

Weekly Farm Summary 2nd September 2022

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

	Conserved pasture – Std Pink	Conserved pasture – LI Blue	Long FB - Std Green	Short FB – LI Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	82.7	60.9	82.7	60.9
Peak cow numbers	223	137	223	137
Milking Area	69.9	55.1	69.5	55.1
Current Herd size (cows)	165	100	150	105
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.4	1.8	2.2	1.9
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Swede/Bale	Baleage	Beet 80 days	Beet 60 days
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + baleage as required			
Average Cover	2369	2267	2257	2220
Average Growth	18	15	24	20
Target rotation length	48	57	48	57
Last week act rotation (d)	57	49	52	47
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	5.0	5.4	4.1	4.6
Average BCS	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0
% of herd on priority feeding				
Milk yield (L/cow)	21.2	21.6	21.1	21.3
Milk yield (kgMS/cow)	2.02	2.04	2.03	2.01
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	0% (0kg)	0% (0kg)	0% (0kg)	0% (0kg)
Effluent (kgN/ha) YTD	1	0	1	2
Profit/ha comp to Control	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	52	37	41	37
YTD MS/cow	18	20	16	18
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	56 (50)	49 (44)	50 (43)	46 (42)

Business Area	Current Status
Milk Production	Milk production similar across all herds and increasing steadily.
Pasture & Feed	APC are tracking close to target in our SRP. Approximately 6 kg DM supplement is required to fully feed milkers on current area allocation.
Animals	Several mastitis cases have been identified with samples taken. Monitoring of at-risk cows for BCS based on previous health issues this spring
Environment	Effluent applications have begun around the farmlets at low rate (~2.5mm), targeting post grazed paddocks. Nitrogen fertiliser to be applied this week, earlier than usual due to warmer soil temperatures and lower APC than previous years.
Wintering	Planning for surplus fodder beet to be lifted and sold
People	Team managing spring workload well and beginning to prep wintered areas for regrassing.
Research	Wrapping up wintering infrastructure surface testing study at Hardegger's. Special thanks to Paul and Dani and the team for their support and input to this project. Participatory research project final reports submitted to MPI

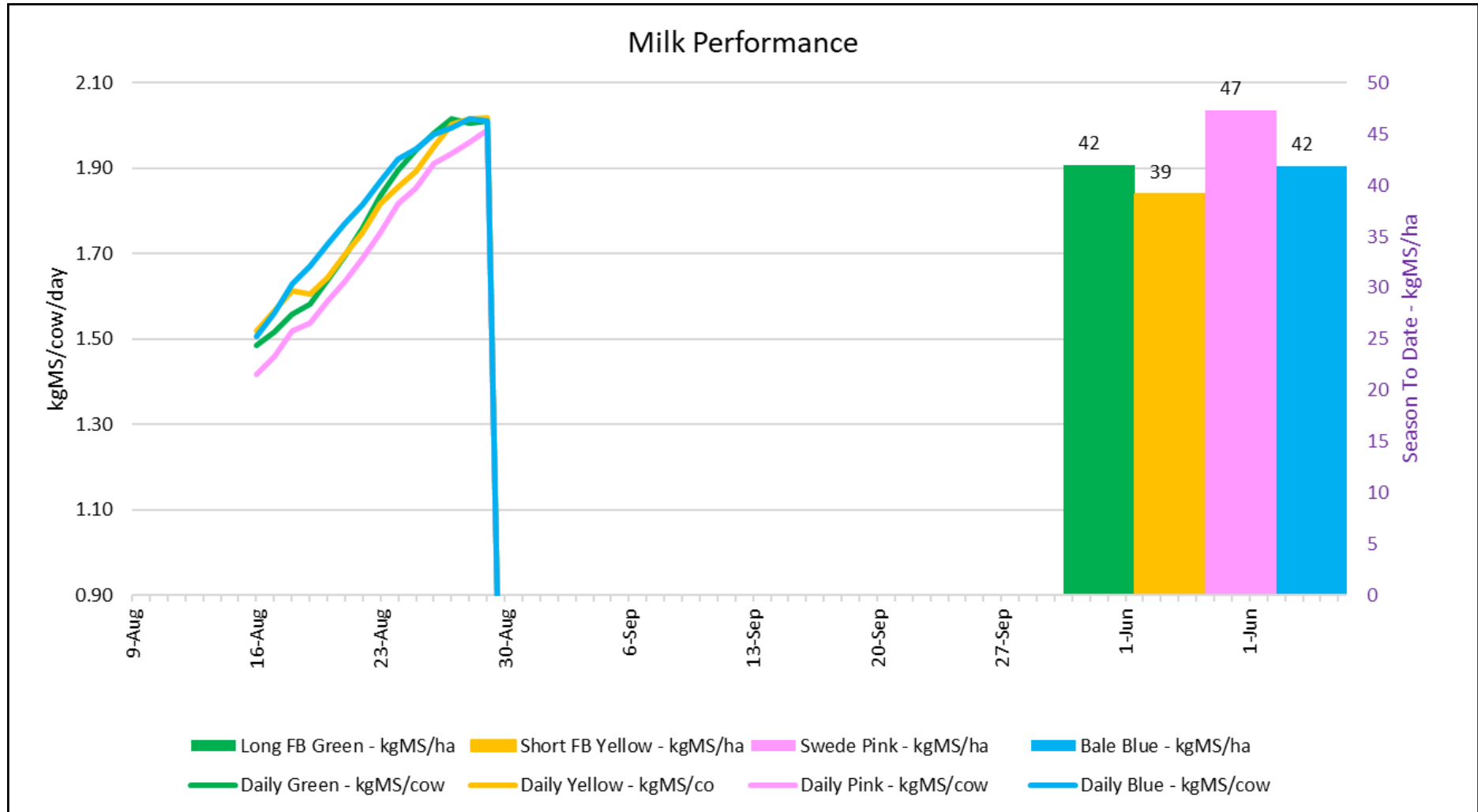
Milk Production

Principles of Milk Production Management this week

Milk Production	Similar across the herds, and overall, very strong yield relative to last season from the faster calving rate
Key Influences on Milk Production	Despite holding all cows on OAD for the first 7 days after leaving the colostrum mob, herds are still producing the same or better daily per cow production compared to this time last year.
Cow Management	Assessment carried out this week on cows with spring calving issues, and or low current BCS records. Approximately 15 cows across the farm have been flagged to stay on OAD milking in their herds for further recovery.

	Conserved Pasture - Std Pink	Conserved Pasture - LI Blue	Fodder beet - Std Green	Fodder beet - LI Yellow
kg Milksolids per cow this week/ (last week)	2.02 / (1.99)	2.04 / (2.01)	2.03 / (2.01)	2.01 / (2.02)
kg Milksolids per ha this year/ (same time last year)	56 / (43)	49 / (38)	50 / (42)	46 / (42)
Var kg Milksolids per ha Season per ha to date vs last season to date	+30.9%	+32.4%	+16.9%	+11.6%
Cows needing preferential feeding (% herd)	3 cows (1%)	3 cows (2%)	7 cows (3%)	4 cows (3%)
Animal health peculiarities	None	None	Increased mastitis	None

Milk Production



Feed

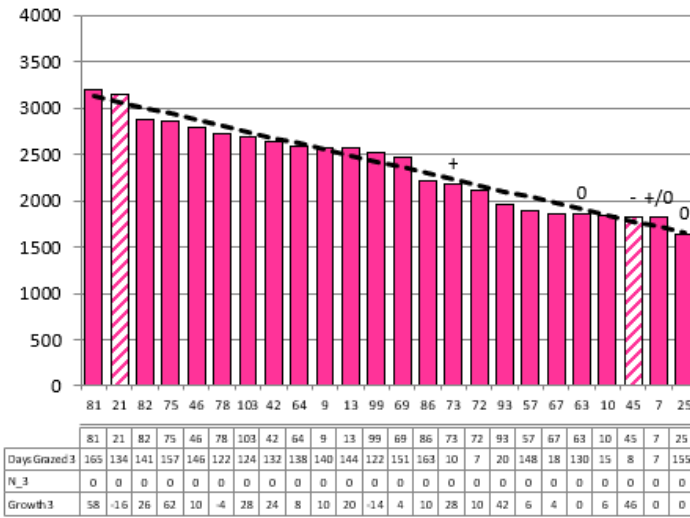
Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	Strong wedge but still eating autumn/winter stored pasture. Herds have moved from baleage onto silage. Stack is 40%DM and pasture samples when made showed 12.1 MJME grass went into the stack.
Growth Rate Management	Tightening right up on SRP area available and reducing square metres/cow accordingly. We will remain in a reasonably conservative outlook on pasture growth for the next 2 weeks.
Nitrogen Strategy	Nitrogen is being applied to all farmlots. This is 2 weeks earlier than usual, due to warmer soil temps and tightening pasture situation. Focusing on paddocks ungrazed this season, in bottom half of wedge, and paddocks grazed this spring up to last week. All farmlots receiving both nitrogen and sulphate in this application The average soil temperature for this week was 8.6 C, down from 9.4 C last week

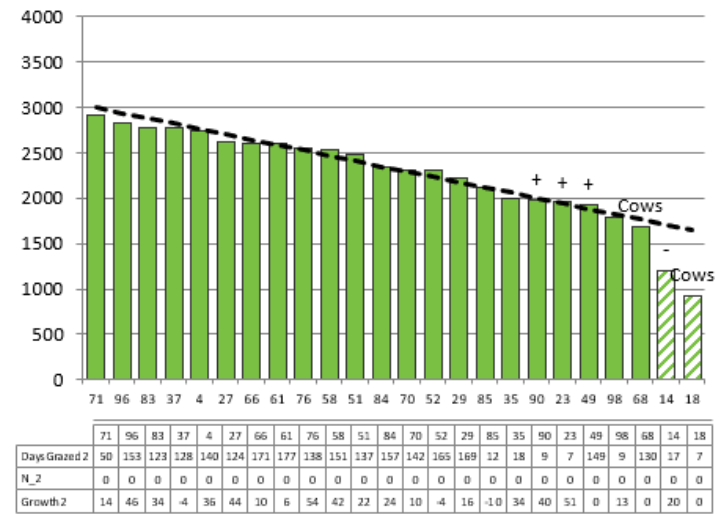
	Conserved Pasture - Std Pink	Conserved Pasture - LI Blue	Fodder beet - Std Green	Fodder beet - LI Yellow
Quantity	Currently OK	Currently OK	Currently OK	Currently OK
Quality	Variable depending on paddock history	Variable depending on paddock history	Variable depending on paddock history	Variable depending on paddock history
Surplus Management	None	None	None	None
Deficit Management	6.5 kg (up 2 kg from last week)	7.1 kg (Up 2.4 kg from last week)	6.5 kg (up 2 kg from last week)	6.55 kg (up 1.5 kg from last week)
Target Rotation Length	48 days	57 days	48 days	57 days

Feed

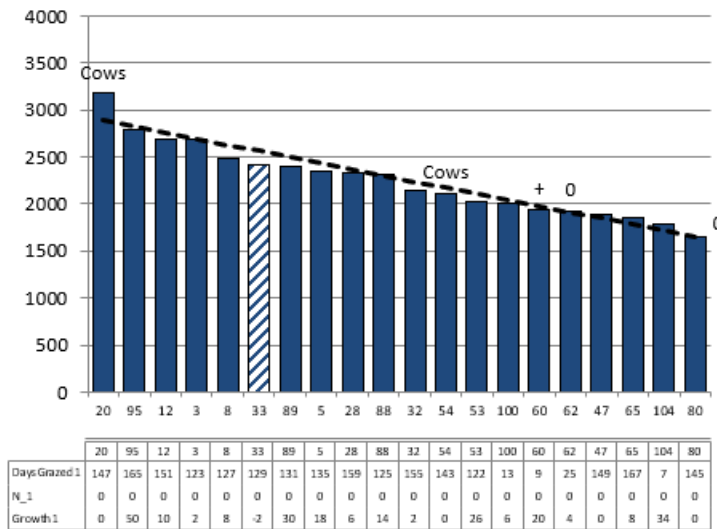
Std Conserved Pasture



Standard Fodder Beet



Lower Impact Conserved Pasture



Lower Impact Fodder Beet

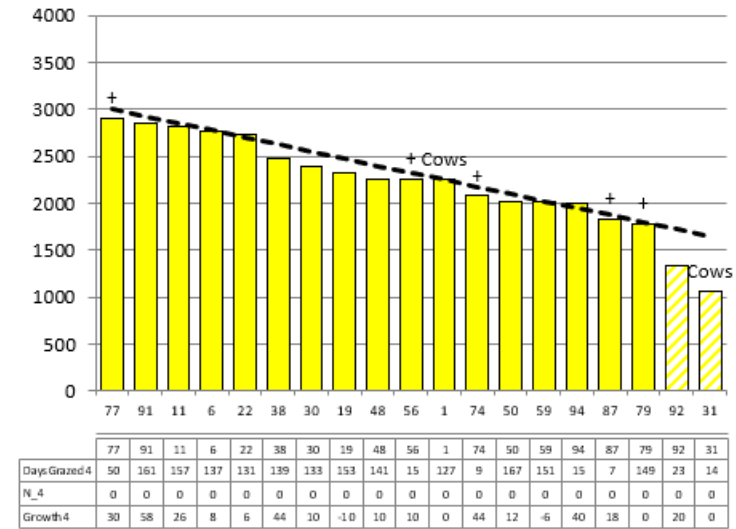
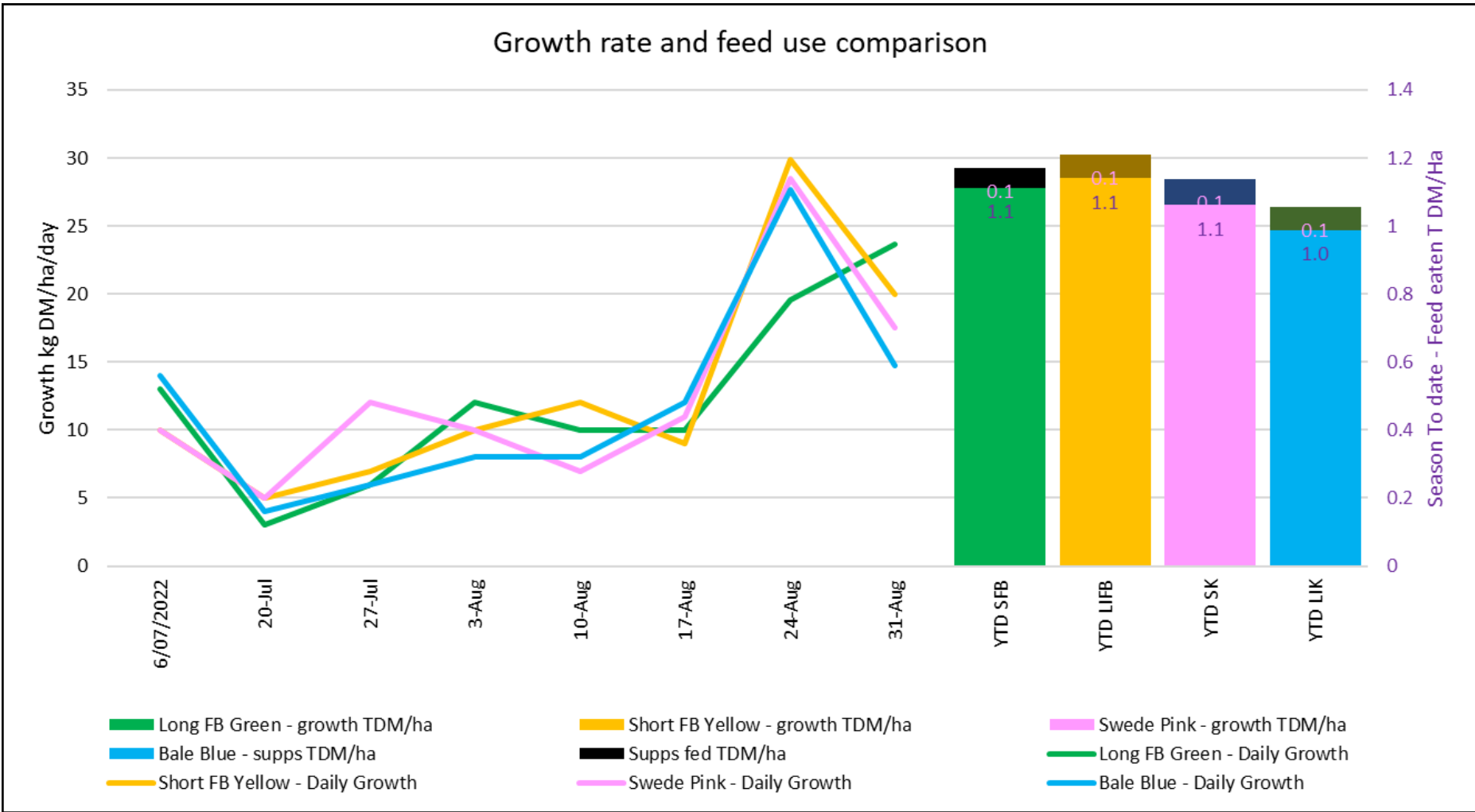


Figure 2: Feed Wedges as of 30th August 2022

Feed



Animals

Conversion evolution and animal performance

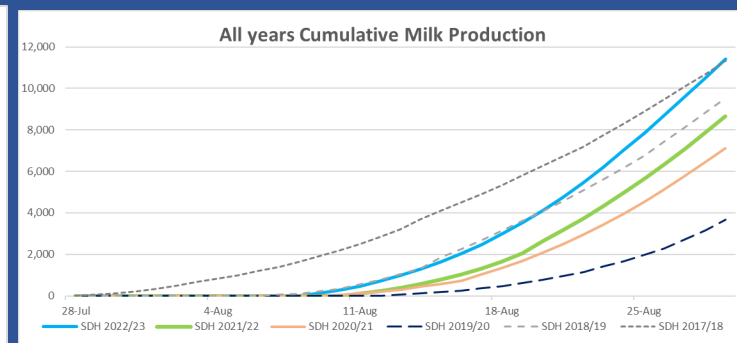
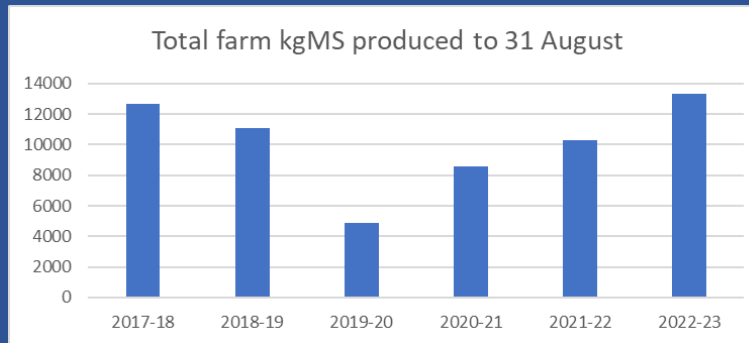
Background

It's commonly said that new conversions take 5 years to really hit their straps, and we're seeing something quite interesting on farm this year as we start our 6th supply season and 5th season under the Research trials.

Production Data in August

Over the past 6 years with a herd largely bought in from the North Island there have been changes in overall calving date between the years. From 20th July in 17-18, 1st August 18-19 to 10th August for the last 4 seasons.

The graph below tells a tale of how the cows, farm, team and management have improved performance consistently since the farm was converted when looking at total production to 31 August. Beside it, the rate of accumulation of production



This year we have produced 18 kg MS/cow wintered, the same volume/cow as year 1, but the herd started calving 3 weeks later this year. This is a combination of calving spread tightening up (from 26 days to midpoint down to 12 days), along with feeding and management of milkers to improve the daily performance per cow of all cows calved.

What are we doing at the Hub?

Since 2019 we've focused a lot on three key weaknesses in the business:

1. Body condition of cows throughout lactation to improve reproductive performance
2. Growing of young stock to bring better quality animals into the herd from the start
3. Setting up spring pasture quality in autumn, and managing spring feed allocation and quality

We've seen improvements in all these areas, and more importantly have seen the team develop and grow the skills to keep managing these areas as part of the normal operations of the farm.