

# Fortnightly Farm Summary 2 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
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	5	3	5	4
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.9	2.6	3.2	2.6
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover	2673	2653	2579	2597
Average Growth	15	2	7	11
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	12	3.5	3.5
<b>Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	0	0	0	0
<b>Business Area</b>	<b>Current Status</b>			
<b>Milk Production</b>	We are waiting patiently and making sure all our processes are in place as we approach planned start of calving in 2 days' time. This time last year we had 35 animals calved but only have 19 currently. We are expecting this to change quickly based on the number of cows in the springer mobs and the udder movement that is happening.			
<b>Pasture &amp; Feed</b>	Pasture quality is variable across the farm. Variation in growth between farmlets this week is likely due to underestimation of some of the high mass paddocks due to the wet conditions during the farm walk. Samples of baleage and pasture from the springer paddocks have been taken for mineral analysis so we can adjust our mineral supplementation if required.			
<b>Animals</b>	Results of recent blood tests have indicated low magnesium levels in a proportion of cows. Interestingly all the animals from the winter baleage herds that were sampled came back in the 0.67-0.88 mmol/l Mg range, compared with only 1 of 4 from each of the fodder beet herds. MgO supplementation will be increased during wet weather and dusted on to baleage to increase utilisation.			
<b>Environment</b>	The bales have been removed from the backwash and the wrap disposed of. The effluent pond is currently at 51% full.			
<b>Wintering</b>	We have been assessing how well the pastures hold up across the range of stocking densities we currently have on pasture – Baleage wintered cows are on 7 m <sup>2</sup> per cow, pre-springer FB cows on 13m <sup>2</sup> /cow and springers on 25 m <sup>2</sup> /cow.			
<b>People</b>	Our new herd manager Ravi started with us this week and is already getting into the swing of things on farm			
<b>Research</b>	Next week is a harvest for the Plantain plots so Monday will be a big day for the tech team. We say farewell to Teresa this week for 2 months as she heads off on her OE			

# Animals

## Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk production	With only 20 animals calved we are not tracking farmlet milk production at this stage.
Key Influences of Milk Production	All cows are currently being milked OAD in a combined herd. We will milk everything OAD for at least the first 2 weeks of calving and then reassess based on feed and weather conditions. Once the milkers move to TAD all cows will continue to have at least 14 days on OAD. The first period will be in the colostrum mob but once they are in their milking herds, they will be programmed in the Delpro system for OAD milking for another 10 days.
Cow Management	The Allflex collar calving alerts are being monitored to identify and check cows that calving. Ruminant levels are also being monitored once cows have calved to identify animals that need following. Once we get 100 cows in the milking mob the herd will be split into fodder beet or baleage wintered animals and then when each of these herds reach 100, we will move into our farmlet herds. A combined colostrum mob will continue throughout calving.



Figure 1: New heifer mum bonding with her baby



Figure 2: First 2 replacement calves

# Feed

## Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	We will be able to report on the quality of pasture in our springer paddocks next week as samples have been taken for analysis. We are also doing another round of sampling on the baleage as visually there is a lot of variation between the bales.
Growth Rate	Average growth rate continues to be above what we had budgeted which is driving up average pasture cover above where we would like to be. The key going forward will be managing this, especially in wet conditions to ensure we get good regrowth going into the second round. With higher than APC we are prepared to offer bigger areas than the SRP to manage this.
Nitrogen Strategy	While soil temperatures are above 7 degrees we have no intention of applying any nitrogen fertiliser for at least the next month. Conditions can change quickly at this time of the year and with our current APC we do not need to boost pasture growth.

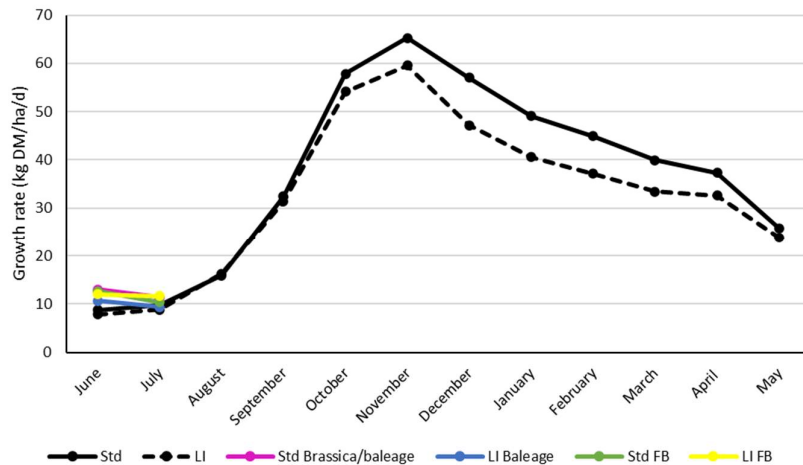


Figure 3: Average monthly growth rate compared with 4-year average

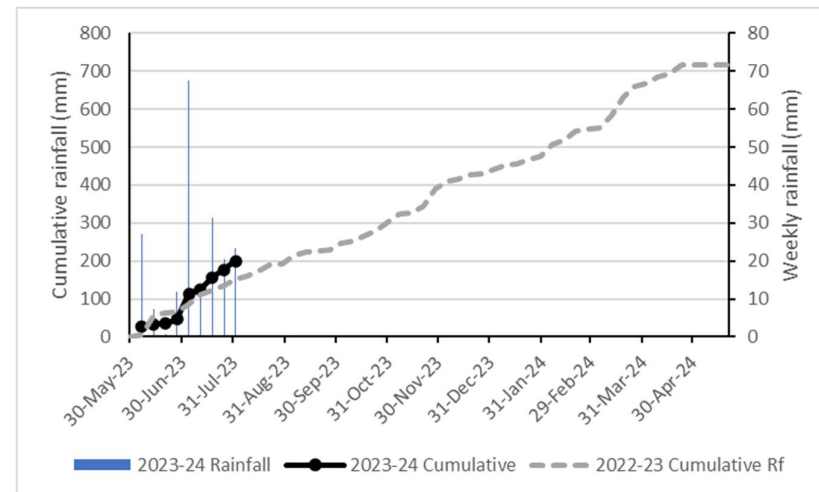


Figure 4: Weekly and cumulative rainfall for the 2023-24 season

# Our Week in Pictures



Figure 5: Farm team sustenance!!



Figure 6: Bale retrieval

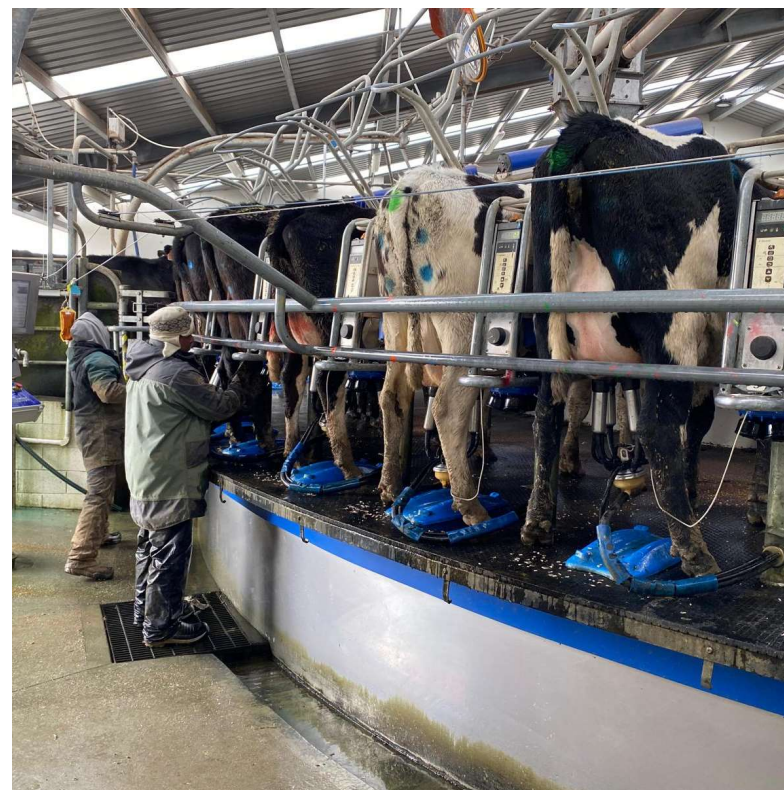


Figure 7: Colostrum cows being milked