

Weekly Farm Summary 24 February 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)	210	125	209	130
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.8	2.3	2.8	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	2188	2243	2257	2256
Average Growth	18	20	17	19
Target rotation length	39	37	39	38
Last week act rotation (d)	36	41	37	35
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	6.9	5.2	6.0	5.5
Average BCS	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4
% of herd on priority feeding	15%	9%	18%	14%
Milk yield (L/cow)	17.7	18.7	17.1	17.6
Milk yield (kgMS/cow)	1.71	1.86	1.78	1.78
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	58% (104kg)	72% (36kg)	58% (104kg)	74% (37kg)
Effluent N YTD	11	10	10	9
YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
YTD MS/cow	762	488	678	482
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	346	368	341	362

Business Area	Current Status
Milk Production	The continuing heat challenged milk production this week, however it has remained stable on 3-2 regime.
Pasture & Feed	Pre-graze pastures are becoming more consistent and are certainly looking better quality as a result of over 20mm of rain this week. Rotation length to remain the same, however baleage will be pulled from the system with the summer cut silage stack being opened this week.
Animals	Final scan to be completed this week then final cull lists will be compiled. Predicting a significant range in not-in-calf rates based on collar data coming through and the variance in 6-week scan data.
Environment	Effluent pond is being maintained at minimum levels with applications going onto new grasses where possible. No nitrogen to be applied when soil and weather conditions won't see N converted efficiently into pasture growth.
Wintering	1/3 of winter supplements have arrived on farm with the remainder due in the coming weeks. Fodder beet crops are looking great with the moisture over the past 10 days, these will be sprayed with a fungal spray to ensure maximum yield.
People	Nicole H has finished up as one of our technicians as she starts her PhD.
Research	No updates as usual tasks are keeping the team very busy!

Milk Production

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk Production	At a herd level, milk production has been stable this week. However poorer quality paddocks continue to reflect in milk volume compared to newer paddocks.
Key Influences on Milk Production	With new growth in the system after the rain, fluctuations should decrease as pasture quality increases. LI Baleage (Blue) herd have come back significantly compared to the other herd but seems to be a direct link to having more older pastures in their round this week.
Cow Management	Herd testing is booked in for next week and with the 3-2 milking, the samples will be taken on the 2 longer window milking i.e Thursday and Friday mornings to get an accurate measure. Any cows with over 500,000 SCC will be individually sampled and culled accordingly.

	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
kg Milksolids per cow this week / (last week)	1.71 (1.74)	1.86 (1.96)	1.78 (1.71)	1.78 (1.88)
kg Milksolids per ha this year / (same time last year)	1041 (929)	915 (828)	1020 (911)	887 (802)
% Var kg Milksolids per ha Season per ha to date vs last season to date	8.0	7.3	13.2	10.3
No. of Cows needing preferential feeding (% herd)	31 (15)	12 (9)	37 (18)	18 (14)
Animal Health peculiarities	None	None	None	None

Milk Production

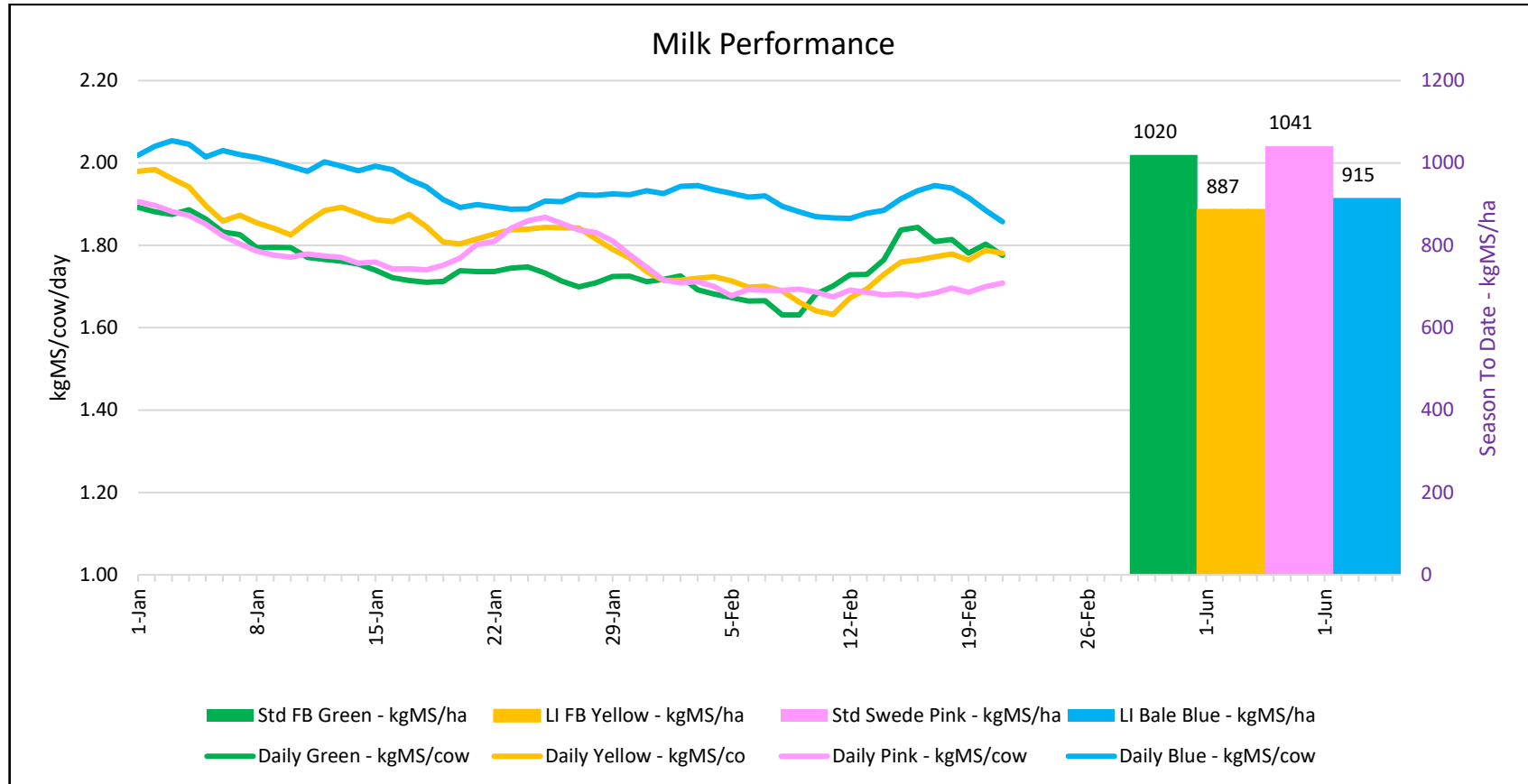


Figure 1: Milk solids production (/cow/day) plus cumulative season production (kg/ha)

Feed

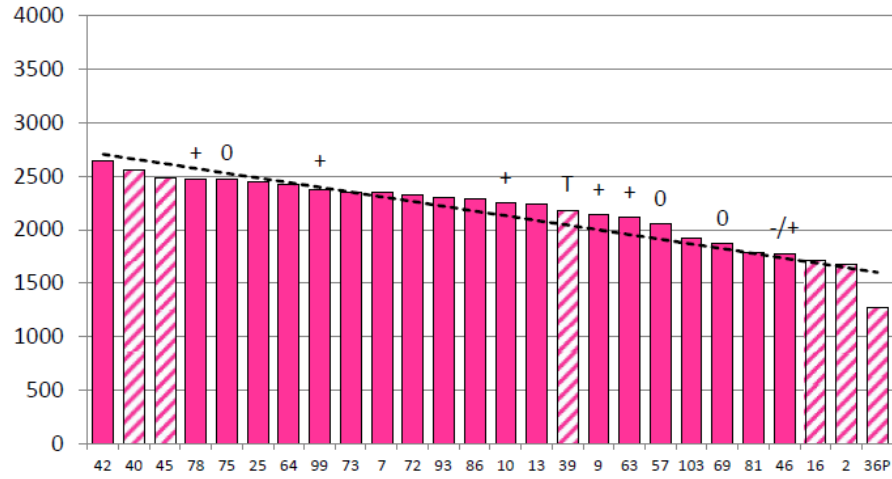
Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	All covers have come up with the rain over the past few days, however growth is still below demand. Second year pastures are noticeably struggling with the dry and lack of N, however these are yet to be aerated. DM of older paddocks siting between 25-30% so a lot less palatable (hence the reflection in milk production).
Growth Rate Management	Round length to remain the same so supplements still being used to make up target intakes. In-shed feed remains at 2.5kg/cow/day. This will stay at this rate until grass returns to a level that intake can be met with pasture only.
Nitrogen Strategy	Soil moisture levels still too low to get efficient nitrogen conversion so applications still on hold. Hopeful to get a window before 10 th April.

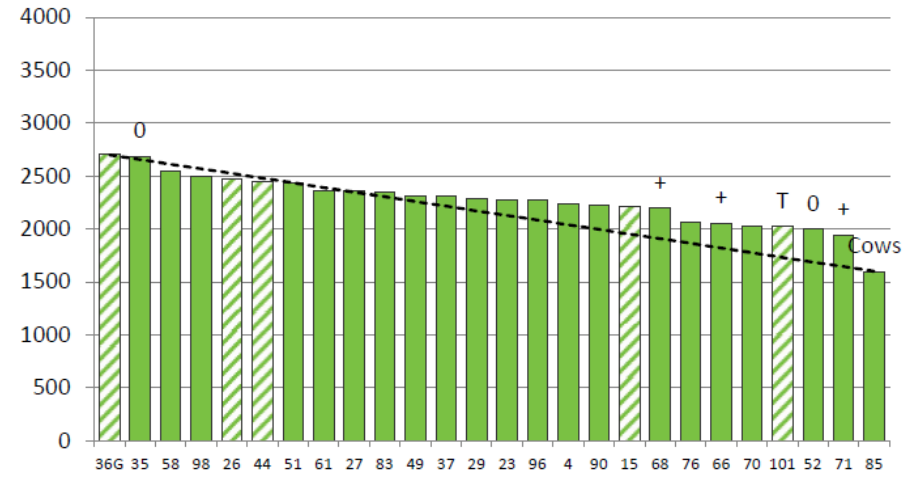
	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
Quantity	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
Quality	DM high with low moisture	DM high with low moisture	DM high with low moisture	DM high with low moisture
Surplus Management	None	None	None	None
Deficit Management for coming week- kgDM (diff from last week)	6.4 (-0.6)	3.1 (-2.1)	6.6 (0.6)	5.3 (-0.2)
Target Rotation Length (days)	39	37	39	38

Feed

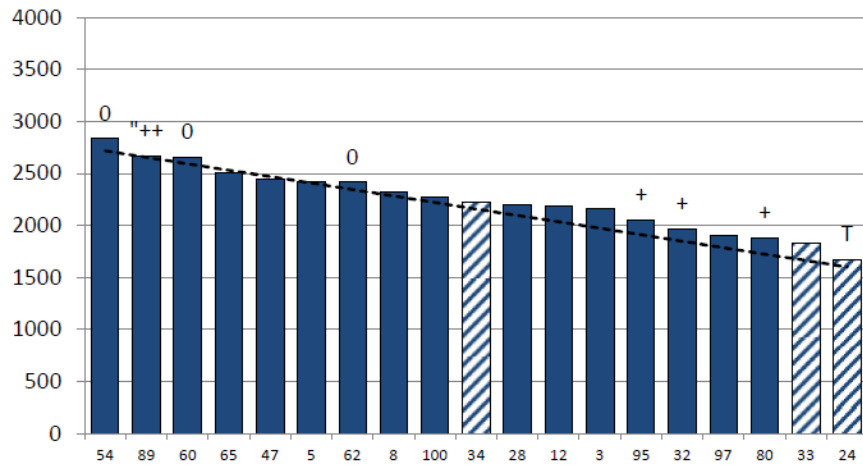
Standard Brassica/Baleage



Standard Fodder Beet



Lower Impact Baleage



Lower Impact Fodder Beet

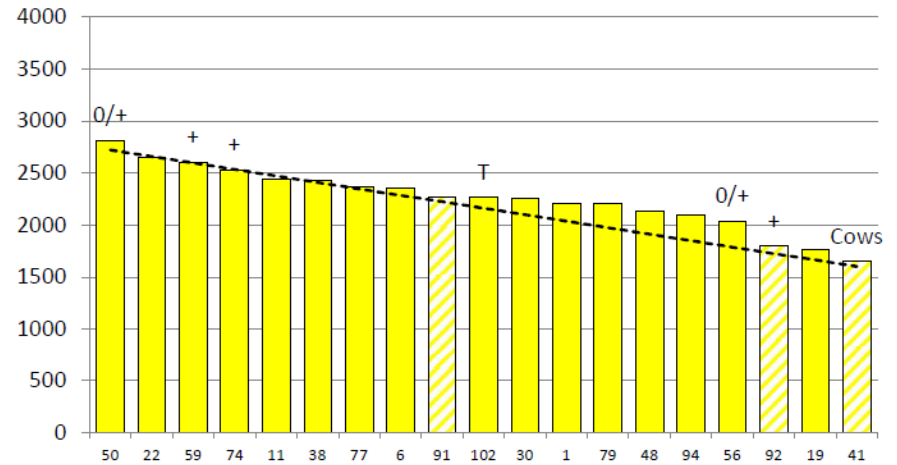


Figure 2: Feed Wedges as of 21st February

Feed

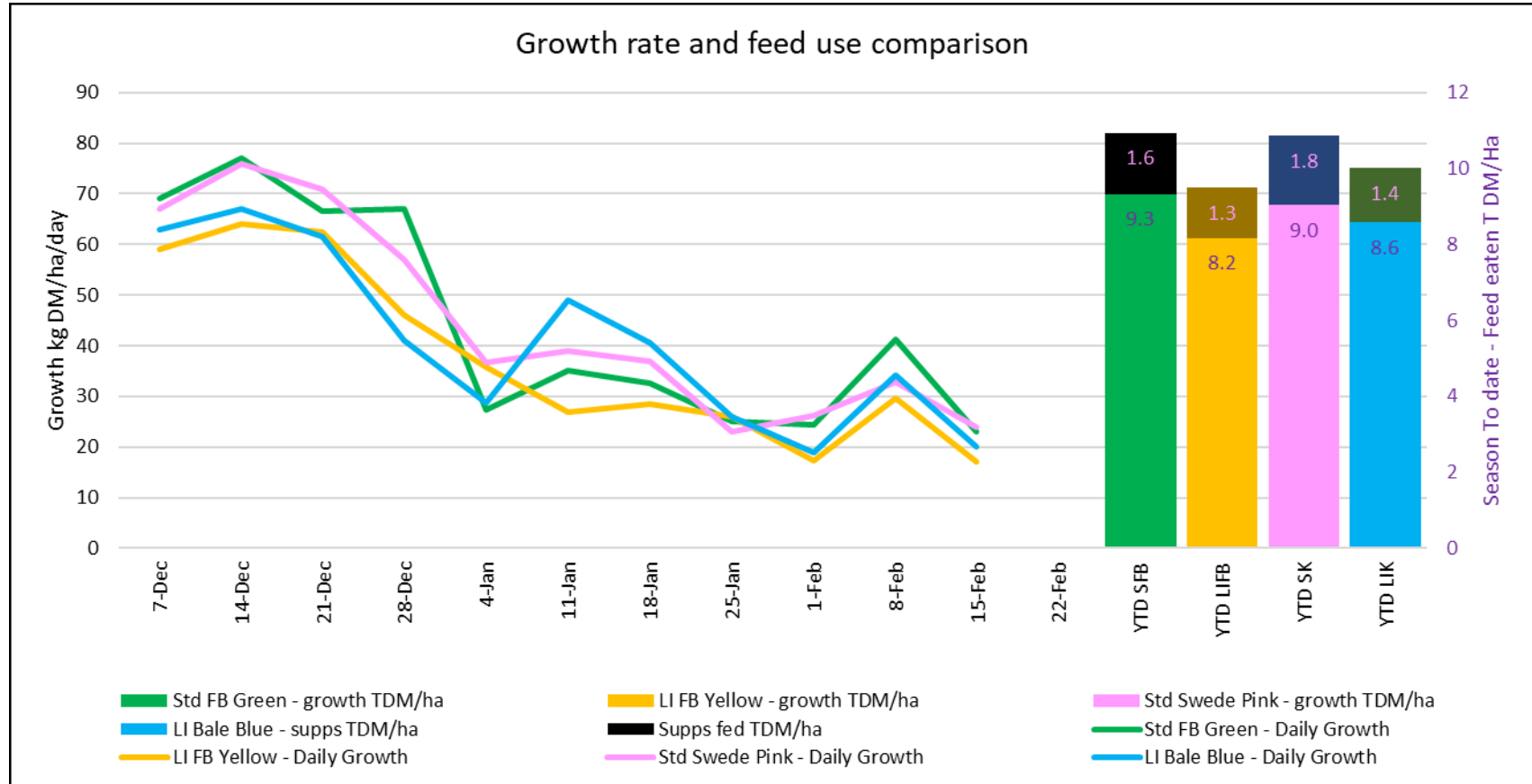


Figure 3: Weekly pasture growth rate and year to date total feed eaten