

Weekly Farm Summary 17 January 2024

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	139	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)	2493	2469	2572	2494
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	65	57	65	46
Target rotation length (d)	24	30	26	29
Last week actual rotation (d)	25	30	24	25
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	2.1	1.9	2.1	4.7
Latest Average BCS	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.7
% of herd on priority management	20.1%	37.0%	30.7%	29.6%
% in Milk	100%	100%	100%	100%
7-day Average Milk yield (L/cow)	20.8	18.7	21.2	20.4
7-day Average Milk yield (kgMS/c)	1.94	1.74	2.00	1.92
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	41% (74kg)	66% (33kg)	39% (70kg)	70% (35kg)
Effluent N YTD	8	12	11	10
YTD Pasture growth TDM/ha	7.9	7.4	7.8	7.3
YTD supp (kg DM/c)	383	331	481	370
YTD MS/c	299	268	303	290
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	952 (840)	683 (598)	1011 (809)	744 (638)
Focus area	Current Status			
Milk Production	The lift in production seen in the last couple of weeks for the LI farmlets has slightly dipped again. This is mainly due to dropping the silage out of their diet and grazing several poorer quality paddocks in a row. All the other farmlets remain stable.			
Pasture & Feed	After last week's exceptional growing results, pasture growth rates have dropped back this week. We are starting to graze the new grass paddocks this week. Further to the previous observations of germination being uneven across some paddocks due to the dry weather conditions, these paddocks have responded positively particularly with soil temperatures remaining at 18 C, to promote good grass growth. Nitrogen has continued to be applied to the standard farmlets, while we will look to apply N to the LI farmlets at the end of February. Minimal topping, and some conservation continues across most of the farmlets.			
Animals	Mating concluded for the season on the 12 th of January, with a PD booked for the 29 th of January. Only a couple of new cases of mastitis and lameness. 2022 Borns were PDs on the 16 th with 93.4% confirmed incalf, 6.1% rechecks and 1 x Freemartin.			
Environment	Effluent pond level continues to allow for 2 runs per day. When the level drops below 35% full this will drop to one run per day.			
Wintering	Crops are looking good. Still need to finalise a couple of springer and baleage wintering paddocks based on poorest producing growth and location on the farm (not on the flood prone lower flats).			
People	With Billy the Farm Manager away on leave, team members have all stepped up. The research team have also been having some deserved time off.			
Research	Botanical composition analysis on every paddock before it is grazed starts this week			

Milk production

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk production	Cumulative milk production for the season continues to track ahead of budget and last seasons (0.6%) production. LI Baleage herd remains behind in production season date vs last season.
Key Influences of Milk Production	The biggest impact on milk production has been pasture quality. On review, especially with the LI Baleage herd, unfortunately we grazed several poorer quality paddocks back-to-back. Coupled with dropping out silage due to the spike in pasture growth the previous week. This herd also has a higher number of animals on OAD for BCS management. Seed head is still emerging in the mid/late season cultivars and weed grasses across the farm.
Cow Management	No change, TAD milking frequency with continued monitoring cow BCS on the fortnightly basis and adjusting the priority feeding and OAD milking groups as required.

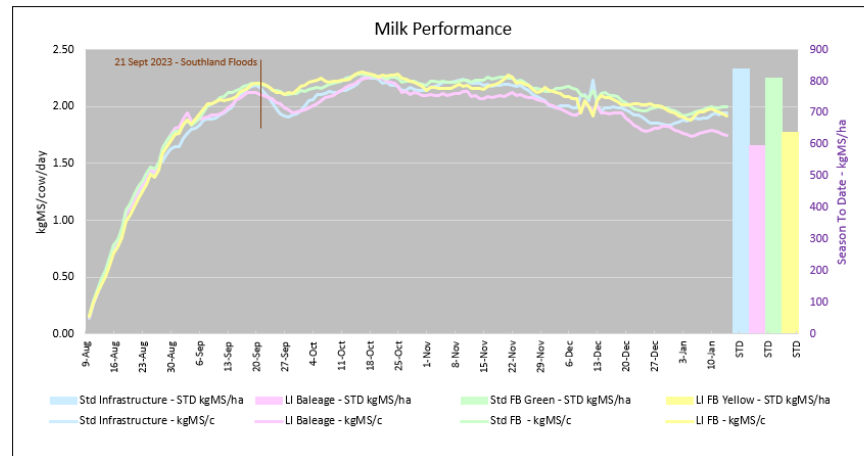


Figure 1. Milksolids per cow/day STD and kgMS/ha STD

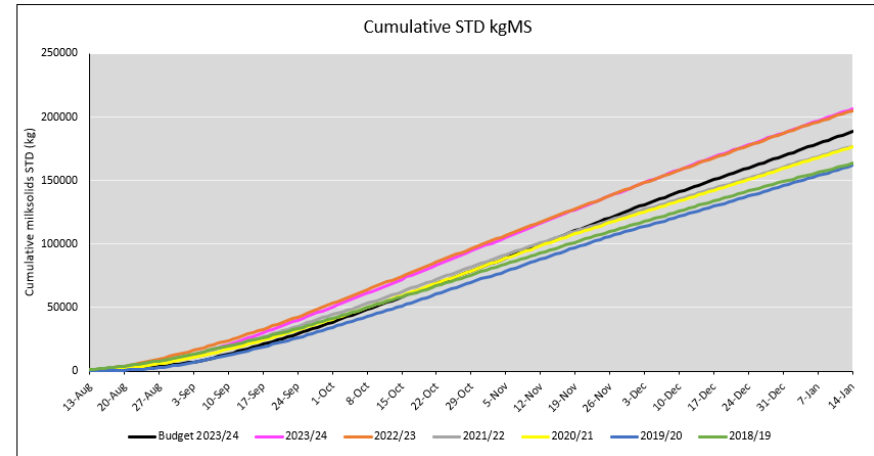


Figure 2. Cumulative kg Milksolids & Budget season to date

Feed Management

Principles of Feed management this week

<p>Feed Quality</p>	<p>The big focus this coming week is getting into the remainder of the new grass paddocks especially those that missed getting a nip off and now have enough for a full grazing. Still a range of pasture quality between paddocks and farmlets and being mindful that we still could have a summer dry, so topping to reset residuals and conservation for baleage are being used. For the standard herds, we can do 2 paddocks each. With the LI Baleage (due to longer round length) as they have more paddocks that need to be tidied up, we could do more than the suggested 1 paddock for LI herds.</p>
<p>Growth Rate</p>	<p>Growth rates for the first three weeks in January have been extreme (36, 94, and 58 kgDM/ha/day) with this week being more in-line with historical averages for the month. With the spray withhold coming off the new grass paddocks and the high GRs experienced last week, we can graze these and get them back into the rotation.</p>
<p>Nitrogen Strategy</p>	<p>The third application of N for the LI farmlets was completed before Christmas and we are currently part way through the 5th application for the standard farmlets. While we continue to have good soil moisture and temperature, we will continue to apply N.</p>

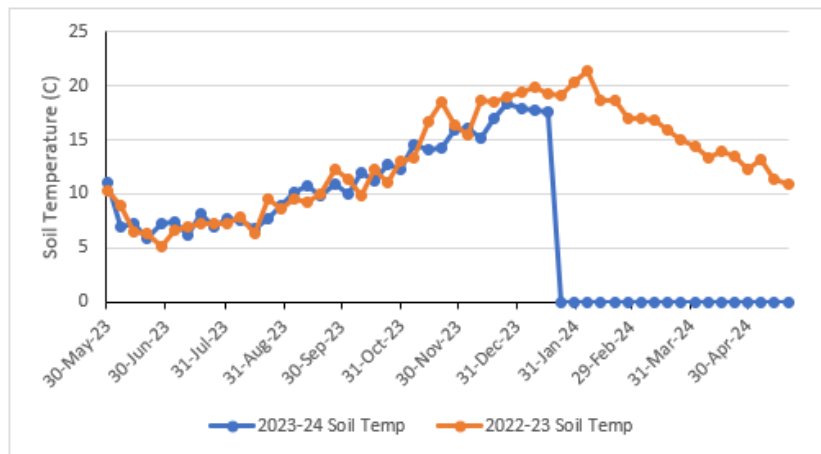


Figure 3. Soil temperatures 2023-24 vs 2022-23

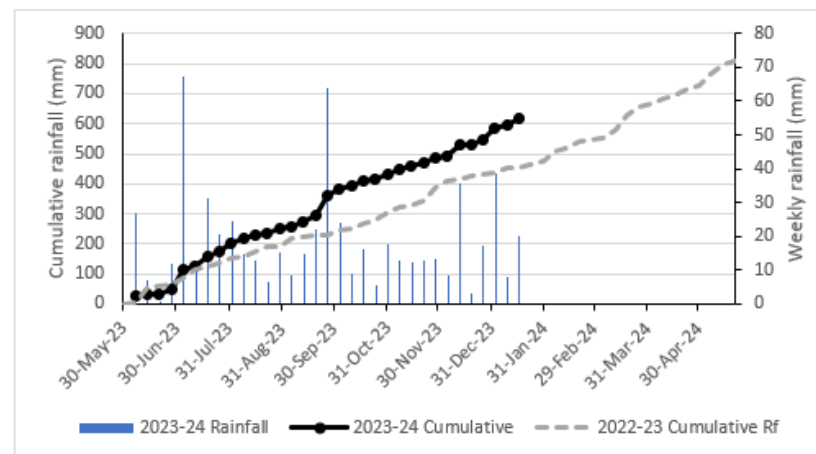
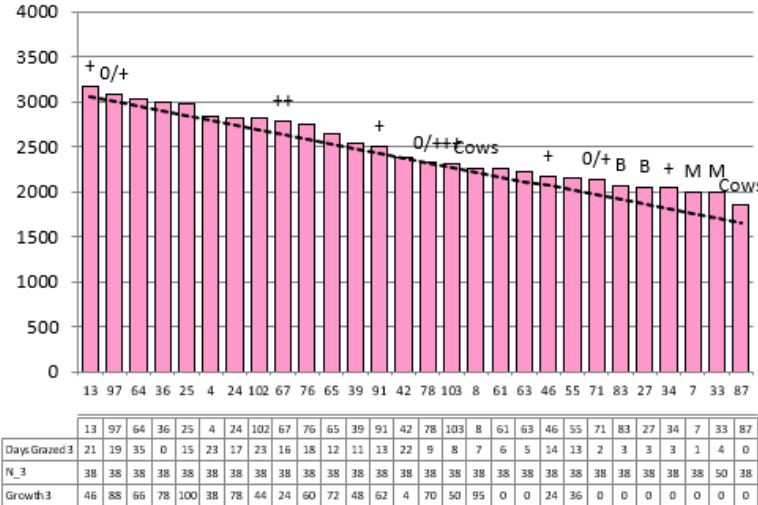


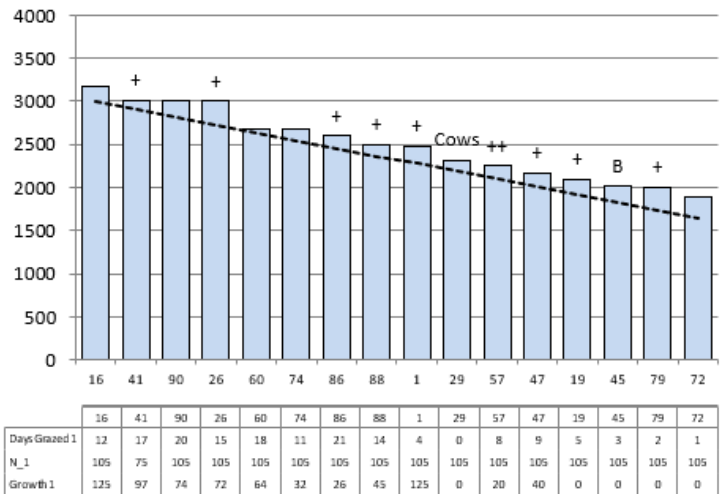
Figure 4. Season to date rainfall compared with cumulative rainfall 2022-23

Feed Wedges

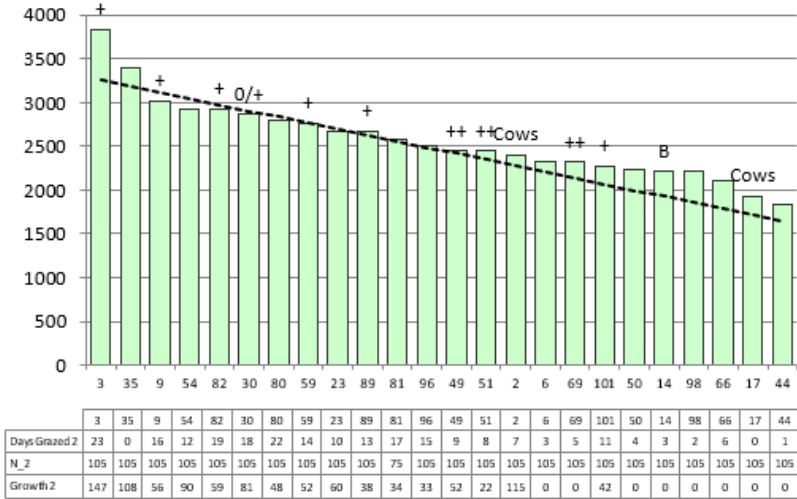
Lower Impact Baleage



Standard Infrastructure



Standard Fodder Beet



Lower Impact Fodder Beet

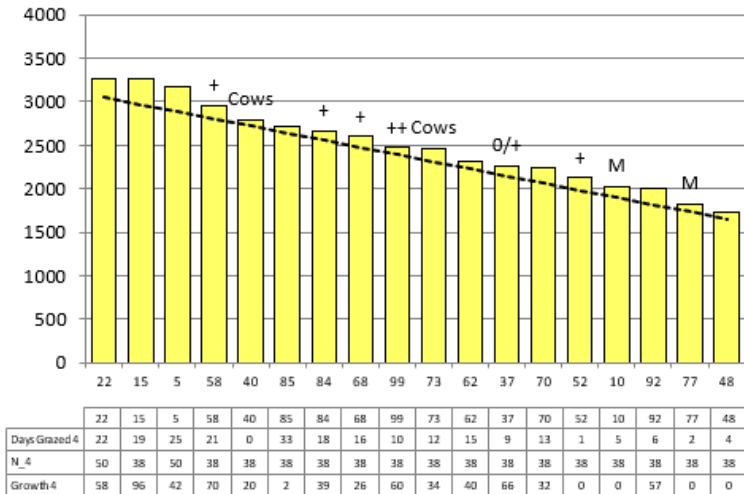


Figure 5. Plate meter feed wedges as at 16th January 2024