

# Weekly Farm Summary 20 April 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)          | 203   | 125          | 199          | 124          |
| Pasture Stocking rate (current)   | 2.8   | 2.3          | 2.7          | 2.3          |
| Winter Feed<br>Milking supplement | Swede/Bale  | Baleage      | Beet 80 days | Beet 60 days |
|                                   | In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required   |              |              |              |
| Average Cover                     | 2315  | 2312         | 2387         | 2333         |
| Average Growth                    | 39  | 41           | 46           | 42           |
| Target rotation length            | 26  | 28           | 27           | 29           |
| Last week act rotation (d)        | 37  | 39           | 40           | 40           |
| Last week supp (kg DM/cow)        | 1.1   | 0.8          | 1.3          | 0.8          |
| Average BCS                       | 4.6   | 4.5          | 4.5          | 4.4          |
| % of herd on priority feeding     | 13%   | 13%          | 17%          | 11%          |
| Milk yield (L/cow)                | 13.1  | 14.3         | 12.0         | 14.8         |
| Milk yield (kgMS/cow)             | 1.51  | 1.67         | 1.41         | 1.69         |
| <b>Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr</b>     | <b>180</b>  | <b>50</b>    | <b>180</b>   | <b>50</b>    |
| % Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD      | 81% (145kg)   | 110% (55kg)  | 84% (151kg)  | 106% (53kg)  |
| Effluent N YTD                    | 16  | 20           | 19           | 18           |
| YTD supp (kg DM/cow)              | 797   | 698          | 704          | 680          |
| YTD MS/cow                        | 429   | 453          | 420          | 450          |
| YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)   | 1292 (1154)   | 1128 (1020)  | 1257 (1122)  | 1103 (998)   |
| <b>Business Area</b>              | <b>Current Status</b>   |              |              |              |
| <b>Milk Production</b>            | Have seen a downward trend in milk production this week, especially in the Std herds. With an increase in lameness and a group of cows that need to put on more than 0.5 BCS before the end of May we are moving to OAD milking for all herds this morning.   |              |              |              |
| <b>Pasture &amp; Feed</b>         | Growth continues to exceed demand but with paddocks being dropped out for baleage wintering and springers we expect things will tighten up quickly. We are lengthening the rotation to approximately 40 days (based on current paddocks in rotation). Increasing in-shed feed to 2 kg/cow/day average and will top up with silage as required. First dry mob will start following milkers to tidy up residuals. |              |              |              |
| <b>Animals</b>                    | All the cows had a catwalk session this week to assess for lameness. This identified 19 cows with early signs of locomotion change and another 3 were picked up as lame. OAD milking will reduce time on laneways and stress on thin soles. The next group of cows will be dried off Monday next week and another group early May depending on BCS gain in the next couple of weeks                             |              |              |              |
| <b>Environment</b>                | Effluent continues to be applied to Std paddocks with the aim of getting the pond down to 30% full by dry off   |              |              |              |
| <b>Wintering</b>                  | Paddock setup and winter grazing plans have been completed for all crop paddocks. 4 m of beet to be lifted from all paddocks to provide space for the herds at the start of grazing. Lifted beet will be used to start transitioning milkers and heifers prior to dry off. Winter baleage made at the support block this week. Calf sheds all set up for calving.   |              |              |              |
| <b>People</b>                     | Interviews completed this week for a farm assistant for next season. Now looking for a calf rearer.   |              |              |              |
| <b>Research</b>                   | In the final stages of detailed design for the wintering infrastructure. Reallocating cows and paddocks in preparation for the 2023-24 season   |              |              |              |

# Milk Production

## Principles of Milk Production management this week

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Milk Production                   | Litres have dropped off a lot in the past few weeks, sitting between 14-16 litres/cow/day, however residuals do not suggest the feed levels are low and causing this drop. The Lower Impact herds are holding higher per cow production due to lower stocking rate. Both LI herds have exceeded 1100kgMS/ha with the standard herds both tracking to do between 1300-1400kgMS/ha by the end of the season. |
| Key Influences on Milk Production | Current production is reflective of stage of lactation. It is declining slowly however there is still good quality feed and a large quantity of it around as we head into May so looking to milk most of the remaining cows through until late May.  |
| Cow Management                    | Due to an increase in lameness cases and an increase in the number of cows needing to put on over 0.5 BCS before dry-off, we are moving to once-a-day milking from today.  |

|   | Std brassica/baleage<br>Pink | LI Baleage<br>Blue | Std Fodder beet<br>Green | LI Fodder beet<br>Yellow |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| kg Milksolids per cow this week / (last week)                           | 1.6 (1.74)                   | 1.91 (1.96)        | 1.69 (1.71)              | 1.84 (1.88)              |
| kg Milksolids per ha this year / (same time last year)                  | 1292 (1154)                  | 1128 (1020)        | 1257 (1122)              | 1103 (998)               |
| % Var kg Milksolids per ha Season per ha to date vs last season to date | 9.2                          | 10.0               | 14.1                     | 13.9                     |
| No. of Cows needing preferential feeding (% herd)                       | 26 (13)                      | 16 (13)            | 34 (17)                  | 14 (11)                  |
| Animal Health peculiarities   | Lameness Increase            | Lameness Increase  | Lameness Increase        | Lameness Increase        |

# Milk Production

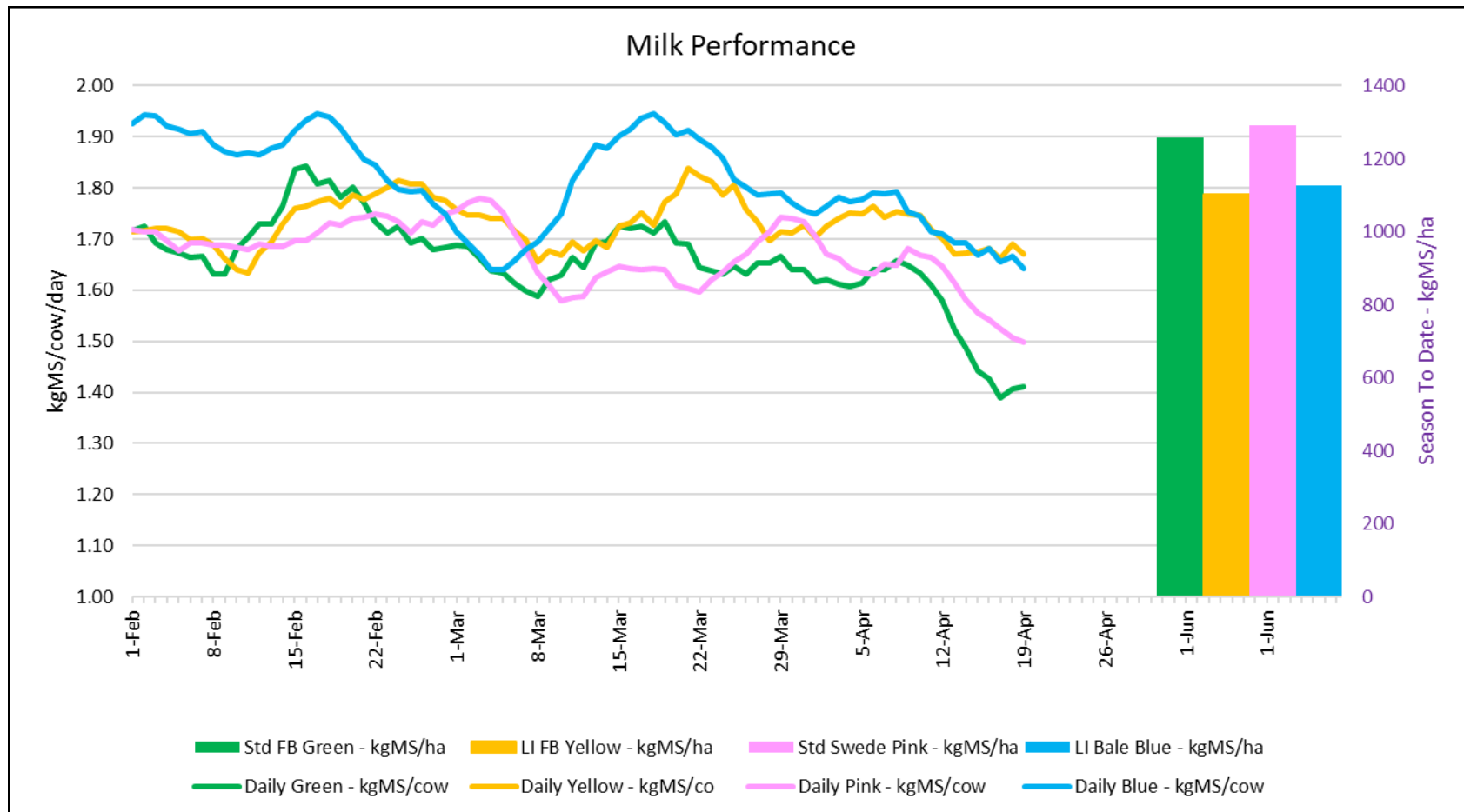


Figure 1: Milk solids production (cow/day) plus cumulative season production (kg/ha) at 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

# Feed

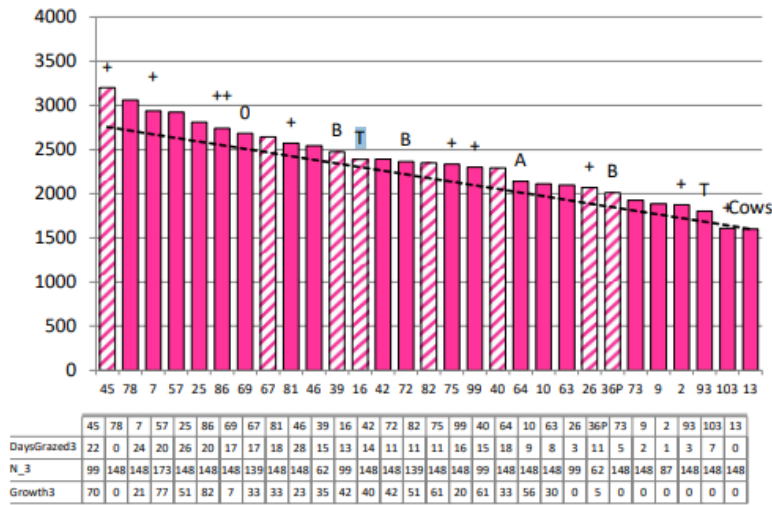
## Principles of Feed management this week

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Feed Quality           | There is still enough quality and quantity on farm to support milk production at this late stage of lactation. Average pasture cover has held in the last week due to favorable weather conditions. Seeing great results in terms of evenness of pasture already from the aeration that was completed a few weeks ago. |
| Growth Rate Management | Still in a period of surplus and trying to manage achieving 1 June APC. Lengthening the rotation with the move to OAD milking so increased supplements will be required over the next week or so. All paddocks required for wintering and springers will be out of the rotation by 1 May.                              |
| Nitrogen Strategy      | Effluent continues to be applied to Std paddocks with the aim of getting the pond down to 30% full by dry off. Currently pond levels are at 38%.   |

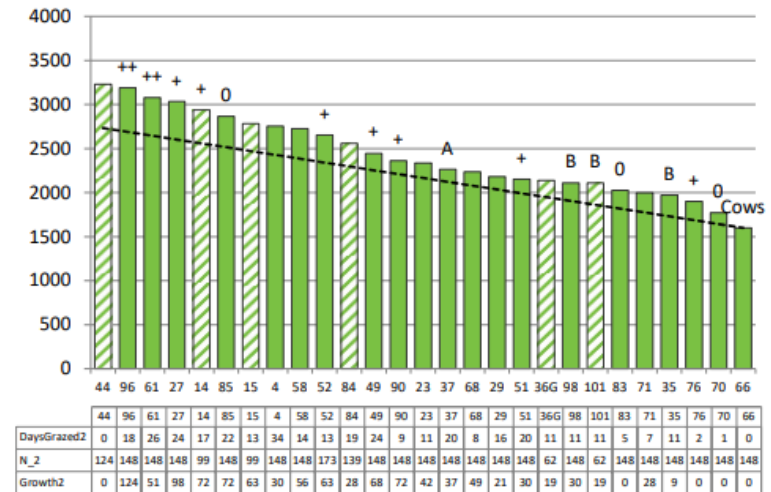
|  | Std brassica/baleage<br>Pink        | LI Baleage<br>Blue                  | Std Fodder beet<br>Green            | LI Fodder beet<br>Yellow            |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Quantity   | APC holding                         | APC holding                         | APC holding                         | APC holding                         |
| Quality  | Maintaining                         | Maintaining                         | Maintaining                         | Maintaining                         |
| Surplus Management                                     | Mowing to slow growth when required | Mowing to slow growth when required | Mowing to slow growth when required | Mowing to slow growth when required |
| Supplement for coming week- kgDM (diff from last week) | 2.0 (0.9)                           | 2.0 (1.1)                           | 2.0 (0.7)                           | 2.0 (1.1)                           |
| Target Rotation Length (days)                          | 40                                  | 55                                  | 40                                  | 55                                  |

# Feed

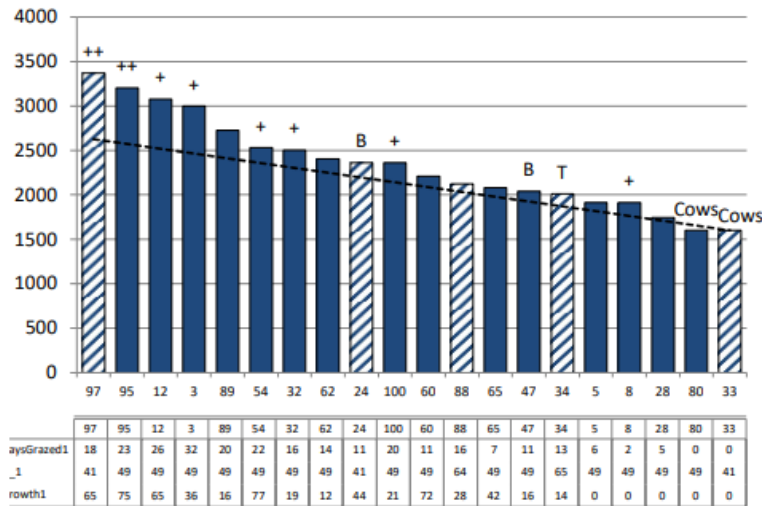
## Standard Brassica/Baleage



## Standard Fodder Beet



## Lower Impact Baleage



## Lower Impact Fodder Beet

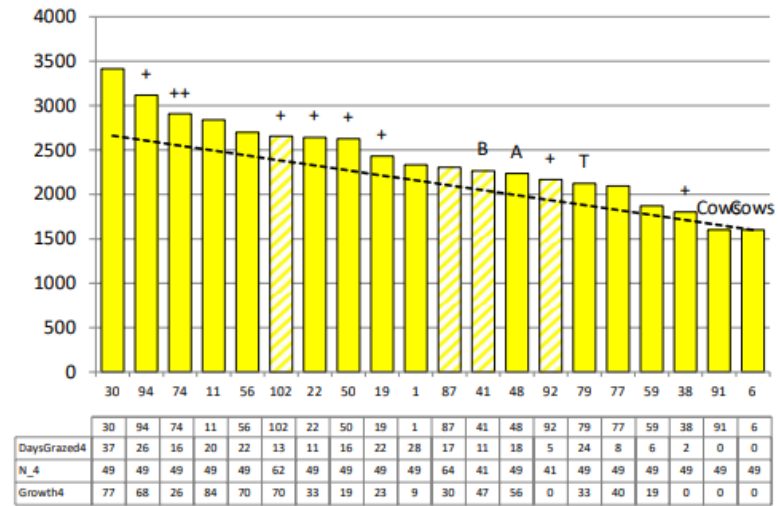


Figure 2: Feed Wedges as of 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

# Feed

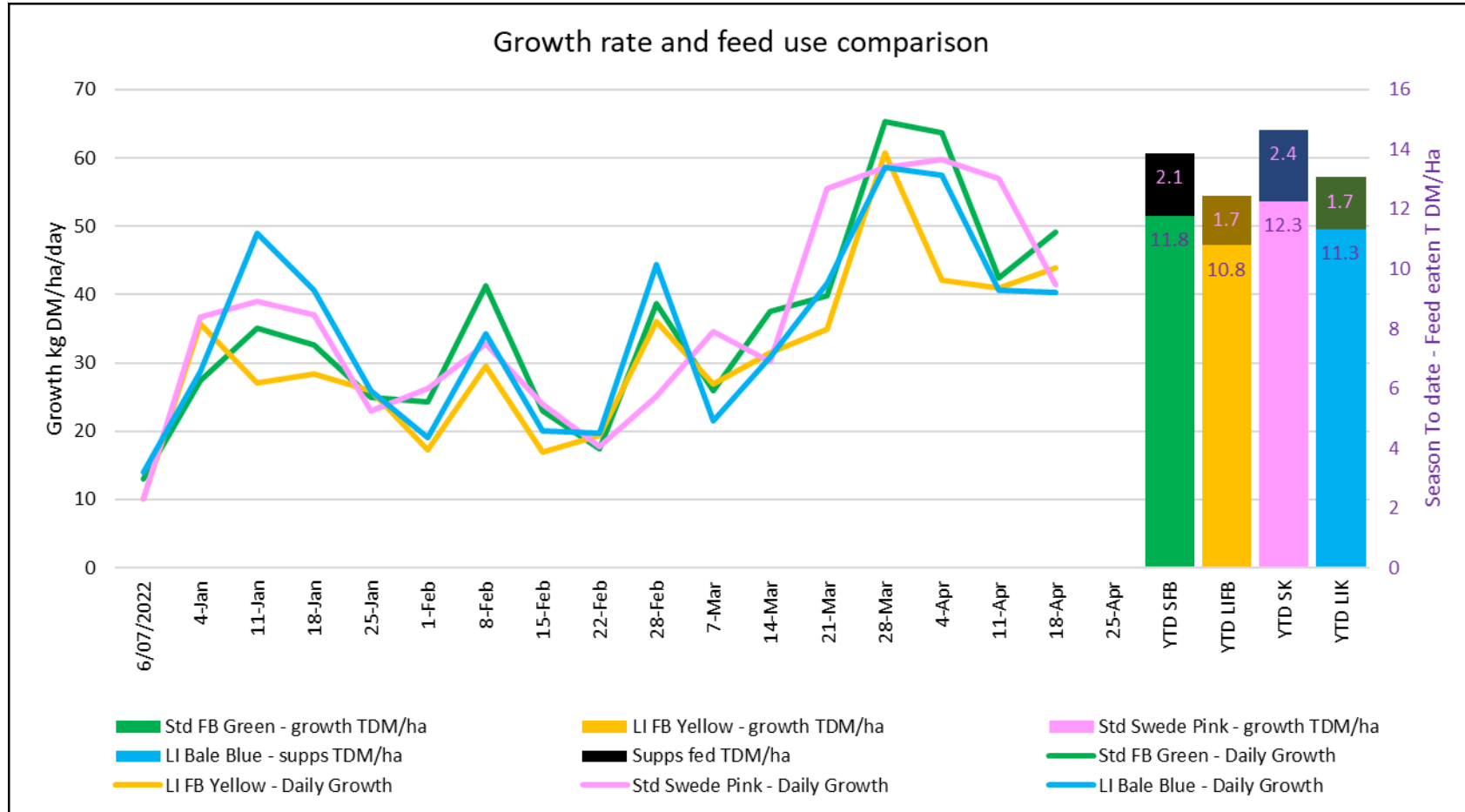


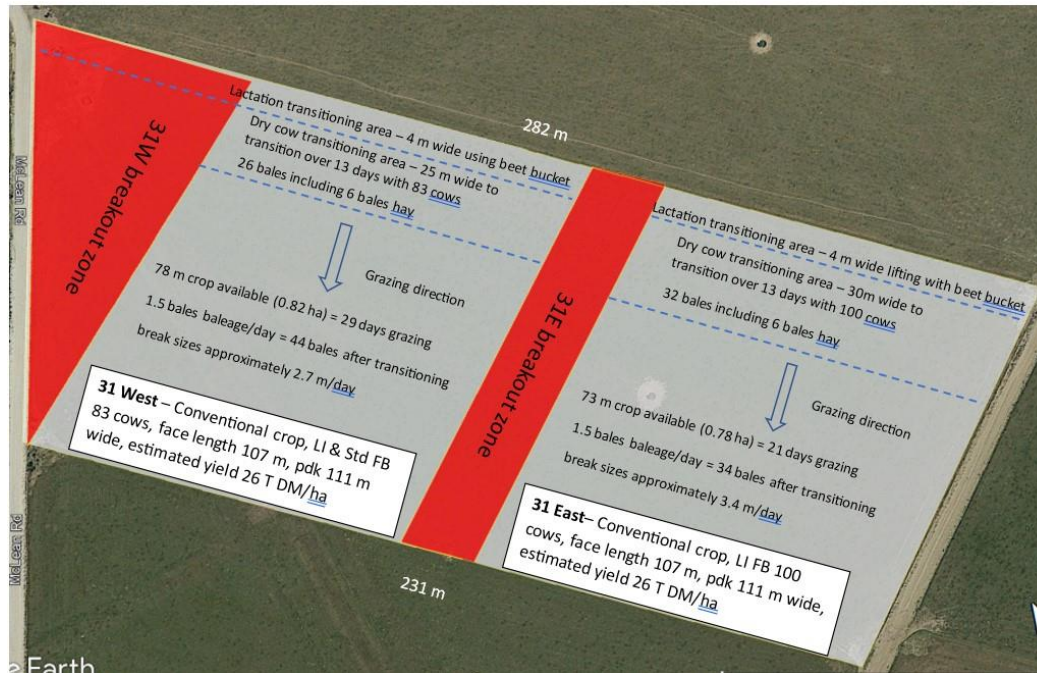
Figure 3: Weekly pasture growth rate at 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and year to date total feed eaten

# Favourite photos for the week



Calf sheds set up and ready for spring; Cow 570 strutting her stuff; applying urine to plantain plots

# Favourite photos for the week



Fodder beet crop setup and grazing plan



Very tidy grazing residual