Fortnightly Farm Summary 26 July 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
Wintered numbers	218	141	241	139
Milking Area	73.2	49.3	69.5	52.1
Current Herd size (cows)	215	141	240	137
Cows calved	2	1	2	2
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.9	2.6	3.2	2.6
Winter Feed	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
Milking supplement	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover	2562	2632	2574	2486
Average Growth	15	15	16	14
Average BCS	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3
Crop allocation (kgDM/c/d)			9.5	9.5
Baleage Allocation (kgDM/c/d)	12.5	12.5	3.5	3.5
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	**180**	**50**	**180**	**50**
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	0	0	0	0

Business Area	Current Status
Milk Production	Only 7 cows calved to date and being milked OAD. These are being run as a single mob in one of the farm paddocks. With 60% of the herd due to calve in the first 3 weeks it won't be long before we are supplying Fonterra.
Pasture & Feed	Strong growth was recorded across the farm in the last fortnight resulting in a few paddocks above 3500 kg DM/ha. Paddocks with high cover going into winter are starting to lodge and there are signs of decay in the bottom of the sward. We will try to get these paddocks eaten off as soon as possible once cows start calving. The order of grazing of colostrum paddocks has been finalised.
Animals	Happy with where the BCS is sitting across the herds. Only 7 of 735 cows are below BCS 5 and five of these are in the 'Infrastructure' herd. More than 50% of fodder beet cows are now on grass and baleage. Springers being offered 10-11 kg DM as grass and baleage in three separate mobs – heifers, fodder beet or baleage. Fodder beet cows are being offered MgO and DCP pre-calving and baleage mobs MgO only.
Environment	Currently devising a plan to removed bales lost in the floods from a backwash of the Makarewa river and dispose of flood affected bales that are still on the paddocks at the support block.
Wintering	By next week we will only have one mob left on fodder beet with the rest of the cows either being on grass/baleage or in the springer mobs.
People	Andrea Dixon started in the GM role 2 weeks ago and is quickly getting up to speed with all things SDH. Next week we have a new herd manager starting which will complete our farm team for the 2023_24 season.
Research	BAU for this time of year regarding research. Testing and sampling to resume once the milking season starts.

Animals

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Animal Health Peculiarities	Thankfully we are now on top of the pink eye outbreak with only 2 cows still out of their mobs. The team are keeping a close eye on all herds and continue disinfecting the ring feeders each day.
Body Condition Score	BCS was reassessed at the springer draft on the 24th July. There has not been much movement in average herd BCS but we have fewer animals below BCS 5.
Young Stock	Young stock (2022 born) have been weighed and supplemented with copper. Weights are slightly back on last year; however they are in line with industry targets for their age (243kgs actual vs ~240kgs industry target for 12 months old). These animals started grazing swedes on the 5th of July.

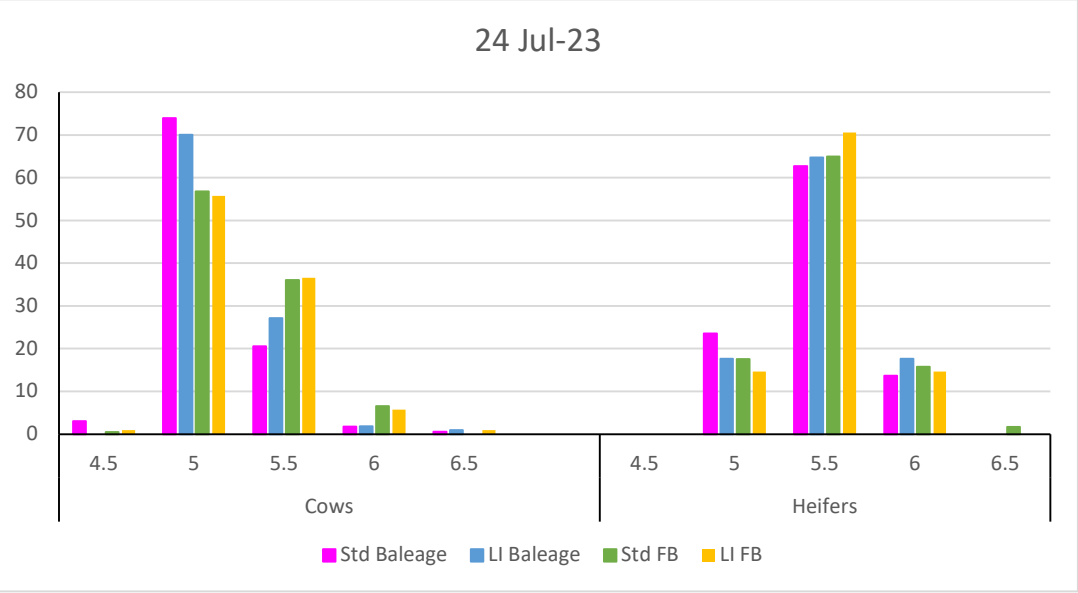

Figure 1: Range of BCS across the farmlets

Feed

Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	There is a range in feed quality across the farm, primarily driven from the high pre-graze mass in some paddocks in the autumn. Paddocks grazed by dries in early winter have areas of decaying pasture across them but the majority of the paddocks are good quality. Several paddocks are also showing pasture damage where water lay following the flooding.
Growth Rate	Growth rate has been above expected for the last 2 weeks – sitting at around 15 kg DM/ha. Soil temperatures of 7 C will be contributing to this higher growth. Over the next week we will be soil sampling all the paddocks on the farm to look at their fertility status. A selection of paddocks across each farmlet will have an expanded test including S.
Nitrogen Strategy	N applications won't start again until soil temperatures are above 7 degrees and rising in the spring. This is likely to occur late August/ early September.

Figure 2: New grass paddock with plantain

Figure 3: Flood damaged pasture along the creek

Figure 4: Plantain in new grass

Springer management in pictures

Figure 5: Pre-springers preferring pasture to baleage

Figure 6: Springers with MgO dusted onto pasture and baleage

Pasture intake estimated based on pregraze mass and square metres/cow

	Springers Grazing to 1300 residual					Milkers Grazing to 1650 residual				
Pre-graze	20	25	30	m2	Pre-graze	80	90	100	110	120
2500	2.4	3.0	3.6		2500	6.8	7.7	8.5	9.4	10.2
2600	2.6	3.3	3.9		2600	7.6	8.6	9.5	10.5	11.4
2700	2.8	3.5	4.2		2700	8.4	9.5	10.5	11.6	12.6
2800	3.0	3.8	4.5		2800	9.2	10.4	11.5	12.7	13.8
2900	3.2	4.0	4.8		2900	10.0	11.3	12.5	13.8	15.0
3000	3.4	4.3	5.1		3000	10.8	12.2	13.5	14.9	16.2
3100	3.6	4.5	5.4		3100	11.6	13.1	14.5	16.0	17.4
3200	3.8	4.8	5.7		3200	12.4	14.0	15.5	17.1	18.6
3300	4.0	5.0	6.0		3300	13.2	14.9	16.5	18.2	19.8
3400	4.2	5.3	6.3		3400	14.0	15.8	17.5	19.3	21.0
3500	4.4	5.5	6.6		3500	14.8	16.7	18.5	20.4	22.2
3600	4.6	5.8	6.9		3600	15.6	17.6	19.5	21.5	23.4

Figure 7: Pasture intake estimate sheet for feed planning