

Weekly Farm Summary 16th September 2022

Farm-system impacts of: Kale vs Fodder beet for winter AND Reducing N loss to water by 30%.

	Conserved Pasture – Std Pink	Conserved Pasture - LI Blue	Fodder beet – Std Green	Fodder beet – LI Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	82.7	60.9	82.7	60.9
Peak cow numbers	223	137	223	137
Milking Area	73.8	55.1	73.8	55.1
Current Herd size (cows)	182	105	169	112
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.5	1.9	2.3	2.0
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Swede/Bale	Baleage	Beet 80 days	Beet 60 days
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + baleage as required			
Average Cover	2256	2145	2248	2193
Average Growth	40	38	41	27
Target rotation length	37	38	37	38
Last week act rotation (d)	43	45	52	62
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	7.1	8.5	8.0	7.4
Average BCS	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8
% of herd on priority feeding	3%	2%	5%	4%
Milk yield (L/cow)	22.6	24.6	23.0	24.0
Milk yield (kgMS/cow)	2.05	2.26	2.12	2.20
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	13% (23kg)	18% (9kg)	14% (25kg)	14% (7kg)
Effluent N YTD	1	0	1	2
Profit/ha comp to Control	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	142	101	132	105
YTD MS/cow	36	40	35	39
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	110 (98)	98 (89)	105 (94)	97 (88)

Business Area	Current Status
Milk Production	Continues to be reasonably steady across all herds
Pasture & Feed	APC tracking slightly higher than target in our SRP allowing us to increase daily area allocation. Silage feeding has been reduced to ensure we meet pasture residuals. In-shed supplements reduced to the lowest amount required to meet daily mineral supplementation requirements
Animals	A minor increase in incidence of mastitis identified from herd test SCC data. Reduced incidence of down cows. Continuing to dust MgO onto silage to springers at the higher rate and provide DCP
Environment	Effluent applications continue to follow the cows. Majority of the farm has had its first application of nitrogen fertiliser with approximately 40ha remaining
Wintering	Springer and dry cows to be consolidated for practical management with less than 100 cows to calve. Planning for next season's wintering systems and paddock selection is under way
People	Invaluable feedback coming from the farm team regarding residuals and refining the amount of silage required. The team are starting to take some well-earned leave.
Research	Refining details for 2023-24 farm systems setup

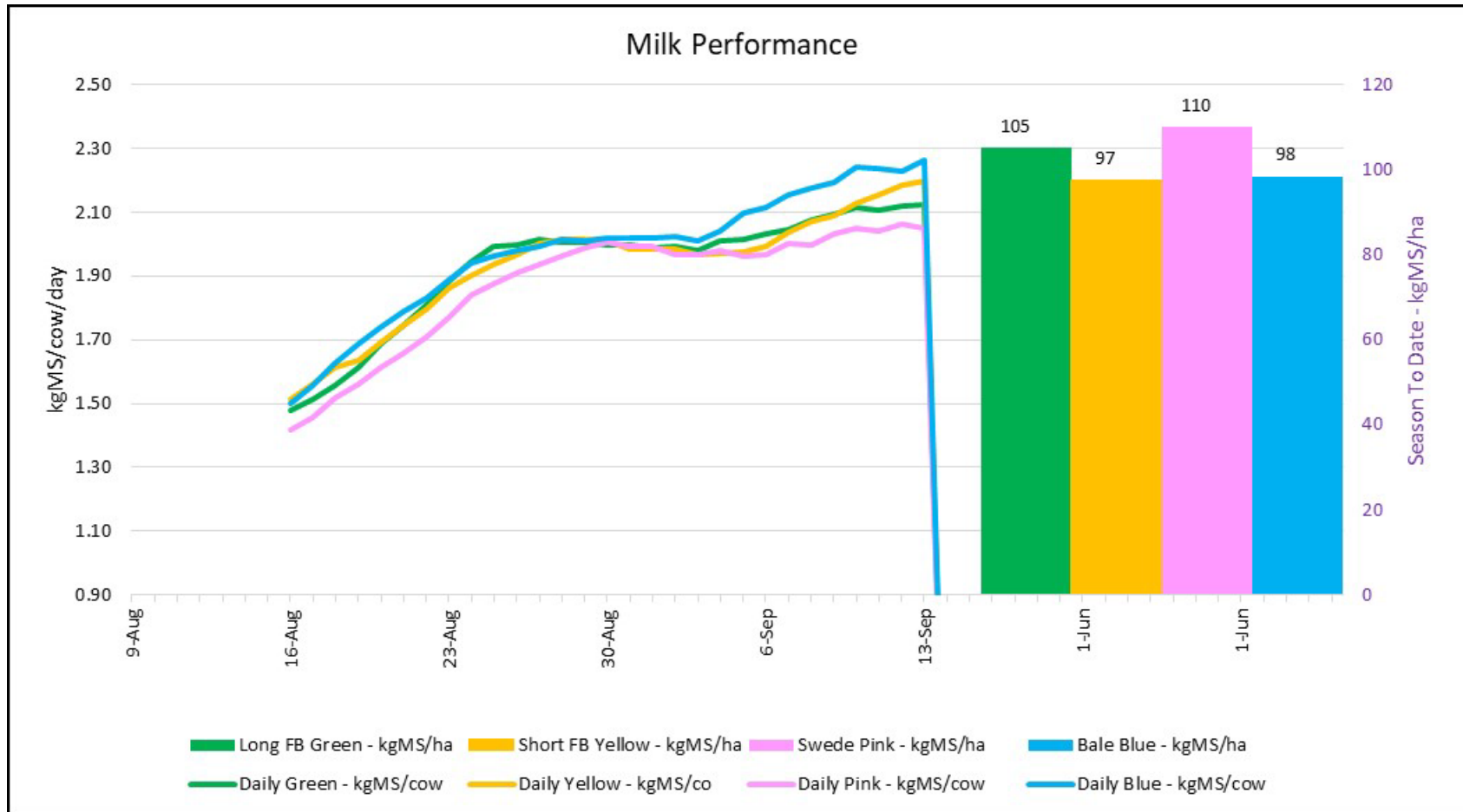
Milk Production

Principles of Milk Production Management this week

Milk Production	Continues to remain similar across the herds and continuing to increase. YTD production is above last season with between 84 % and 89 % of each herd calved to date. This compares to 82-86% calved at the same time last season.
Key Influences on Milk Production	As the herd sizes increase and with fewer cows entering from the colostrum herd each day, residuals and supplement feeding are being better refined. The increasing warmer weather has stimulated pasture growth and resulted in better utilization of pasture.
Cow Management	No changes to previous weeks. Majority of the cows milked TAD with some animals being milked OAD to protect BCS and aid recovery post calving

	Conserved Pasture - Std Pink	Conserved Pasture - LI Blue	Fodder beet - Std Green	Fodder beet - LI Yellow
kg Milksolids per cow this week / (last week)	2.05 / (1.96)	2.26 / (2.09)	2.12 / (2.02)	2.20 / (1.97)
kg Milksolids per ha this year / (same time last year)	110 / (92)	98 / (86)	105 / (87)	97 / (87)
% Var kg Milksolids per ha Season per ha to date vs last season to date	19.7	14.8	20.2	12.0
No. of Cows needing preferential feeding (% herd)	6 (3)	2 (2)	9 (5)	5 (4)
Animal health peculiarities	None	None	None	None

Milk Production



Feed

Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	Area used is tracking very close to the SRP targets. Will continue to focus on management of residuals by adjusting supplementary feed as pre-grass mass changes and set up pasture quality for the second round
Growth Rate Management	We have decided to allocate slightly more area than the SRP this week to increase pasture intake and reduce the amount of supplement required. The Lower Impact herds only require in-shed supplementation to fill a small deficit while the Standard herds will receive approximately 1.5 kg DM/cow/day of both in-shed feed and silage
Nitrogen Strategy	First round of nitrogen fertiliser application all most completed, approximately 40ha remaining. Once completed round two applications for the Standard herds will commence early October

	Conserved Pasture - Std Pink	Conserved Pasture - LI Blue	Fodder beet - Std Green	Fodder beet - LI Yellow
Quantity	Currently OK	Currently OK	Currently OK	Currently OK
Quality	Variable depending on paddock history	Variable depending on paddock history	Variable depending on paddock history	Variable depending on paddock history
Surplus Management	None	None	None	None
Deficit Management - kgDM (var from last week)	3 (-4.1)	2 (-6.5)	3.2 (-4.8)	1.5 (-5.9)
Target Rotation Length (days)	37	38	37	38

Feed

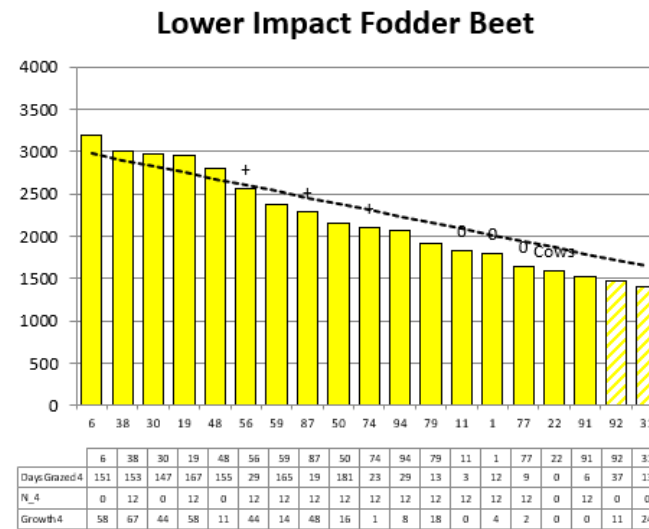
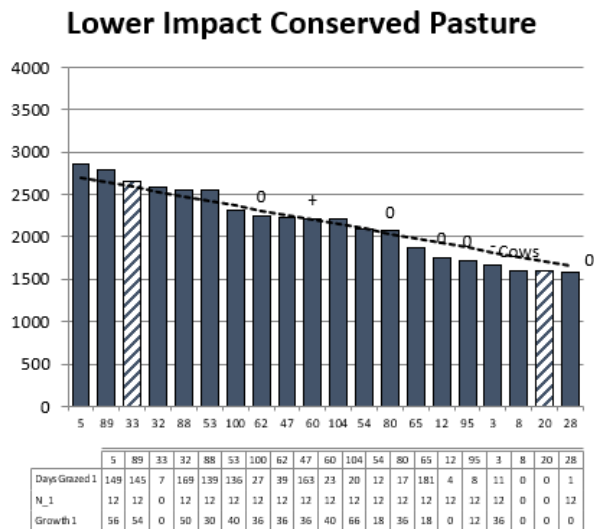
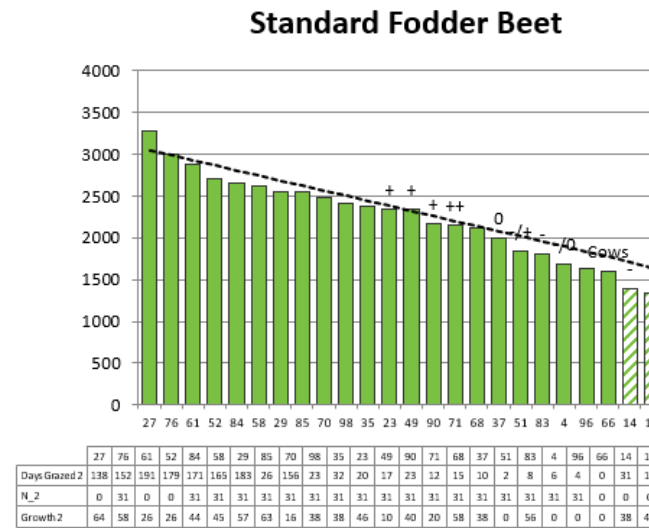
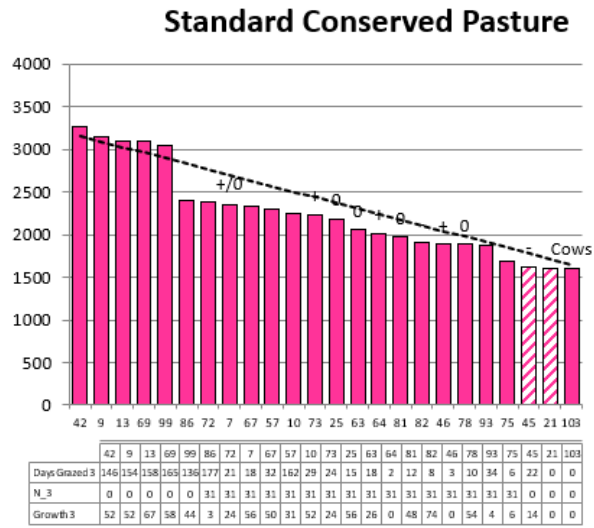
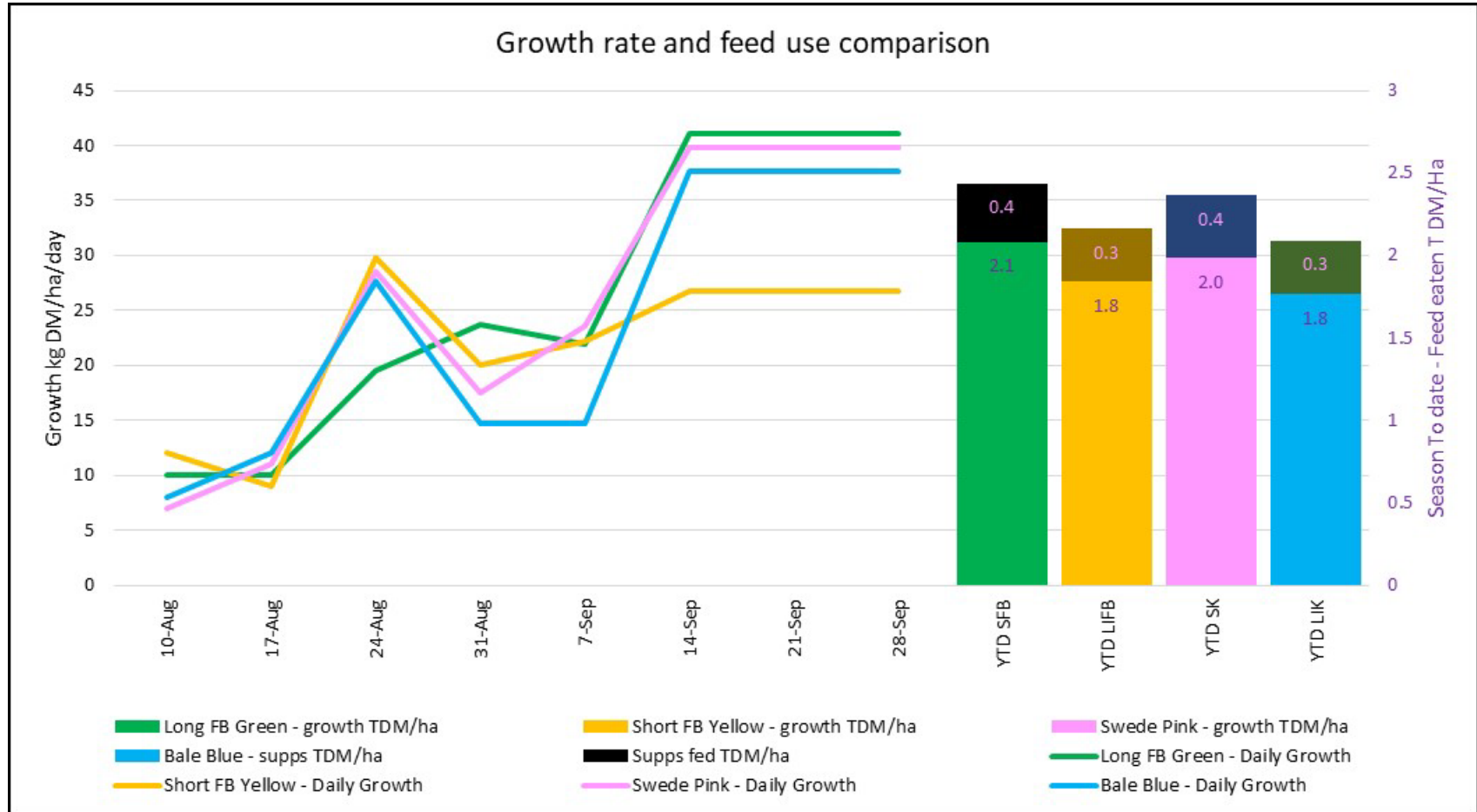


Figure 2: Feed Wedges as of 13th September 2022

Feed



Feed

Early Spring Management	<p>Pasture residual is a good indicator of the adequacy of pasture offered (pasture allowance) Pasture allowance should focus on future growth, quality and optimizing whole season performance</p>
Factors to consider	<p>Avoid over allocating pasture by meeting your target residuals, making sure that there are no clumps in the first rotation. Over allocating pasture can have negative effects on subsequent pasture quality and re-growth</p> <p>Avoid under allocating pasture Post grazing residuals less than your target indicates cows are being underfed Restricting pasture in early lactation will cause a drop in milk production. Depending on the timing, severity, and duration of the under feeding can impact on the whole season. While there are no negative effects to the pasture by being grazed lower, lower residual paddocks will take longer to recover before they are available for the next grazing</p> <p>Mineral Supplementation If you use in shed supplements as a medium to deliver minerals like calcium or magnesium, remember to take this into account with the daily feed allocation especially when reducing the amount of supplement, to ensure you are still offering sufficient to achieve the targeted daily mineral intake to avoid issues with animal health</p>
What we are doing at SDH this to manage early spring pastures	<p>At SDH, we have identified paddocks that we feel need to be grazed sooner rather than later because of the warmer weather and growth, the clumps in some paddocks have grown disproportionately to the rest of the paddock, with the base of these clumps having an increased amount of dead matter and declining in quality by the day.</p> <p>We have followed our SRP well this spring, coupled with some good growing days and currently have a higher APC than planned. This situation gives us confidence to allocate slightly more area than the SRP target this week allowing an increase in pasture intake to approximately 16 kg/c/d. As a result, we will be reducing the silage portion of the supplement to about 1.5 kgDM/c/d for the standard herds and nothing for the lower impact herds. All herds will be receiving approximately 1.5-2.0 kg DM/c/d of in-shed feed to achieve daily supplementary mineral requirements</p>