

Weekly Farm Summary 23 August 2023

Farm-system impacts of: Bales vs Beet for winter AND Reducing N loss to water by 30%.

	Std Infrastructure Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std FB Green	LI FB Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	79.0	60.9	86.9	60.8
Peak cow numbers	218	141	243	141
Milking Area	73.2	49.3	69.5	52.1
Current Herd size (cows)	215	141	239	137
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.9	2.9	3.4	2.6
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover (kgDM/ha)	2638	2579	2520	2564
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	29	24	23	26
Target rotation length (d)	35	35	35	35
Last week actual rotation (d)	68	62	110	67
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5
Latest Average BCS	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.2
% less than BCS 5	18%	9%	7%	7%
% in Milk	54%	54%	51%	58%
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	0%	0%	0%	0%
Effluent N YTD	0	0	1	0
YTD supp (kg DM/c)	7	5	8	6
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	22 (20)	21 (17)	25 (20)	21 (18)
Business Area	Current Status			
Milk Production	As expected, the number of cows being milked into the vat continues to grow and as of Saturday the milkers have been on TAD and this is being reflected in milk production lifting accordingly. SCC is ranging between 106-176 for the past week with majority of pickups in the low 100's which is lower than this time last season. Milking into both vats as of Tuesday 22 nd now that we have separate fodder beet and baleage wintered mobs.			
Pasture & Feed	Growth rates are between 23-29kgDM/ha across the farmlets and its evident looking across the farm growth is steady. Cows are currently being offered 17kgDM pasture and 1kgDM in-shed feed. With the springer area getting tight, pasture allocations area being reduced and baleage levels lifted with 10kg DM total being offered. Still above the spring rotation planner for APC and under the area offered to date giving the ability to offer more pasture if residuals are being met.			
Animals	As of today we have hit 400 cows calved and now well over half way! Of the 400 calved, 60% are from the Standard systems (Pink and Green) and 40% are from the lower impact farmlets (Blue and Yellow). BCS from this week is showing a range in average across the milkers between 4.9-5.0, with preferential feeding to start to lighter conditioned cows (less than BCS 4) and 2-3 year-olds (less than BCS 5).			
Environment	Soil test results have come back so fertiliser plans will be finalised over the next 2 weeks.			
Wintering	All cows are now off crop so plans are being made around regrassing or cropping depending on next winters crop plans.			
People	The team are still enjoying the 7-3 roster and sleep in every 2-3 days. With the complexities of the farm system, having a team that is fresh for the next month or so is vital! Thanks team, for a fabulous job done so far this calving.			
Research	Applications are open for the vacant research technician role currently available at SDH.			

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk production	With the shift to TAD and more cows in the vat as mentioned above, production is lifting. As of Tuesday 22 nd , both vats are now being utilized so monitoring of production compared to farmlet type will resume. SCC has been relatively settled after the move to TAD and has been as low as 106,000.
Key Influences of Milk Production	There is large range in feed quality coming through the wedge this week which could impact production potential, however residuals are being met and will ensure the second rounds quality will amplify production. To minimise the impact on individual herds we are using the bigger combined mobs to eat out the very high mass paddocks before we split into farmlets. To maximise milk production and manage BCS, the team have been challenged with ensuring residuals are between 1650-1700kgDM/ha. With mob sizes changing constantly this will require proactive management and moving cows on when they are getting close to residual.
Cow Management	The first herd test of the season is booked in for next week. Body condition score has not dropped off as much post calving as it has in previous seasons. Cows marked for priority feeding due to current BCS will be fed an additional 2kg in-shed. All cows calving will remain on OAD for 14 days with the Delpro system being utilized to set Do Not Milk alerts in the afternoon until their 14 days are up. There are current 138 cows on OAD so the milk volumes will increase significantly in the next 4 days as these girls cycle onto TAD.

Table 1: Cows calved to date - predicted vs actual

	Std infrastructure Predicted	Std Infrastructure Actual	LI Baleage Predicted	LI Baleage Actual	Std FB Predicted	Std FB Actual	LI FB Predicted	LI FB Actual	Total Predicted	Total Actual
8 August	19	27	7	14	18	29	12	20	56	91
15 August	72	66	52	48	77	77	55	48	256	239
22 August	127	117	78	76	132	123	84	79	421	395

Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	Pasture quality for the milkers will be variable for the next week as we continue to make our way through the high mass paddocks. Due to springer paddock availability being limited, the pasture amounts offered are being reduced to 3kg and baleage amounts lifted to 7kg per cow per day, however if weather conditions worsen we will need to utilize more pasture area. Residual targets have been lifted to 1650 kg DM to make sure we are maximizing the energy intake potential of the herds and minimizing the amount of poorer quality pasture from the base of the sward that they are eating.
Growth Rate	Growth rates are lifting as the soil temperatures and weather conditions improve. Visible growth being seen in post grazed paddocks already. Above target growth rates are adding to the high APC we are seeing across the farm which is 2-300kgDM/ha higher than budget. We also have 'spare' area in our SRP that we can utilize if conditions get wet and utilization decreases. There is the ability to increase pasture allocations to the milkers to try to move through paddocks quicker, however this will only be done so if residuals are still met across all herds.
Nitrogen Strategy	N applications are yet to start, however the targets of 50 kgN/ha/annum and 180 kgN/ha/annum will remain in place for the new farm systems trial that is underway this year. Planning with our fertilizer rep is booked in and we will be utilising soil test results to optimize applications especially with the added cost pressures this season is bringing.



Figure 1: Springers being supplemented well with baleage



Figure 2: Fields of green gold!