

# Weekly Farm Summary 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Farm-system impacts of: Kale vs Fodder beet for winter AND Reducing N loss to water by 30%.

	Std Kale Pink	LI Kale Blue	Std FB Green	LI FB Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	83	61	83	61
Peak cow numbers	229	141	228	140
Milking Area	64 (67.0)	49 (55)	64 (69.5)	50 (55.4)
Current Herd size (cows)	229	140	228	140
Pasture Stocking rate	3.0	2.5	3.0	2.5
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Kale In-Shed feed		Fodder beet Fodder beet/Baleage	
Average Cover	2484	2180	2440	2406
Average Growth	10	8	12	10
Average BCS (21/07/22)	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.3
Crop allocation (kg DM/cow/d)	11.1	0	9.5	9.5
Baleage allocation (kg DM/cow/d)	4.1	12.4	4.0	4.0
<b>Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>60</b>
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	0	0	0	0
<b>Business Area</b>	<b>Current Status</b>			
<b>Feed</b>	Continue to re assess Winter feed allocations and the day-to-day practicality of managing so many smaller mobs on crop due to springer drafts. Decision has been made to consolidate same feed mobs after the springer draft on 1 August. Working through finishing off crop paddocks. May have the opportunity to lift some Fodder beet later, to be confirmed			
<b>Milk Production</b>	Colostrum/Milker mob are on OAD until farm have calved enough cows to supply. Intention at this stage is to begin supply around the 20 <sup>th</sup> of August at which point will switch to TAD.			
<b>People</b>	All the farm team members have had a break prior to calving and will all be back on board from the 1 August.			
<b>Animals</b>	10 cows calved to date. One cow death, cause unknown. Cows will have another springer draft 1 August. A Tag clean and check will also be conducted. Plan is to BCS cows on the 5 <sup>th</sup> of August			
<b>Environment</b>	Our environmental focus has now switched to minimising the environmental risks of our wintering practices. All cows are being wintered on the upper terrace well away from any waterways.			
<b>Wintering</b>	We have implemented our Plan B twice since the beginning of June as wet cold weather resulted in sodden soils and poor lying conditions. Grass buffers in crop paddocks have worked well. We have observed different rates of intake of the daily allocations across the 3 wintering regimes with the fodder beet animals consuming their daily allocation much quicker than the mobs on swedes and the baleage animals having feed in front of them for the longest. Bulb utilisation in the swede paddocks has been variable.			
<b>Research</b>	BCS assessments will be done at the first springer drafts this week to assess how well the mobs have done on the different wintering systems this year.			

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AND Reducing N loss to water by 30%.**

# Feed

## Principles of Pasture & Feed Management this week

### Feed Quality

We have a wide range in baleage quality being consumed by all the mobs. Cows in the baleage wintering mobs are struggling to consume the higher DM baleage requiring a reassessment of the allocations to reduce wastage. In systems relying heavily on conserved feed it is important to test and know what you are feeding. The average DM% of our baleage is 40.5% but the range is 28-69%. Average crude protein is 13.4% with a range of 9 to 17.4% and metabolisable energy has averaged 9.4 ME with a range of 8 to 11.1 MJME/kg DM

Crop quality results have highlighted the difference in potential protein intake between the swede and fodder beet diets.

### Growth Rate Management

Pasture growth rate through June and July at SDH has been about average. Cows from the grass and baleage wintering mobs grazed two pasture paddocks that were above 3000 kg DM/ha earlier this week when ground conditions were firm.

The LI Kale treatment currently has the lowest APC and will likely require more supplementary feed in the early part of lactation.

### Nitrogen Strategy

N applications won't start again until soil temperatures are above 7 deg C and rising in spring - likely late August/early September

	Dry matter	Crude protein	Metabolisable energy
Fodder Beet Bulb	17.9	8.5	13.0
Fodder Beet Leaf	11.2	20.5	11.2
Kale	11.9	18.8	12.6
Swede Bulb	9.1	15.1	13.0
Swede Leaf	13.6	26.7	12.1
Baleage	40.5	13.4	9.4

Table 1: Average feed quality results for crop and baleage (date?)

# Transition & Springer Management

## Understanding transition management

Why do we need to do this: To Prevent the onset of metabolic and nutrient issues due to the change in feeding requirements and onset of lactation

How can this happen: It is due to the sudden and large change in energy requirements of the cows physiological state - i.e pregnant to lactating.

When this is not met the cow is in a negative energy balance

The other important reason with springer management is to reduce the possibility of cows calving on crop

## Drafting Springers

Cows are generally wintered in calving groups, i.e. Earlies and Lates

Springer drafts are being conducted twice a week. The drafting criteria is based on expected calving date, i.e. 2 weeks from calving

with the exception of the Yellow FB mob who are transitioning for 4 weeks pre calving

There is also drafting of any cows that display a change in udder conformation

## Feeding of Springers & Colostrums

BCS of springer cows are at or slightly over recommended levels of 5.0

For Springers - we have begun reducing feed levels to maintenance levels (X kgDM pasture & X kgDM baleage)

FB Yellow mob transitioning - receiving 9 kgDM/c/day (X of pasture & X of baleage)

Heifers.....odema

Minerals (Magnesium & Calcium) are being dusted on the paddock daily

# Transition & Springer Management



Figures 1: Springer Mobs

# Transition & Springer Management

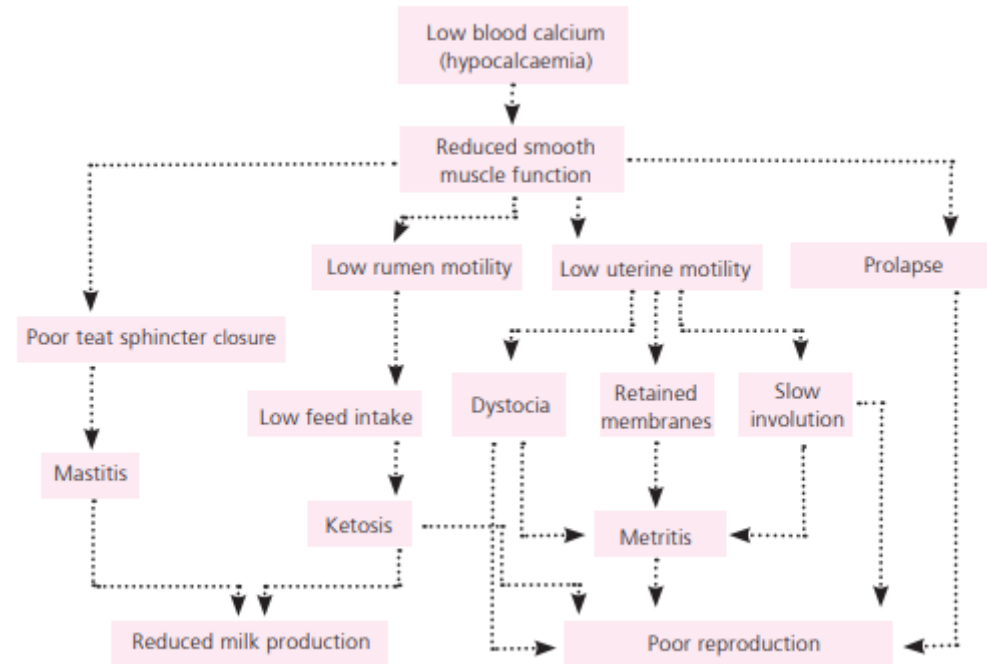


Figure 2: Relationship between metabolic disorders

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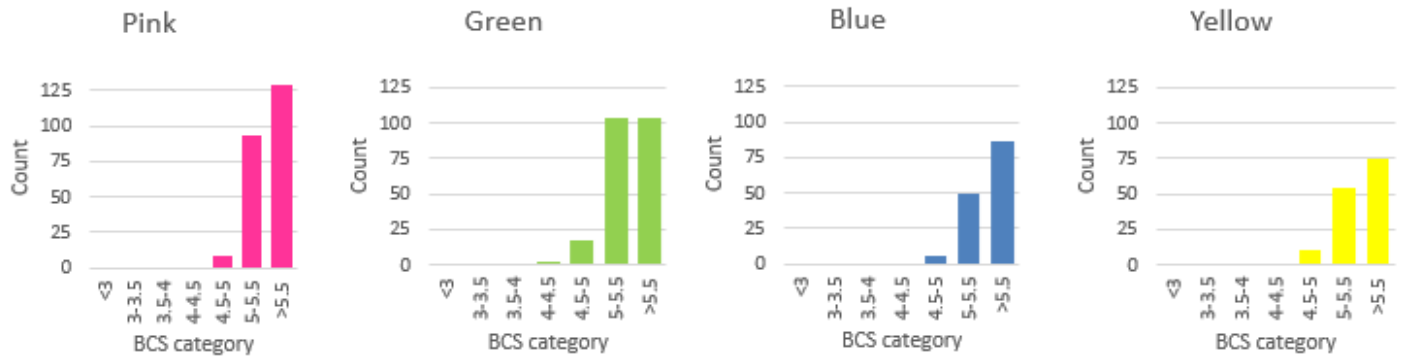


Figure 3: Herd BCS distribution from 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

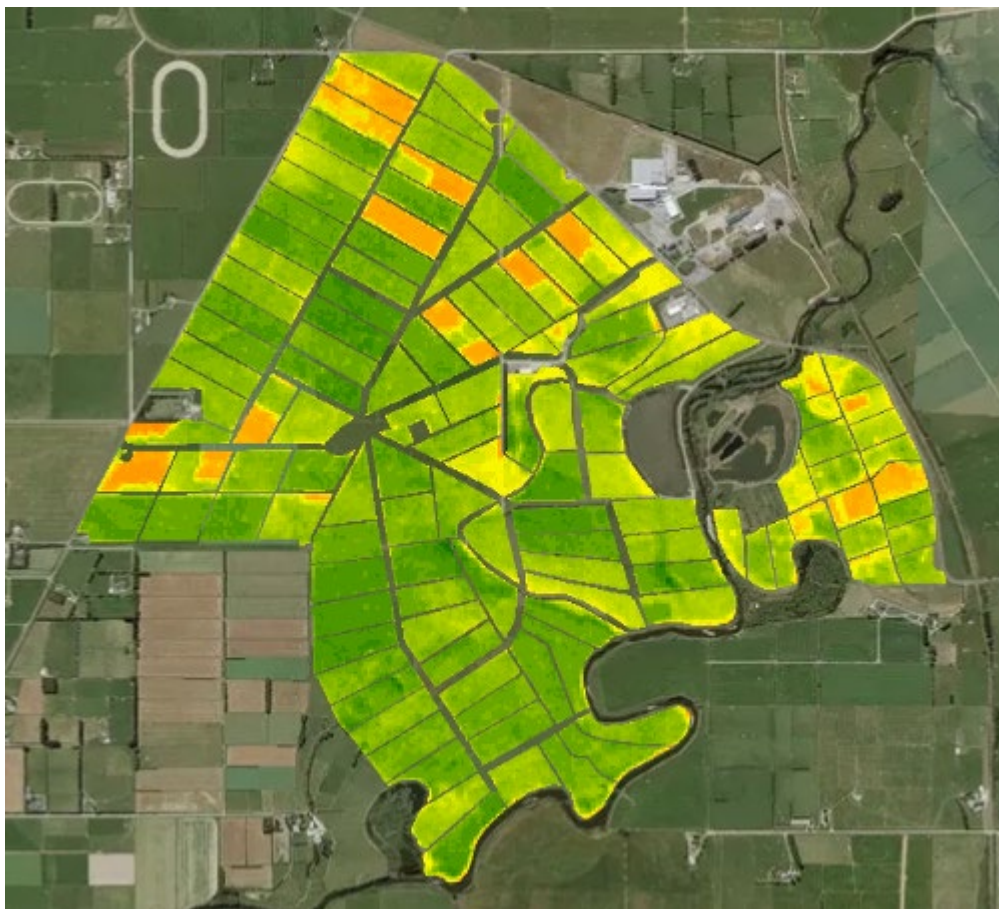
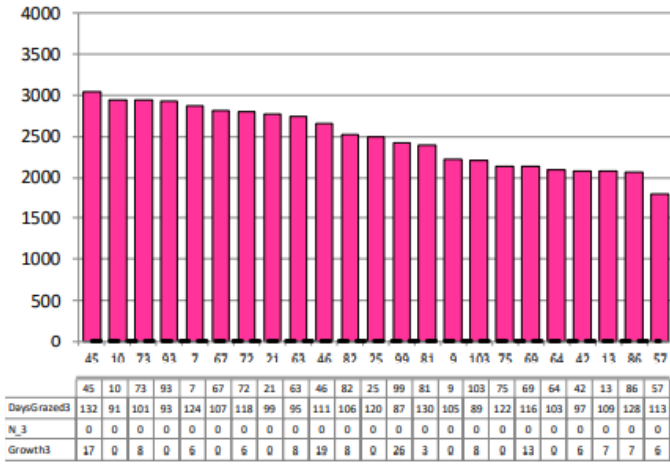


Figure 3: SPACE pasture mass assessment image 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022 showing areas used for wintering

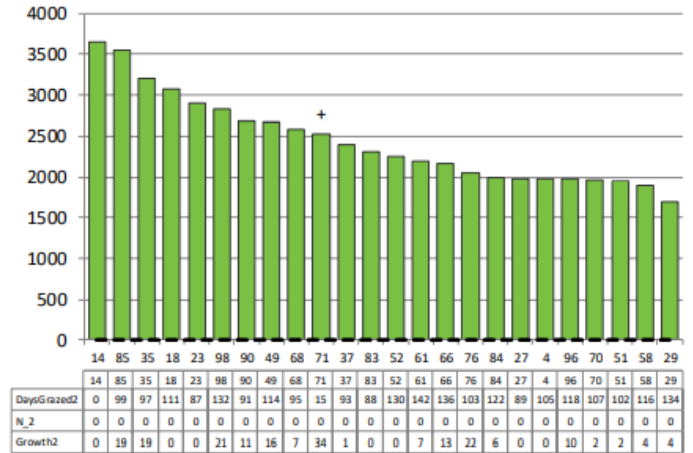
Where does this come from? Who updates it?

## Farm-system impacts of: Kale vs Fodder beet for winter AND Reducing N loss to water by 30%.

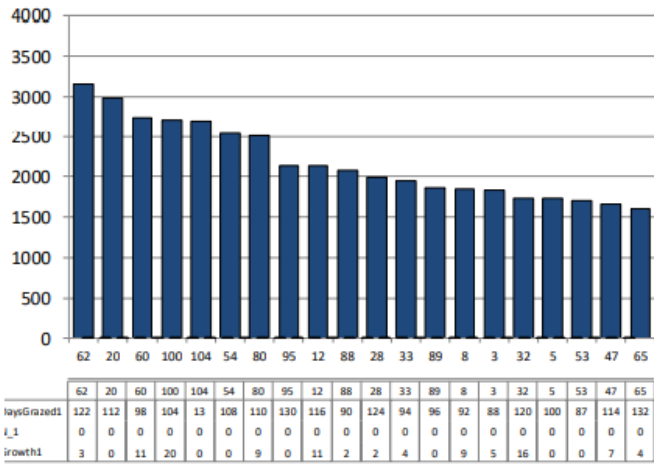
### Standard Kale



### Standard Fodder Beet



### Low Impact Kale



### Low Impact Fodder Beet

