

Weekly Farm Summary 31 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	135
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)	2534	2464	2626	2380
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	61	49	67	47
Target rotation length (d)	24	30	26	29
Last week actual rotation (d)	27	34	24	25
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.5
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)	19.4	18.7	19.7	20.0
7-day Average Milk yield (kgMS/c)	1.83	1.76	1.86	1.89
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	61% (109kg)	70% (35kg)	66% (118kg)	78% (39kg)
Effluent N YTD	8	12	12	12
YTD Pasture growth TDM/ha	9.4	8.8	8.3	8.0
YTD supp (kg DM/c)	402	354	502	391
YTD MS/c	310	303	328	320
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	999 (1057)	764 (764)	1068 (926)	859 (777)
Focus area	Current Status			
Milk Production	Milk production has plateaued across the herds, while YTD is 1% (2000 kg MS) ahead compared with same time last year. On average cows producing 1.86 kgMS/day. Milk urea have risen across all herds to 28-31, as new grass paddocks continue in their diet. SCC has risen marginally averaging 105. Nice to see a lift in LI Baleage farmlet milk production this week.			
Pasture & Feed	We continue to have excellent growth, with many paddocks resembling autumn swards. New grasses have bolted away after their first graze, topping and application of fertilizer. DM% of new grasses is around 14% compared with 18-24% in older swards. Have reduced in-shed feeding to a minimum to capitalise on good pasture covers. Growth still above demand so more paddocks shut to conserve. Paddocks cut for baleage last week have been baled after conditions improved.			
Animals	Good results from the 6-week in calf scan, averaging 77% with farmlet range between 74 and 82%. Slight increase in cases of lameness and mastitis, potentially because of the wetter weather in the last week. New trace mineral mix that includes Biotin was started this week.			
Environment	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. Have been reviewing applications to ensure they are evenly spread across farmlets. Paddocks identified to target to even applications between and within farmlets.			
Wintering	Weeds present in the fodder beet were also enjoying the optimal growing conditions!!; helicopter on farm this week to spray these. Some buffer zones in the crop paddocks are struggling, so will work through a plan for these.			
People	Farm Team have been busy topping some paddocks and getting on top of any other weeds around the farm. Some team members to re start their management studies, whilst others are working through what courses to sign up for. Billy our Farm Manager returns next week after a month of paternity leave – a big shout out to Venura and the farm team for all stepping up.			
Research	Planning is underway for a workshop early in March with SDH, Dairy Trust Taranaki and Northland Dairy Development trust to plan how we can extra more value for research in the regions.			

Milk production

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk production	Have some improved quality pastures back in the round this week, though some of the latest residuals have been a bit high, the growing conditions for this time of year has given us a bit of room to still be topping, albeit very strategically, particularly on where there is a lot of old dry matter in the base, to stay on top of the quality of all this extra feed heading into autumn.
Key Influences of Milk Production	Pasture quality and thus managing the quantity continues to be our key driver of production.
Cow Management	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.

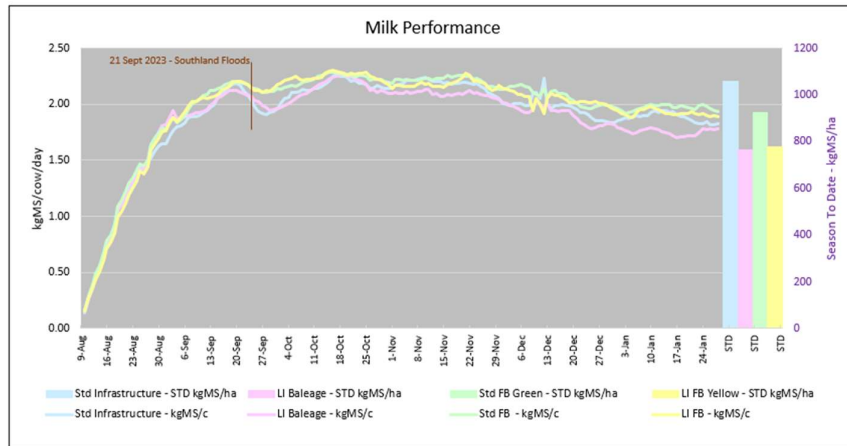


Figure 1. Milksolids per cow/day STD and kgMS/ha STD

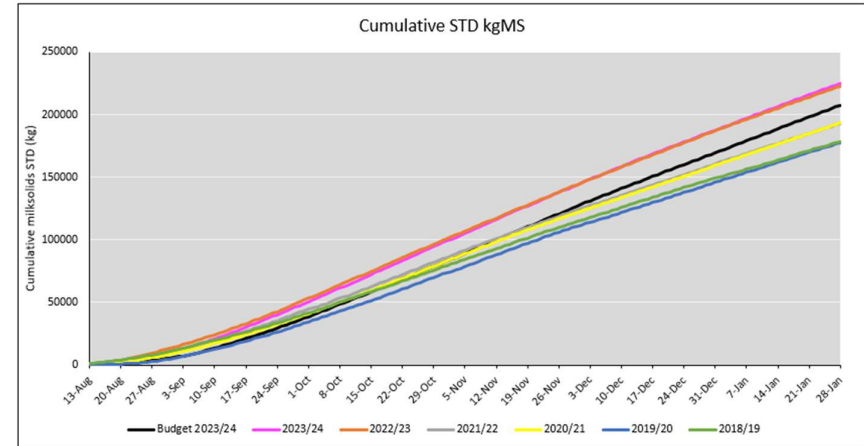


Figure 2. Cumulative kg Milksolids & Budget season to date

Feed Wedges

Principles of Feed management this week

<p>Feed Quality</p>	<p>As suggested last week, the new grasses have provided us with some rocket fuel in the current grazing rotation. They are all growing very fast and as a result will need to be extra vigilant to grazing them at the right Pre-graze to maintain their good quality, whilst being proactive at stepping over paddocks for conservation that are past the pre-graze target. Calibration cuts indicate that the new grass paddocks have 2-300 kg DM less mass at a given height, compared with the winter equation and our farm calibration cuts. This is driven by a lower DM% and an absence of stem in the base of the swards. Average crude protein of pastures in the last 2 weeks was 19% but ranged from 14-22%. ME averaged 11.4 MJ with the highest paddock at 12 MJ ME/kg DM.</p>
<p>Growth Rate</p>	<p>Soil temperature and moisture continue driving above average growth rates. As expected, we are staying on our current round length to stay on top of the quality, especially as all the new grass paddocks are now back in the rotation. Helicopter has sprayed fodder beet crops for weeds this week. Soil temperature has dropped back this week following the cooler, wetter weather.</p>
<p>Nitrogen Strategy</p>	<p>Standard farmlets are currently part way through the 5th application of N fertiliser for the season. While we continue to have good soil moisture and temperature, we will continue to apply N, with the last round for both LI and Stds expected to be applied early March, at this stage</p>

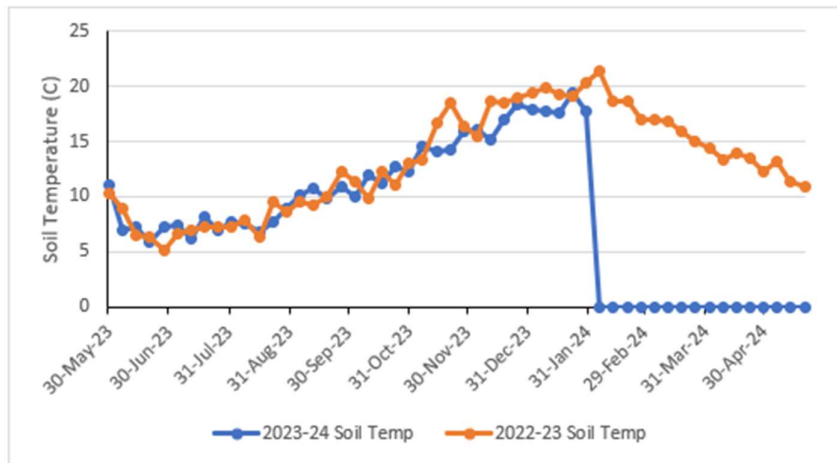


Figure 3. Soil temperatures 2023-24 vs 2022-23

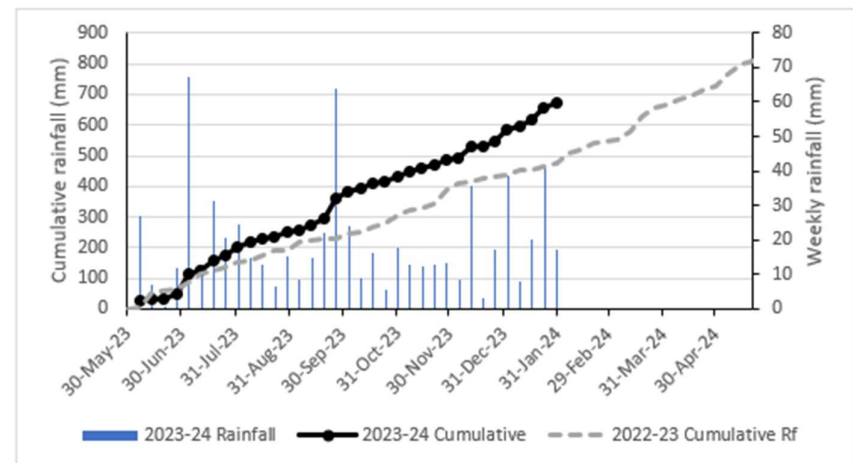
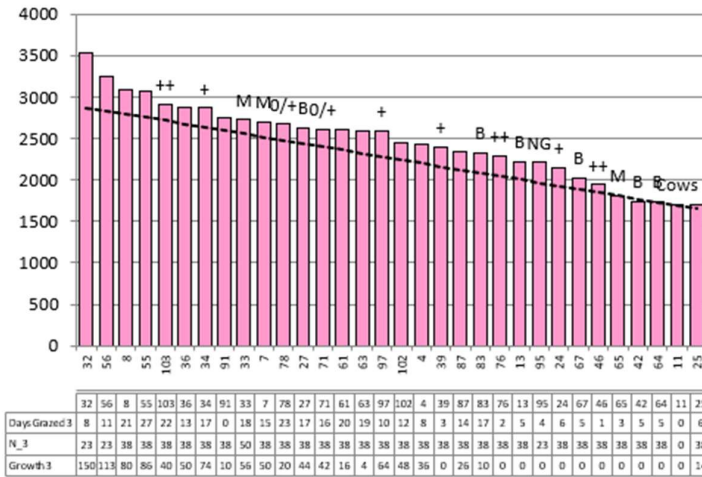


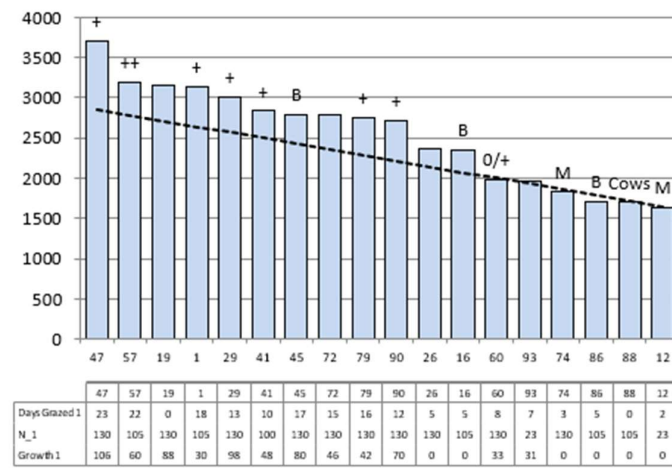
Figure 4. Season to date rainfall compared with cumulative rainfall 2022-23

Feed Wedges

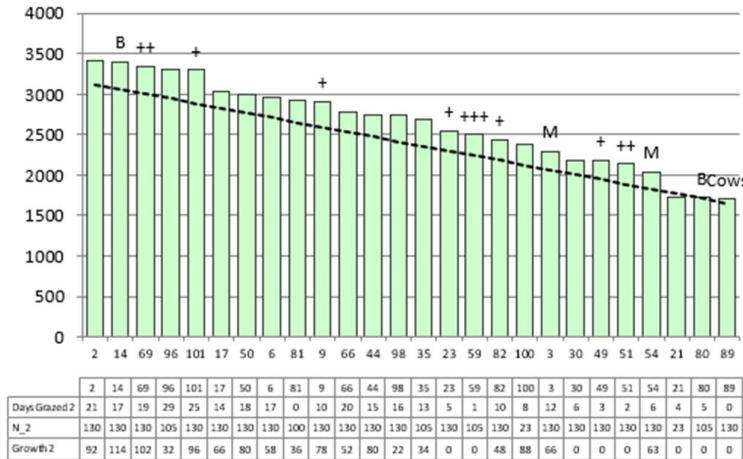
Lower Impact Baleage



Standard Infrastructure



Standard Fodder Beet



Lower Impact Fodder Beet

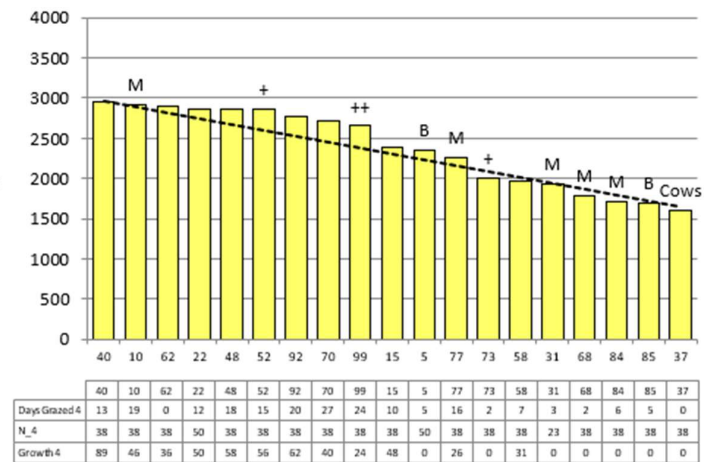


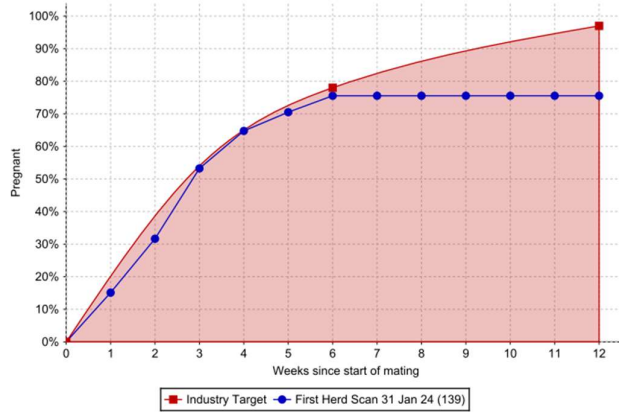
Figure 5. Plate meter feed wedges as at 30th January 2024

6 week in calf summaries

infovet Southern Dairy Hub - TBGG Report Date: 31/01/2024

Std Infrastructure

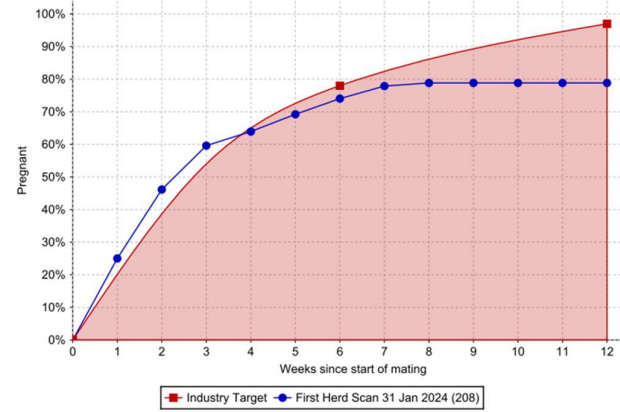
Planned start of Mating: 03/11/2023
Season: 2023



infovet Southern Dairy Hub Report Date: 31/01/2024

LI Baleage

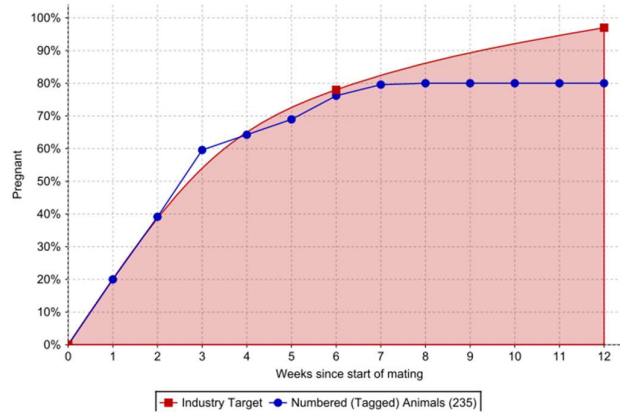
Planned start of Mating: 03/11/2023
Season: 2023



infovet Southern Dairy Hub - TBGH Report Date: 31/01/2024

Std Fodder beet

Planned start of Mating: 03/11/2023
Season: 2023



infovet Southern Dairy Hub - TBGL Report Date: 31/01/2024

LI Fodder beet

Planned start of Mating: 03/11/2023
Season: 2023

