

Weekly Farm Summary 20 January 2023

Farm-system impacts of: Kale vs Fodder 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)	222	133	215	134
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	3.0	2.4	2.9	2.4
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Swede/Bale	Baleage	Beet 80 days	Beet 60 days
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover	2349	2259	2260	2424
Average Growth	37	41	33	28
Target rotation length	35	33	35	36
Last week act rotation (d)	30	32	29	31
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	3.9	3.0	3.9	3.2
Average BCS	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5
% of herd on priority feeding	6%	4%	3%	2%
Milk yield (L/cow)	19.0	22.0	18.6	20.6
Milk yield (kgMS/cow)	1.72	1.93	1.69	1.84
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	49% (89kg)	60% (30kg)	47% (85kg)	58% (29kg)
Effluent N YTD	11	10	10	9
Profit/ha comp to Control	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	501	334	442	351
YTD MS/cow	288	307	284	303
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	866 (773)	762 (690)	851 (760)	741 (671)

Business Area	Current Status
Milk Production	Production is in a slow decline even through supplement feeding has increased to meet demand. Lower impact herds are still producing more kgMS/ cow than the standard herds due to higher feed allocation due to lower stocking density.
Pasture & Feed	The pasture situation between the herds has diverged this week with the LI FB herd having the best and the Std FB the worst pre-graze pasture masses. Between 2 and 6.5 kg DM of supplementary feed is being fed this week to combat the reduction in growth rates and hold the rotation at 32-35 days. Feed allocation levels remain at 17kgDM for the standard herds and 17.5 kgDM for the lower impact herds.
Animals	Mating has now finished. The Allflex collars have indicated that 16 cows having cycled since the end of mating. 6-week scan booked in for next week. Heifers have been scanned, drenched, and weighed, with an average weight of 364kg. Several new lame cows have been identified and treated this week.
Environment	Effluent applications continue with new grass paddocks receiving an application this week. Effluent applications will pause if pond levels get too low.
Wintering	Controlling weeds in the direct drilled fodder beet has been challenging with this crop currently being a lot weedier than the conventionally drilled FB.
People	With the move to baleage feeding for all herds (spring silage stack finished) the team are working through how to achieve this most efficiently.
Research	First harvest of the Plantain Cultivar evaluation trial completed this week.

Milk Production

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk Production	Production is declining slowly even with the increased use of supplements both in the shed and in paddock. Herd tests have highlighted 3 cows with high SCC that have since been pulled from their herds and are running with sick mob.
Key Influences on Milk Production	The increased supplementary feed has ensured the drop in milk production has been minimized as we move to the slower rotation. Available feed is driving the difference in milk yield between the lower impact and standard herds with higher total daily allocations being achieved in the LI herds.
Cow Management	A change in milking frequency from TAD to 10-7 was considered to help extend the rotation and take the pressure off the cows, however we are holding off on this due to the impact it would have on the Heat stress trial which is planned for late January/early February. A cull list is being collated and we will take all opportunities available to reduce demand by culling cows who we don't want next season. This will be made easier once we have the first scan results next week.

	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
kg Milksolids per cow this week / (last week)	1.72 (1.9)	1.93 (2.01)	1.69 (1.94)	1.84 (1.94)
kg Milksolids per ha this year / (same time last year)	866 (773)	762 (690)	851 (760)	741 (671)
% Var kg Milksolids per ha Season per ha to date vs last season to date	9.8	8.7	14.7	12.3
No. of Cows needing preferential feeding (% herd)	13 (6)	5 (4)	6 (3)	3 (2)
Animal Health peculiarities	None	None	None	None

Milk Production

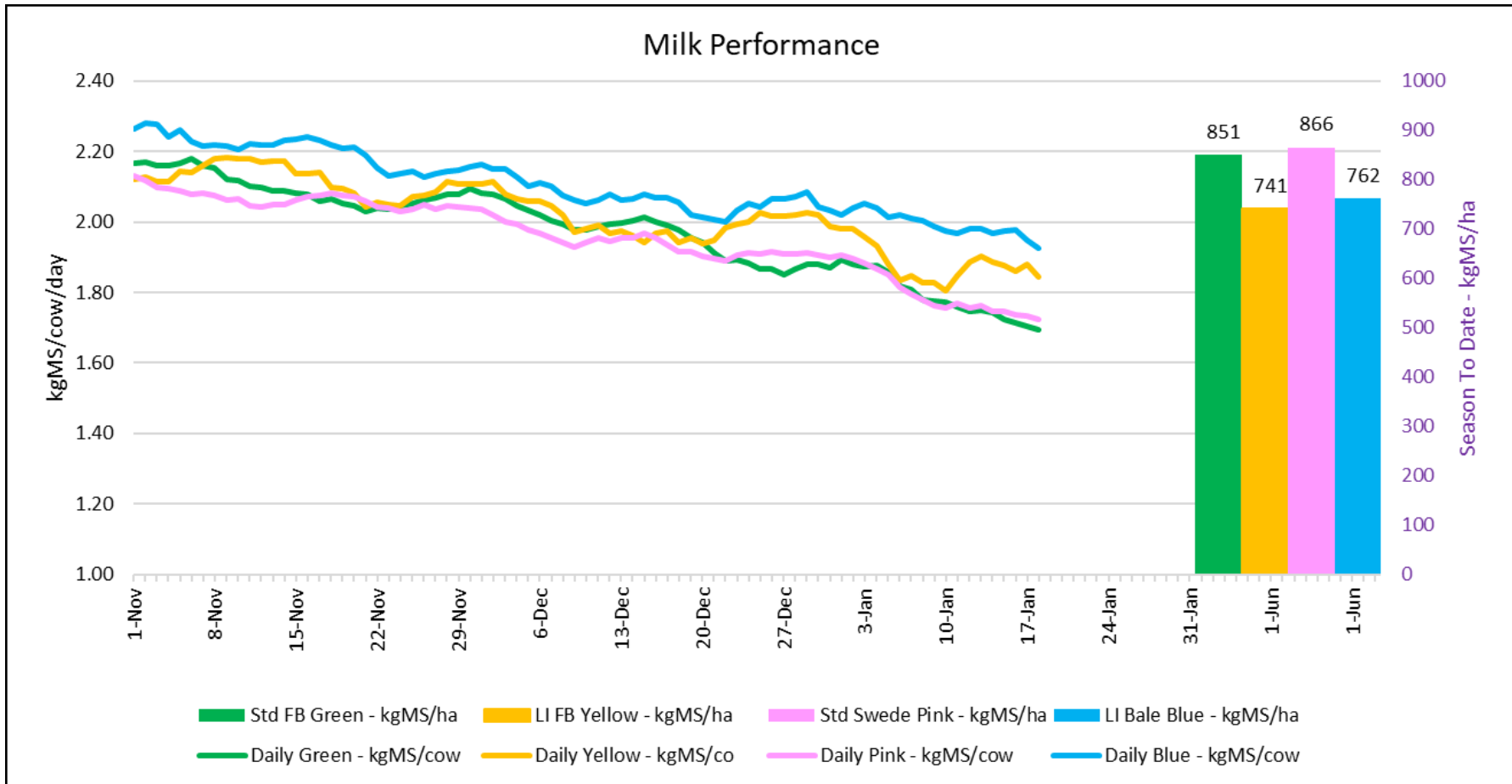


Figure 1: Milk solids production (/cow/day) plus cumulative season production (kg/ha)

Feed

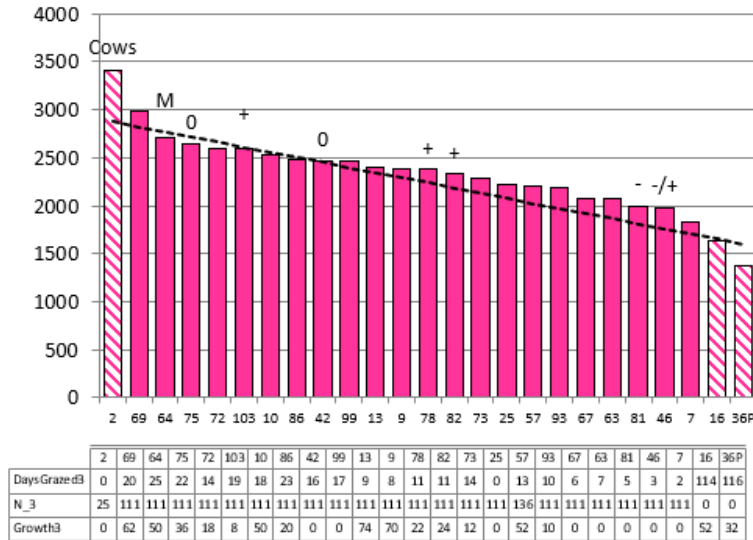
Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	As mentioned last week, DM% in the pastures are up with samples collected last week averaging 23.8% with an average crude protein of 18.7%, ME of 11.1 MJ and fibre of 45.8%. Several paddocks still have significant dead matter in the base which will be overestimating the available pasture for those paddocks.
Growth Rate Management	Continued movement towards longer rotation with targets listed below. Growth last week was below demand for all herds but especially the LI FB herd whose growth. Both in-shed and in paddock supplements are going into all herds, however we are trying to balance the cost of in-shed feed with the logistics of feeding up to 4 bales of baleage per day to each of the 4 herds.
Nitrogen Strategy	Nitrogen applications continue to be on hold until weather conditions are sufficient to achieve good growth responses. Effluent continues to be applied and has gone on to several new grass paddocks this week. However, if effluent pond levels reduce below 30% capacity, effluent applications will also be paused as below this level impacts on the operation of the green wash in the yard. (Pond level sitting at 39%)

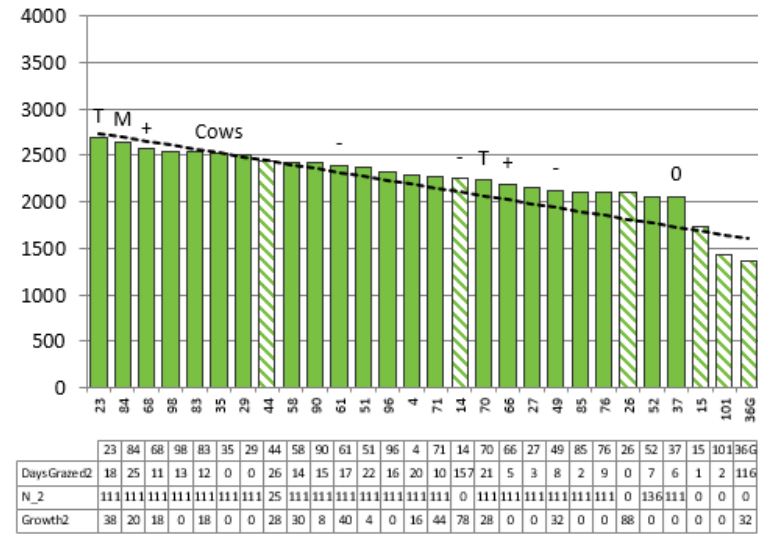
	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
Quantity	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
Quality	Very dry in base, with increasing number of urine patches	Very dry in base, with increasing number of urine patches	Very dry in base, with increasing number of urine patches	Very dry in base, with increasing number of urine patches
Surplus Management	None	None	None	None
Deficit Management for coming week- kgDM (diff from last week)	6.5 (+2.6)	6.5 (+3.5)	6 (+2.1)	2 (-1.2)
Target Rotation Length (days)	35	33	35	36

Feed

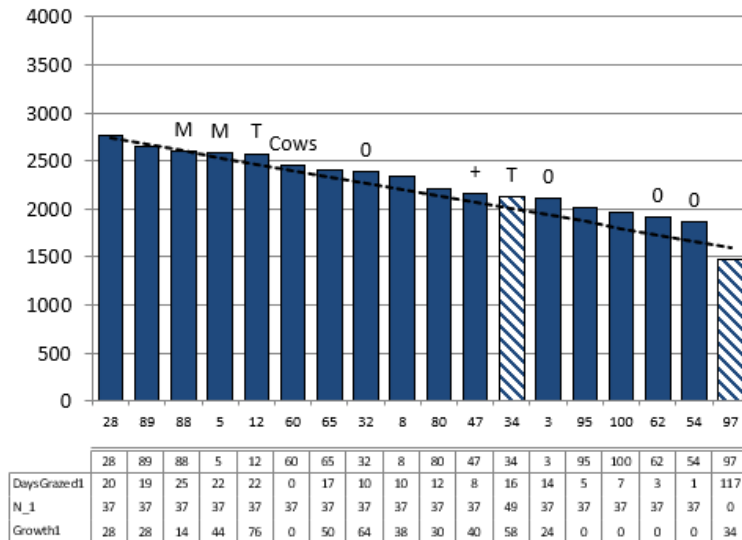
Standard Brassica/Baleage



Standard Fodder Beet



Lower Impact Baleage



Lower Impact Fodder Beet

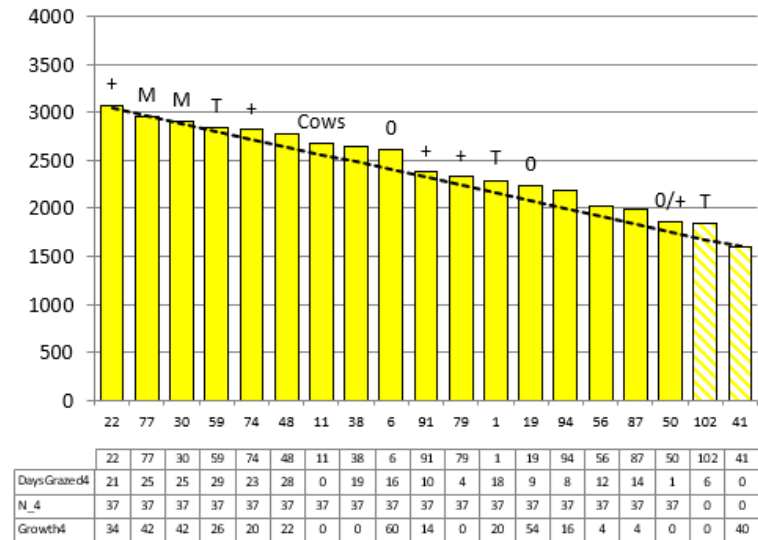


Figure 4: Feed Wedges as of 17th January 2023

Feed

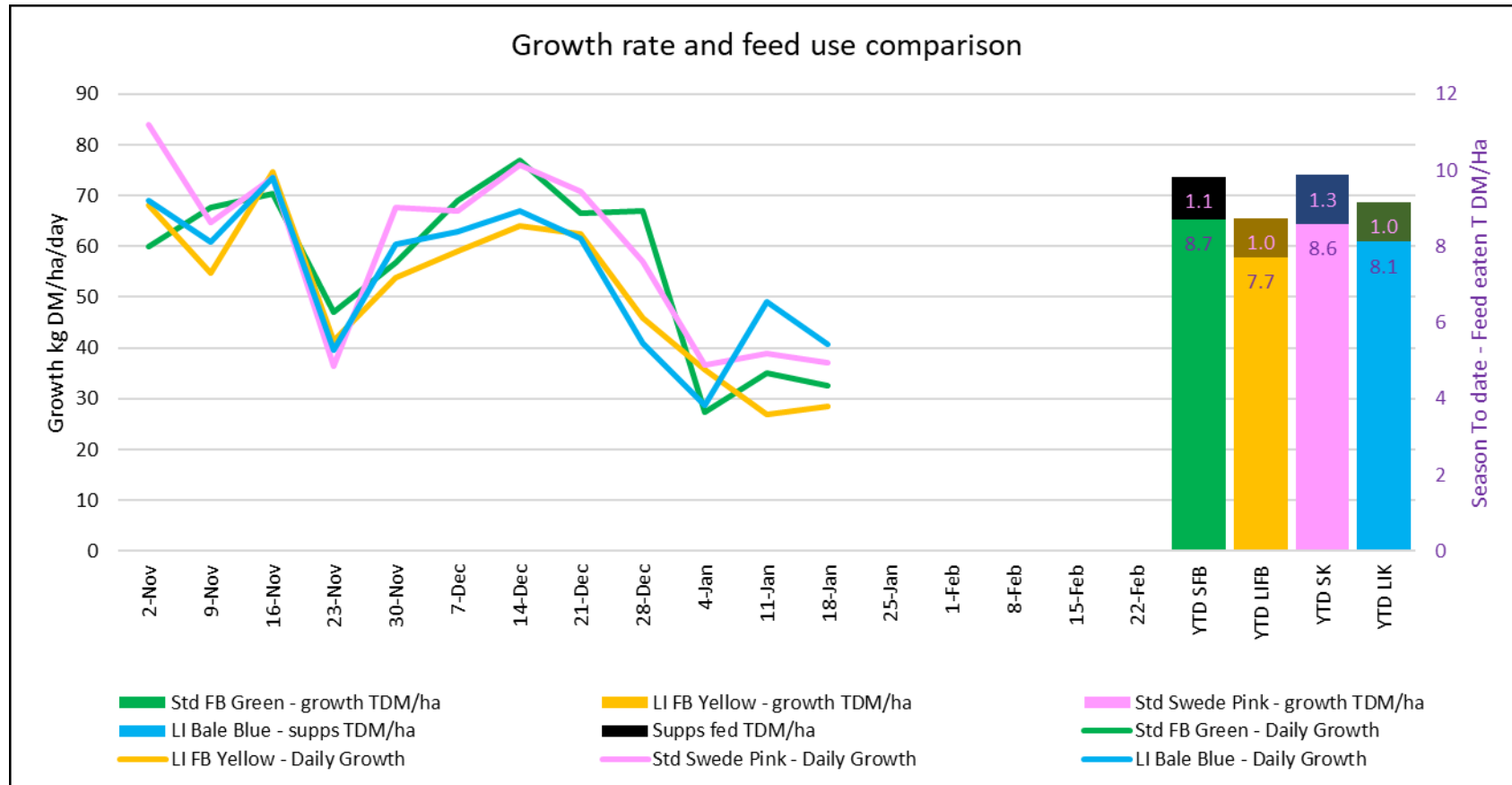


Figure 5: Weekly growth rate (kgDM/ha/d) & YTD feed use

Heifers



Figure 6: Heifers sure have some great views from their grazing block. Just returning to the paddock after scanning, weighing, and drenching