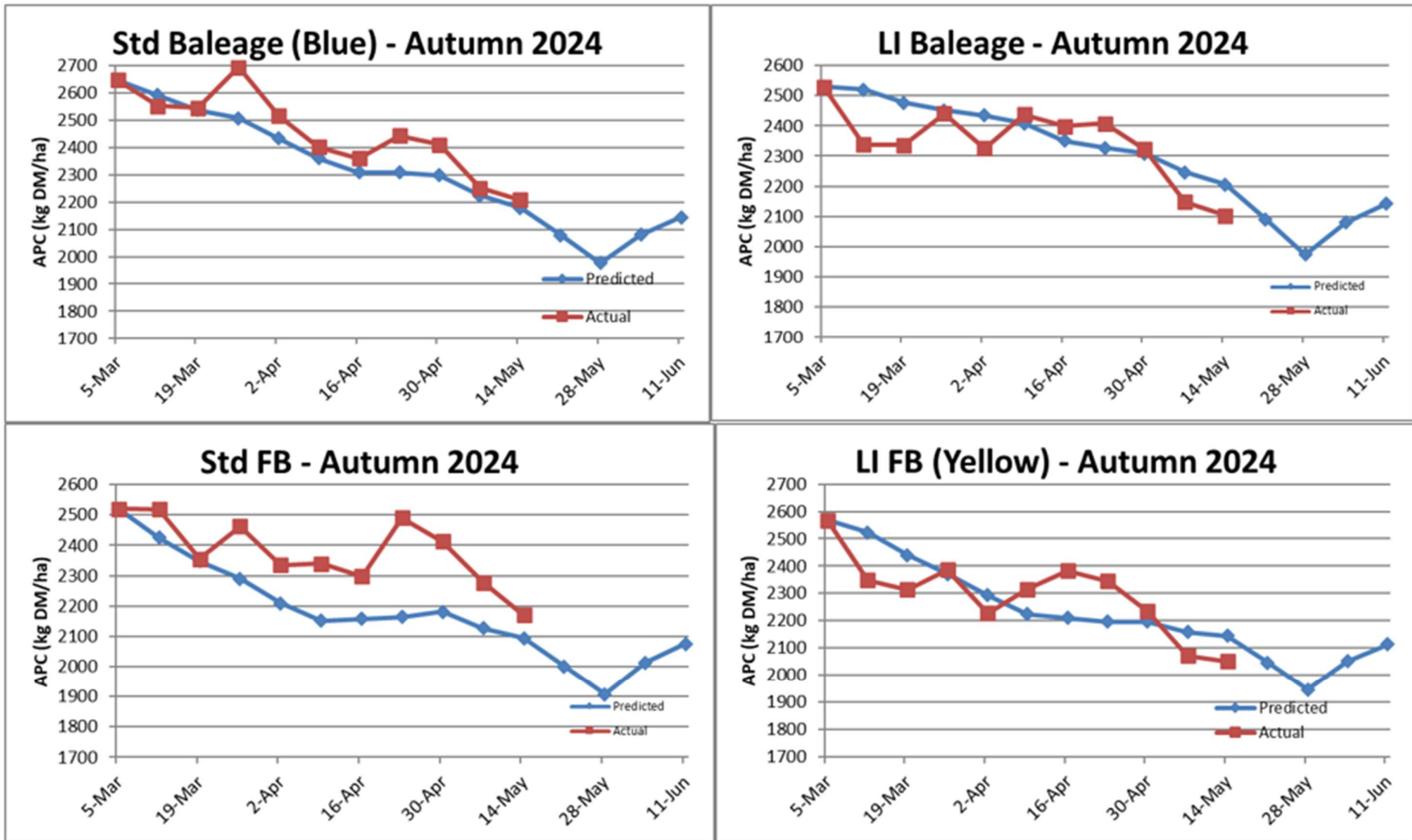


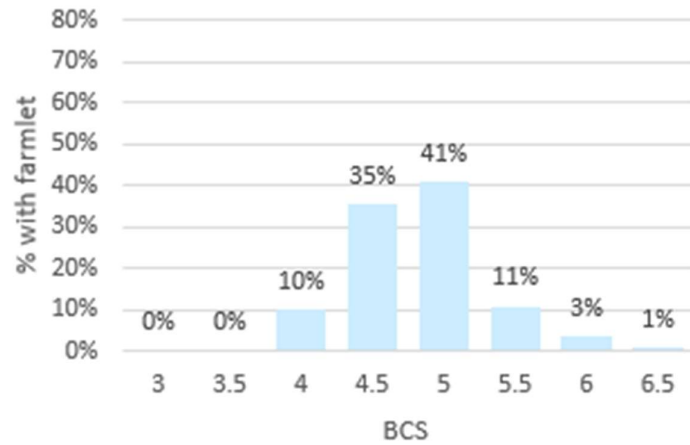
Figure 5. Plate meter feed wedges as at 14th May 2024

# Feed budget APC tracking

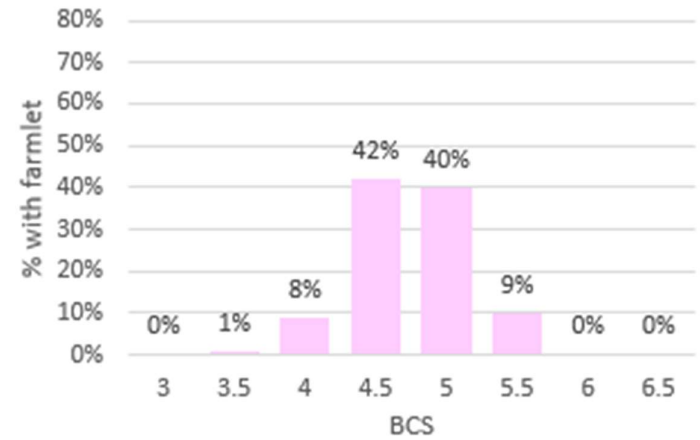


# Herd BCS Distribution

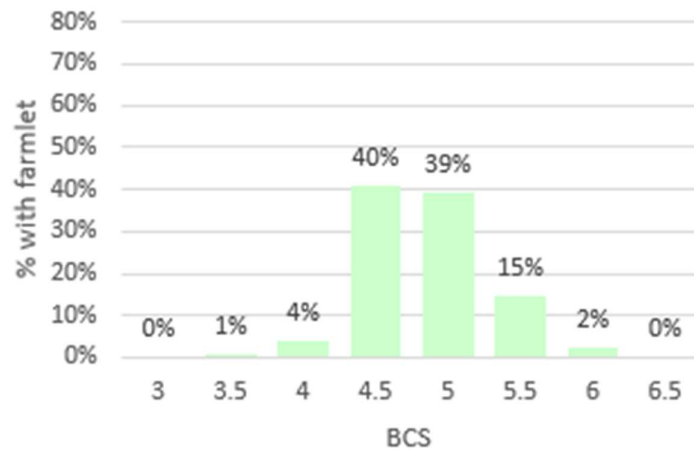
Std Baleage BCS range as at: 13-May-24



LI Baleage BCS range as at: 13-May-24



Std FB BCS range as at: 13-May-24



LI FB BCS range as at: 13-May-24

