

Weekly Farm Summary 15 November 2023

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

	Std Infrastructure 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	138	208	233	136
Milking Area	43.5	82.0	69.5	52.1
Current Herd size (cows)	138	208	232	136
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	3.2	2.5	3.3	2.6
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover (kgDM/ha)	2620	2445	2558	2469
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	92	71	86	66
Target rotation length (d)	24	30	26	29
Last week actual rotation (d)	32	28	28	31
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.1
Latest Average BCS	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.8
% of herd on priority management	38.1%	56.2%	46.1%	44.9%
% in Milk	100%	100%	100%	100%
7-day Average Milk yield (L/cow)	24.7	23.5	24.9	24.0
7-day Average Milk yield (kgMS/c)	2.21	2.10	2.23	2.16
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	26% (47kg)	44% (22kg)	24% (44kg)	48% (24kg)
Effluent N YTD	2	4	5	3
YTD Pasture growth TDM/ha	6.8	6.4	6.5	6.0
YTD supp (kg DM/c)	174	126	241	150
YTD MS/c	166	158	171	165
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	527 (466)	400 (351)	567 (453)	434 (372)
Focus area	Current Status			
Milk Production	Milk production hit a minor speed bump with the poorer weather this week but has levelled out. Season to date production is now less than 1100 kg MS less than the same time last year. The SCC of each vat continues to be between 95-100 000 with only one new case of mastitis this week.			
Pasture & Feed	~35ha of surplus pasture was able to be made into baleage as was planned before the weather changed resulting in 285 bales for lactation or winter feed. This week there is only between 1 or 2 paddocks identified as possible candidates to be made into supplement. Second round N applications have been completed for all farmlets, with third round application for the Standard herds beginning next week while the LI will receive theirs in early December at this stage. The mower has also been out this week topping paddocks post grazing to reset residuals before flowering and tillering commence.			
Animals	Mating continues to go well with 59% of the herd being submitted in the first 12 days. Second round of CIDR's will be done this Friday, following the same decisions rules as round one with the exception that we will look at any first lactation cows that are yet to cycle. We have had an increased incidence of lameness this week, with the common issue being white line/sole ulcer. Cows have been recovering well. The last of the 2023 born calves will move off the milking platform and join their herd mates at the support block with all the calves being weighed and drenched at the end of this week.			
Environment	Effluent is being applied at every opportunity, with the pond level currently sitting at 49% full. Close attention is being paid to make sure the applications are spread evenly across all the farmlets			
Wintering	Fodder beet planted on the 6 th November has germinated already and will be closely monitored for any pest challenges.			
People	The team is working hard while employment "paperwork" for the new members continues to delay their start date. Last Friday we farewelled Tolu who has been with us for 18 months. He has opted for a career change so he can spend more time with his family.			
Research	We have been investigating options on how to broadcast plantain seed in a couple of paddocks to see how it establishes as part of our involvement in Plantain Potency and Practice project. Normal practice would be to include with urea applications but the logistics of this are not quite as straight forward for us so we are looking into other carrier options.			

Milk production

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk production	It is encouraging to see milk production remaining relatively flat after coming off peak production. Maintaining pasture quality and offering sufficient DM will be critical over the next couple of weeks to hold production.
Key Influences of Milk Production	Pre-graze pasture mass is likely to be impacting milk production particularly for the LI herds. Residuals would suggest there is no shortage of quantity with the mower having to be used to tidy up paddocks where residuals are not met. Strong cycling activity will also be impacted milk production in cows on heat each day.
Cow Management	We have been discussing our management policies for light BCS cows given the cost of inshed feed and our current surplus situation. It would be nice to reduce the amount of inshed feeding but because of the complexities of our farm with four herds we are limited in options to priority treat at risk cows. While we can utilize OAD milking using the auto ID & milking system it is not practical to run separate OAD herds for each farmlet. With OAD cows coming to the shed in the afternoon we can offer additional supplementary feed to manage BCS. Our protein:fat ratio would suggest energy is our main limiting nutrient and our inshed feed is the best and most consistent feed we have available to offer.

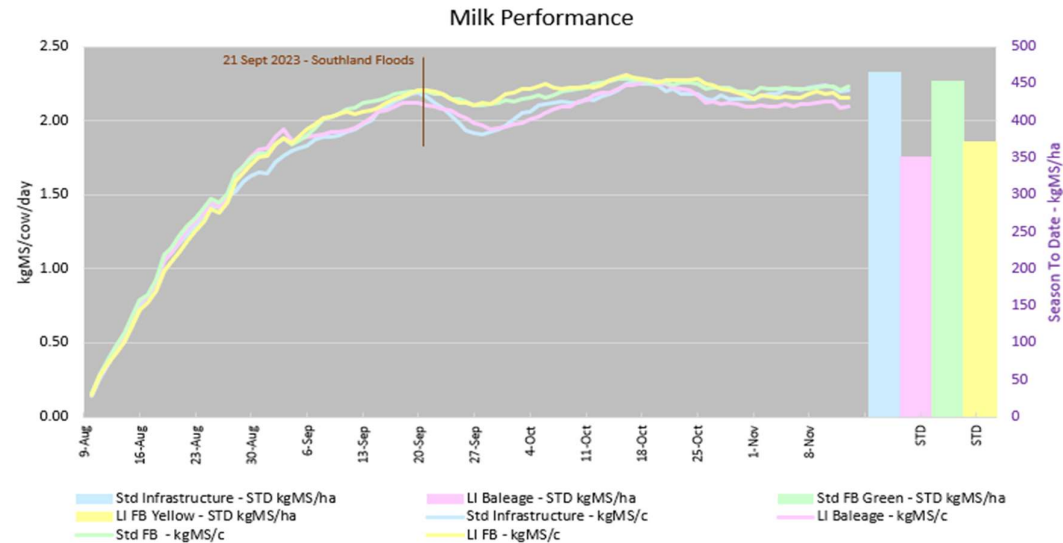


Figure 1. Milksolids per cow/day season to date and kgMS/ha season to date.

Feed Management

Principles of Feed management this week

<p>Feed Quality</p>	<p>Seed head is starting to emerge across the farm and will start impacting on pasture quality. The mower has been used across all farmlets this year to tidy up residuals in paddocks that have not been eaten out properly in the last 2 rotations. Also, with the baleage paddocks conserved we are expecting good quality pasture from these paddocks in the next rotation.</p>
<p>Growth Rate</p>	<p>Growth rate continues above demand despite the variable weather conditions. Good soil moisture, rising soil temperatures and nitrogen in the system are creating ideal conditions for pasture growth. We are expecting growth to slow slightly following all the topping and conservation that has happened in the last week. Soil temperature is currently lower than the same period last year but this is not a concern for pasture growth.</p>
<p>Nitrogen Strategy</p>	<p>The second round of N application has been completed for both the Std and LI farmlets. The LI farmlets have now received half of their annual nitrogen with their next application not until December.</p>

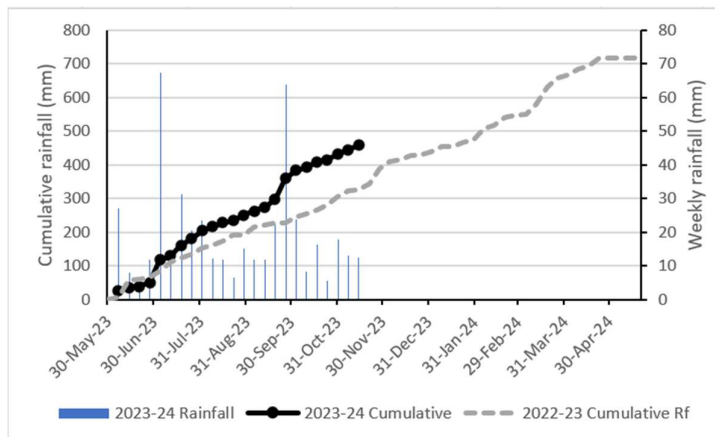


Figure 2. Season to date rainfall compared with cumulative rainfall 2022-23

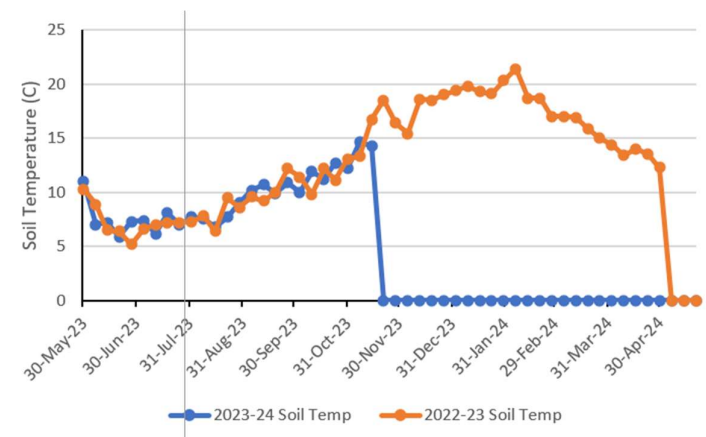


Figure 3. Soil temperatures 2023-24 vs 2022-23

