

# Weekly Farm Summary 24 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	52.2	93.6	86.9	60.8
Peak cow numbers	139	208	233	136
Milking Area	52.2	93.6	75.3	55.0
Current Herd size (cows)	139	208	231	136
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.7	2.2	3.1	2.5
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover (kgDM/ha)	2694	2602	2529	2591
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	79	53	53	57
Target rotation length (d)	24	30	26	29
Last week actual rotation (d)	25	30	26	32
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.6
Latest Average BCS	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.6
% of herd on priority management	20.1%	32.2%	30.7%	28.1%
% in Milk	100%	100%	100%	100%
7-day Average Milk yield (L/cow)	19.6	18.8	21.3	20.4
7-day Average Milk yield (kgMS/c)	1.83	1.75	1.99	1.91
<b>Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	57% (102kg)	66% (33kg)	60% (108kg)	74% (37kg)
Effluent N YTD	8	12	12	10
YTD Pasture growth TDM/ha	9.5	8.4	8.1	8.6
YTD supp (kg DM/c)	391	341	490	379
YTD MS/c	304	292	321	307
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	922 (976)	767 (767)	1100 (953)	750 (679)
<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Current Status</b>			
<b>Milk Production</b>	Milk production is remaining relatively stable and is now 1% (2000 kg MS) ahead season to date compared with last year so we are happy with how the cows are tracking. We have seen a jump in milk urea concentration for all herds since we started grazing the new grass paddocks. Whereas they were around 18-20 previously we have had pickups as high as 31 in the last couple of weeks.			
<b>Pasture &amp; Feed</b>	Growth is above demand, so paddocks have been dropped for conservation from all farmlets. The challenge now is getting a suitable weather window to get it cut and baled. The last of the new grass paddocks will be grazed this week, weather permitting. The latest pasture results (up to first week January) indicate that DM% has dropped 1-2% units, ME, crude protein, and carbohydrates & sugars have increased while fibre has dropped. We are expecting higher crude protein from the samples being collected now based on milk urea's. There is less dead in the swards and more leaf.			
<b>Animals</b>	To help address the ongoing lameness we have been experiencing biotin will be added to our inline mineral mix at 20 mg/cow/day. Based on BCS results this week we have been able to reduce the number of cows on priority feeding and have identified a group of high BCS and low producing animals that will not receive inshed feed.			
<b>Environment</b>	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.			
<b>Wintering</b>	With the good growing conditions, we have noticed the weeds starting to take hold. These will be sprayed using the helicopter to avoid damaging bulbs by using the bulky. Based on the later establishment and slower start to the season we are expecting yields to be back on those achieved last year. Italian paddocks that have been nipped off will be conserved for winter baleage until being shut for wintering			
<b>People</b>	The farm team are being kept on their toes reassessing pre graze pasture mass before each herd goes into the paddock to minimise topping as things on farm are changing so quickly.			
<b>Research</b>	Next week we are hosting a group of visitors from Teagasc, an Irish research organisation.			

# Milk production

## Principles of Milk Production management this week

<p><b>Milk production</b></p>	<p>Despite our best efforts with feeding management, we have been unable to restore milk production in the LI Baleage to similar levels as the other herds, but we have stopped the decline. With this herd having the most new grass paddocks back in their rotation there is still opportunity for their production to improve. Interestingly this herd has the most cows on preferential feeding for low BCS so the mating results will be interesting. On average the cows are doing 0.1 kg MS/day more than the same time last year, mainly driven by a higher volume.</p>
<p><b>Key Influences of Milk Production</b></p>	<p>Seed head is still emerging in the mid/late season cultivars and weed grasses across the farm but we are getting on top of this with strategic conservation and topping. Visually pasture quality across the farm has improved significantly in the last couple of weeks and with the new grasses back in the round we are in a good position to maintain our current milk production. Ensuring cows are going into the right pre-graze mass will be critical if we are to maintain quality into the next round</p>
<p><b>Cow Management</b></p>	<p>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. There are now a group of high BCS (5.5 or greater) that are not getting any inshed feed.</p>

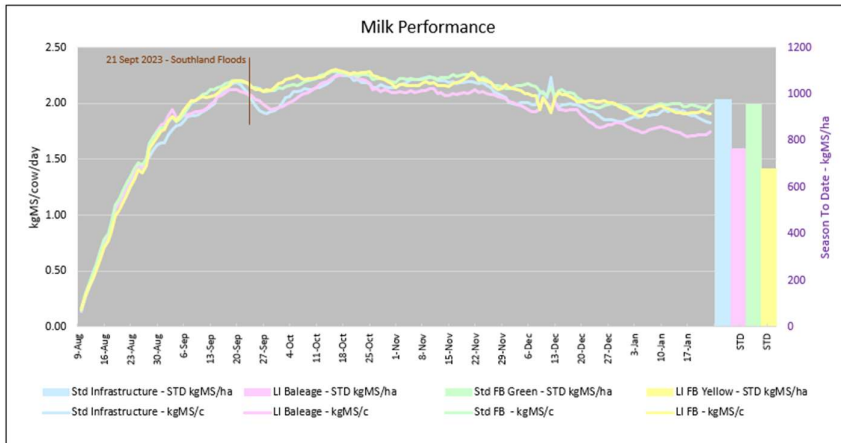


Figure 1. Milksolids per cow/day STD and kgMS/ha STD

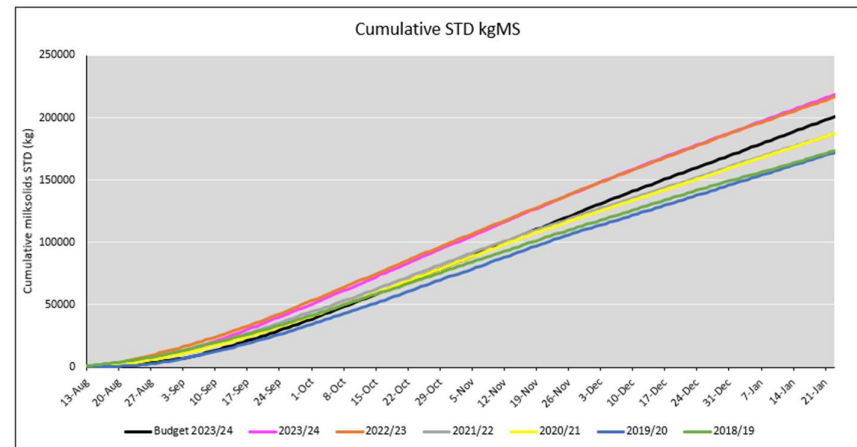


Figure 2. Cumulative kg Milksolids & Budget season to date

# Feed Management

## Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	<p>We have seen a lift in crude protein and ME during the 6<sup>th</sup> round grazings and the topping and conservation should clean up the last of the lower quality paddocks. The new grasses will provide us with some rocket fuel in the grazing rotation for the next few months if current growing conditions remain. We are expecting to be grazing these on a faster return time to ensure we stay on top of quality so they don't need a clean out grazing prior to winter. With a pre-graze spray and post graze topping we hope this will knock the annual weeds in the new grass but will continue monitoring and spray again if required.</p>
Growth Rate	<p>Soil temperature and moisture are driving above average growth rates. Nitrogen will be applied to the new grass paddocks following grazing (weather permitting). With these paddocks still being quite soft we need to make sure we are not doing damage with the bulky.</p> <p>Growth in the fodder beet has finally taken off but with this comes increased weed growth so they will be sprayed as soon as possible to make sure available nutrient and moisture goes to crop growth not to weeds.</p>
Nitrogen Strategy	<p>The third application of N for the LI farmlets was completed before Christmas and we are currently part way through the 5<sup>th</sup> application for the standard farmlets. While we continue to have good soil moisture and temperature, we will continue to apply N.</p>

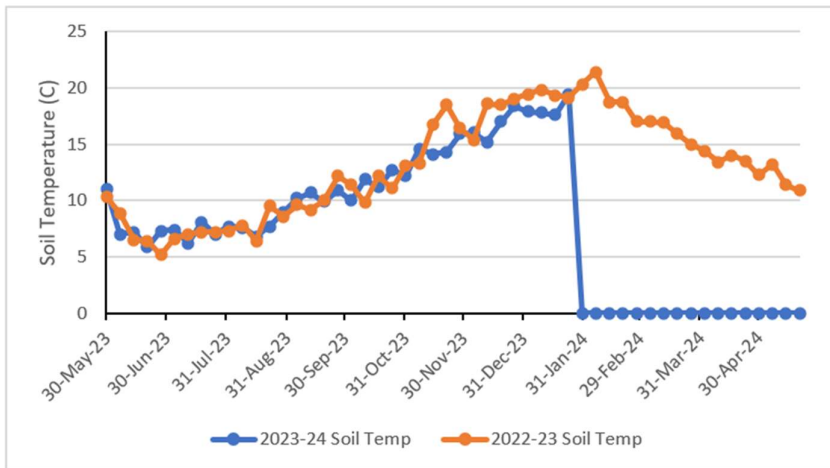


Figure 3. Soil temperatures 2023-24 vs 2022-23

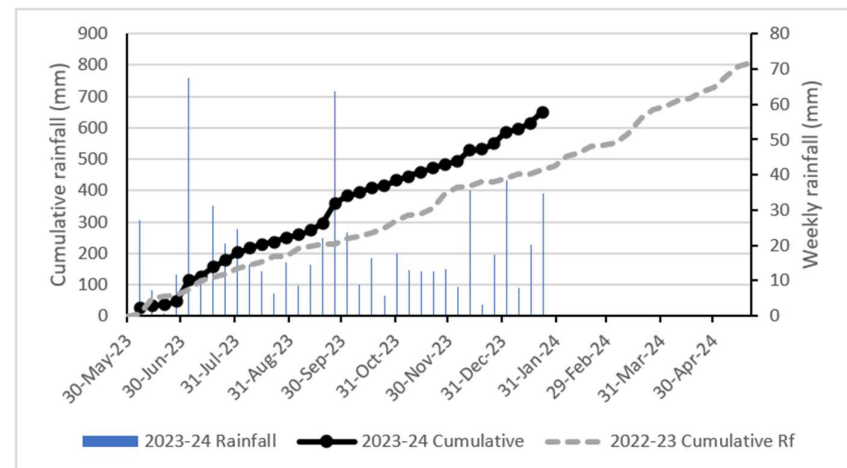
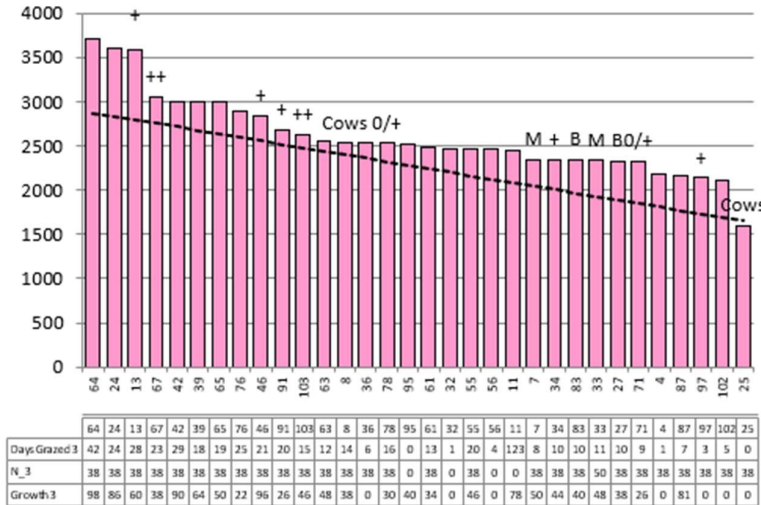


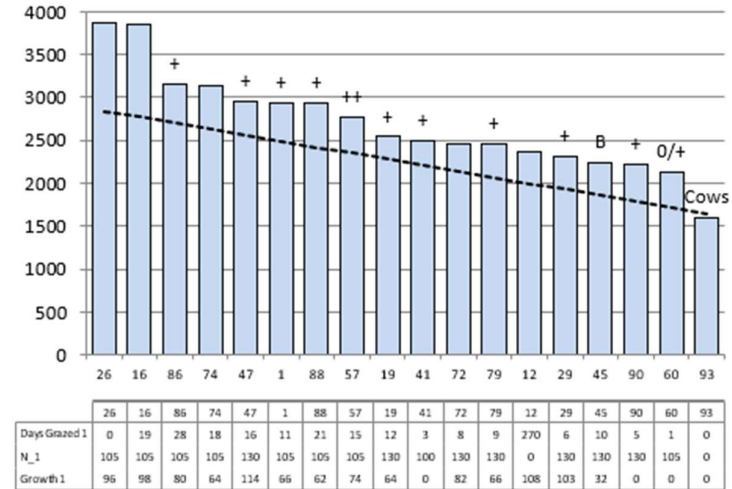
Figure 4. Season to date rainfall compared with cumulative rainfall 2022-23

# Feed Wedges

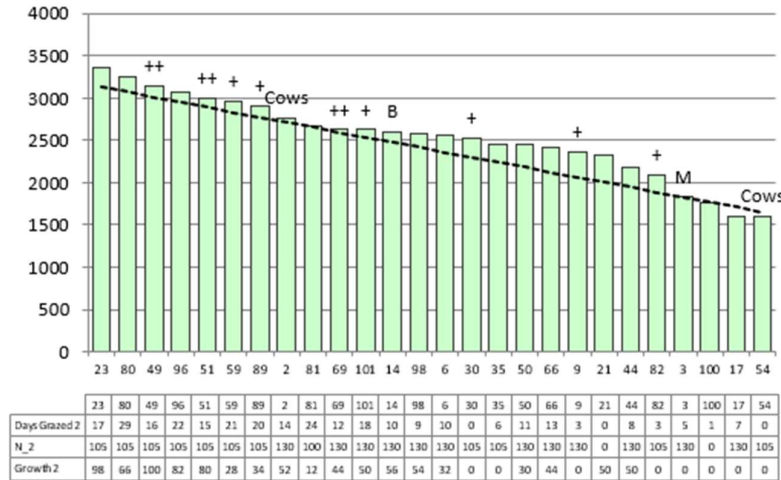
## Lower Impact Baleage



## Standard Infrastructure



## Standard Fodder Beet



## Lower Impact Fodder Beet

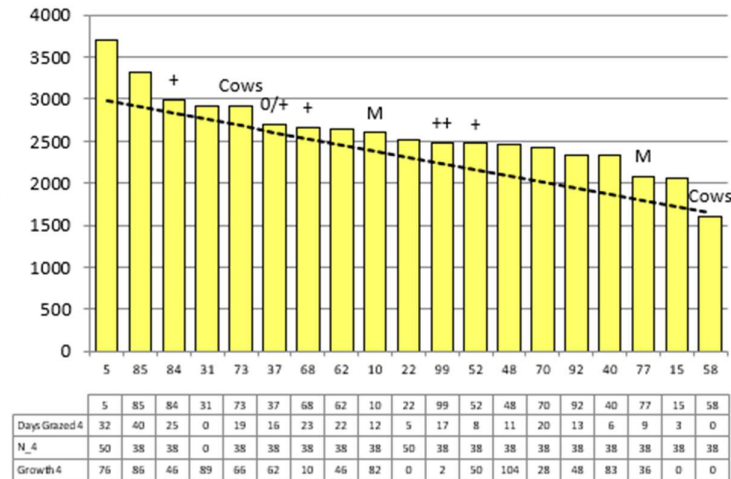
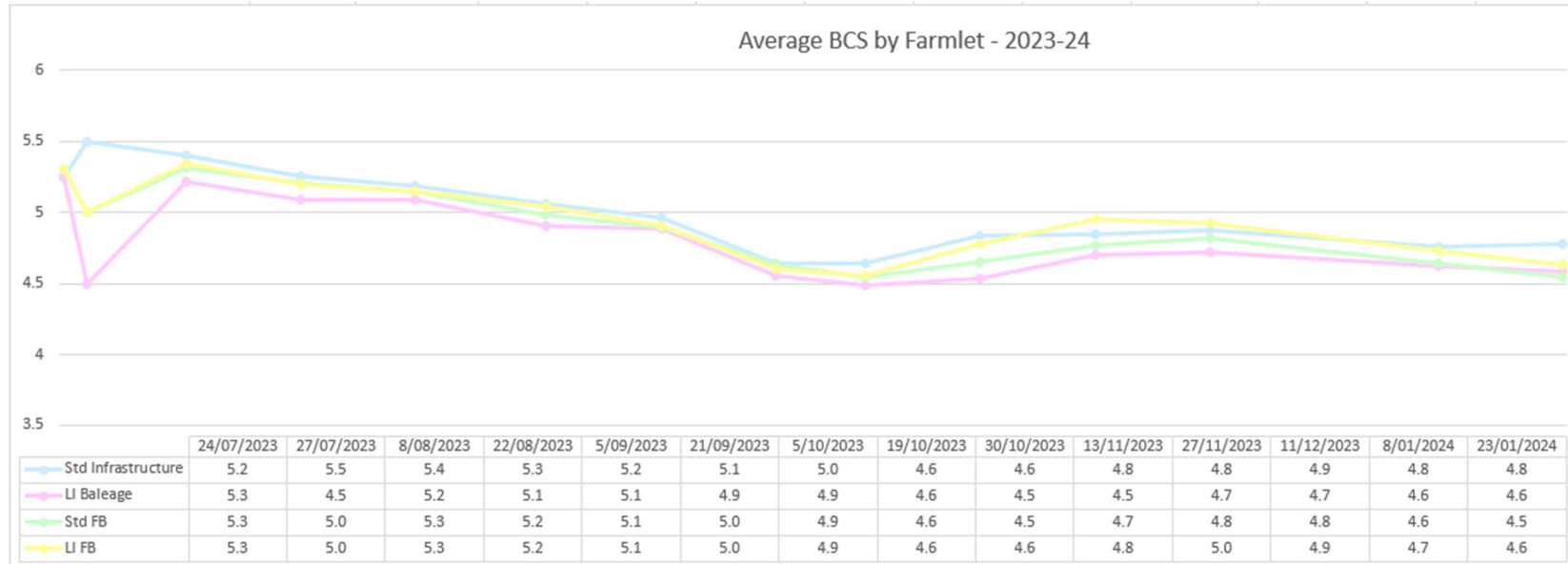
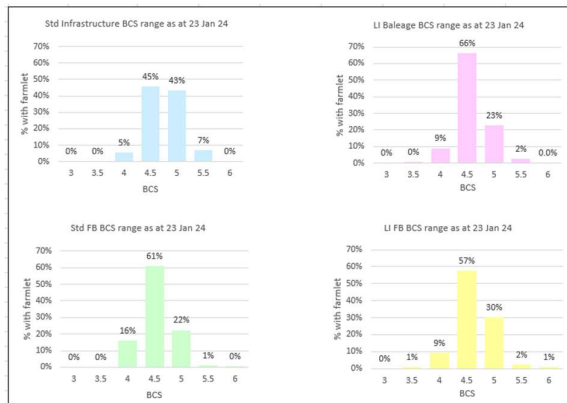


Figure 5. Plate meter feed wedges as at 23<sup>th</sup> January 2024

# BCS

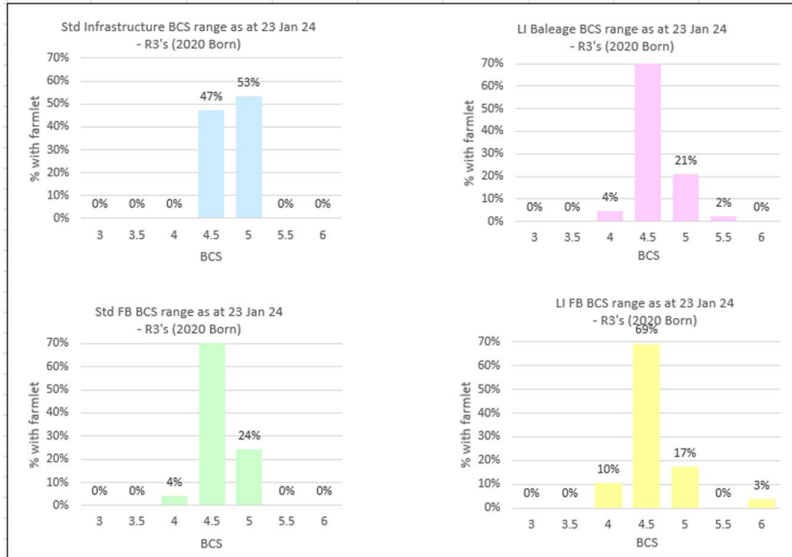


**Figure 6. Average BCS by Farmlet for the 23<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

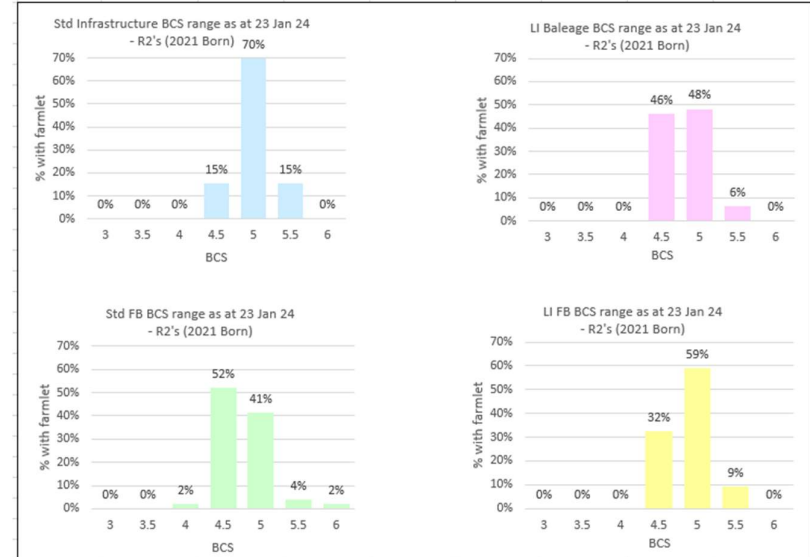


**Figure 7. Farmlet BCS Ranges for the 23 January 2024**

# BCS



**Figure 8. 2020 Borns BCS Ranges for the 23 January 2024**



**Figure 9. BCS 2021 Borns BCS Ranges for the 23 January 2024**