Weekly Farm Summary 12th August 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	49	64	50
Current Herd size (cows)	229	140	228	140
Cows in Milk	65	38	67	29
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	2761	2360	2663	2535
Average Growth	37	31	28	25
Average BCS all cows (08/08/22)	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3
Milker pasture (kg DM/cow/d)	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5
Milker supplement kg DM/cow/d)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Dry cow crop (kg DM/cow/d)	0	0	9.0	9.0
Dry cow baleage (kg DM/cow/d)	11.0	11.0	4.0	4.0
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	**180**	**50**	**180**	**50**
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	0	0	0	0

Business Area	Current Status
Feed	Average pasture covers are approximately 200-300 kg DM/ha above our SRP due to the higher-than-expected growth rates this past week. Working on milking mobs having 90-100m2/day, aiming for residuals of 1650 kg DM and pasture intake of 16 kg DM/cow. Only one mob now still on crop.
Milk Production	First day of supply was the 9th August. Milkers will continue to be milked OAD through the peak of calving. Once TAD milking starts, we propose to milk all fresh cow's OAD for an additional 10 days following the colostrum period, but they will join their respective milking mobs unless they have underlying health issues. Colostrum's will all be miked OAD.
People	Farm team are all working well together, with all hands-on deck through this busy period
Animals	174 animals had calved by 9th August, 28% Pinks, 27% Blues, 18% Greens, and 21% Yellows. Some more mobs have been joined together for management purposes, 3x Dry's, 3x Springers and 3x milking mobs. Milking mob has been split into FB milkers and kale milkers and a combined colostrum mob. Once we get to 100 in each of the FB and kale milker mobs these will be split into their respective farmlets.
Environment	The effluent pond is currently at 56% so still a lot of capacity before we need to consider starting effluent applications
Wintering	Now only one mob still on fodder beet. Some wet weather break-out pasture areas were not used during winter. These are potential areas to stand off colostrum cows in wet conditions to minimise pugging in pasture paddocks.
Research	BCS assessments were completed on the 8 August with each herd averaging a 5.3 BCS (combined milking and dry cows)

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

Feed

Principles of Pasture & Feed Management this week

Feed Quality	Pastures are greening up and beginning to show signs of spring growth. We continue to focus on getting the high mass pastures in each of the feed wedges grazed as soon as practical while considering the SRP, days since paddocks were last grazed and paddock observations collected from each paddock during the farm walk. With the higher APC we have reduced the in-shed feed to the minimum required to provide the targeted early lactation minerals that have been included this year. Given all herds have access to the same inshed feed this year the decision was made to reduce the amount of dusting required but providing additional calcium and magnesium as a pellet with the grain. All springers are getting MgO dusted and FB springers also get DCP. Colostrum pastures are being dusted with DCP, MgO and limeflour.
Growth Rate Management	Pasture growth rate through winter at SDH has been about average but we dried off with a higher APC than previous years resulting in high average pasture covers across 3 of the four farmlets. Achieving good grazing residuals while minimising soil and pasture damage is our focus as we eat through the top off the wedge. The LI Kale treatment continues to have the lowest APC however with the growth over the last week is in a much better position and isn't having to deal with very high mass covers like the other three farmlets.
Nitrogen Strategy	While soil temperature averaged 7.8 C over the last week we wont be looking at N applications any time soon given our current APC levels and pre-grazing mass across the farmlets.

Feed: Spring Rotation Planner

Why use a SRP	Provides guidelines for allocating pasture to cope with the growing milking herd and the shrinking dry herd. Helps avoid going too fast or too slow in the first grazing rotation after calving. Controls the rate of pasture cover decline on the farm so enough pasture remains to maximise pasture growth. Creates high pasture quality for the coming rotations Minimises pasture deficits during spring so that supplement use is kept within the financial budget.
Tips for using a SRP	Allocate area accurately. Know the area of your paddocks and the daily breaks and how these relate to the rotation plan. Share the plan with staff and have regular updates (at least weekly, sometimes daily) on progress against the plan. Achieve target grazing residuals of 1500 - 1600 kg DM/ha (no clumps left) in the first rotation. Track actual rotation length versus target rotation length. Plot this on the graph each week. Track actual average pasture cover (APC) for the farm versus target farm pasture cover. Regularly tally the cow numbers in each mob
Things to avoid	Going too fast too early - avoid over-allocating pasture to early calving cows Speeding up rotation to avoid pugging in wet weather, and not having a plan to get back on track. In a feed deficit, a slow rotation will help rectify the situation. A fast rotation will make the deficit worse and delay recovery. Feeding too much supplement and for too long - indicated by high grazing residuals or uneaten supplement. Not modifying the plan for an excellent spring - if pasture cover is above target then there is opportunity to offer more pasture area than planned and reduce supplementary feed

For more information and tools on Spring Rotation Planners, Feed and Pasture Management visit

https://www.dairynz.co.nz/feed/

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

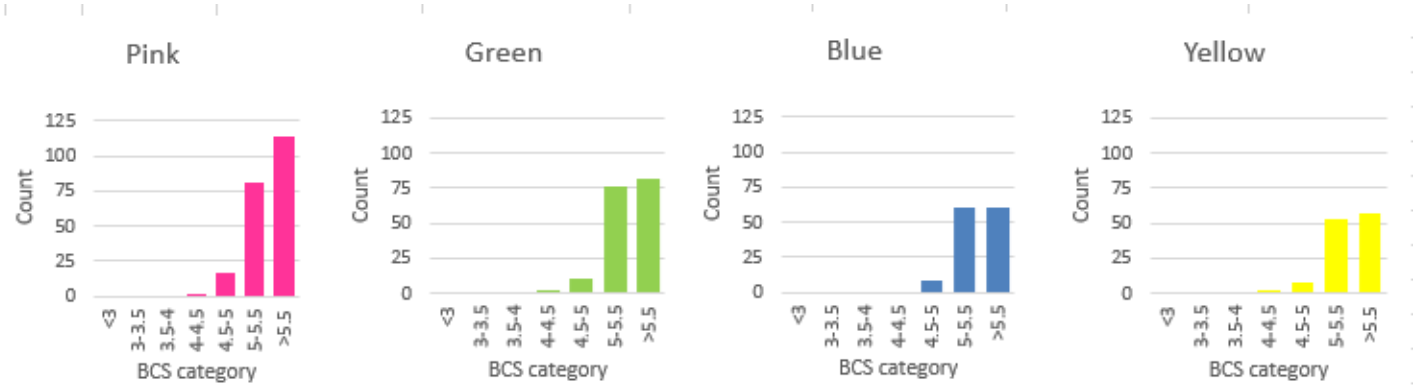
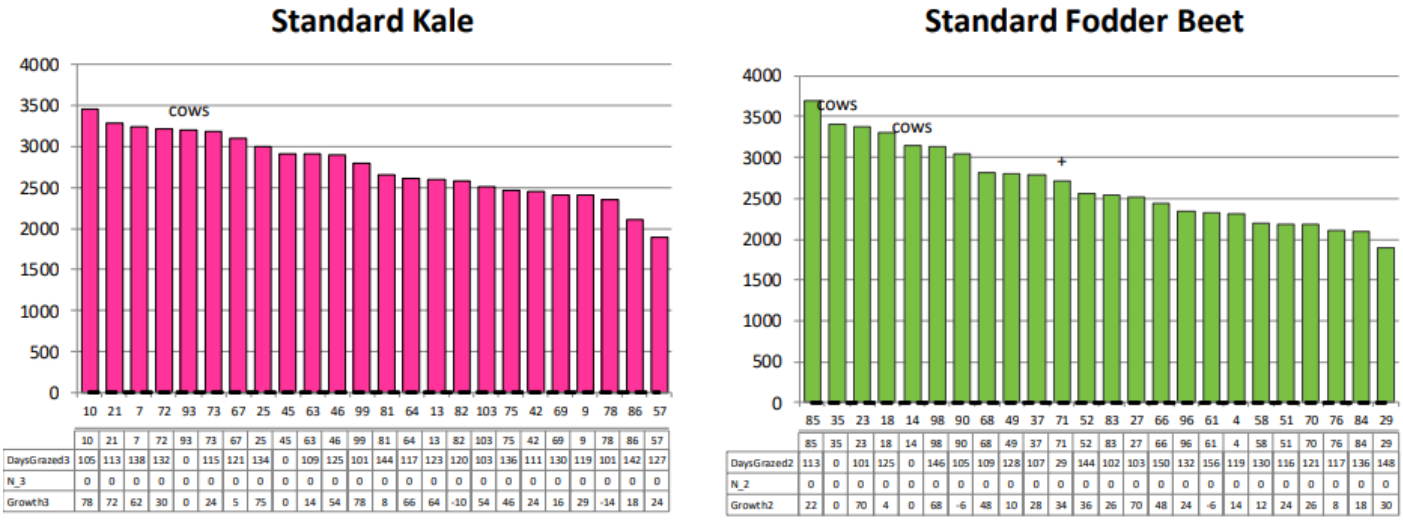
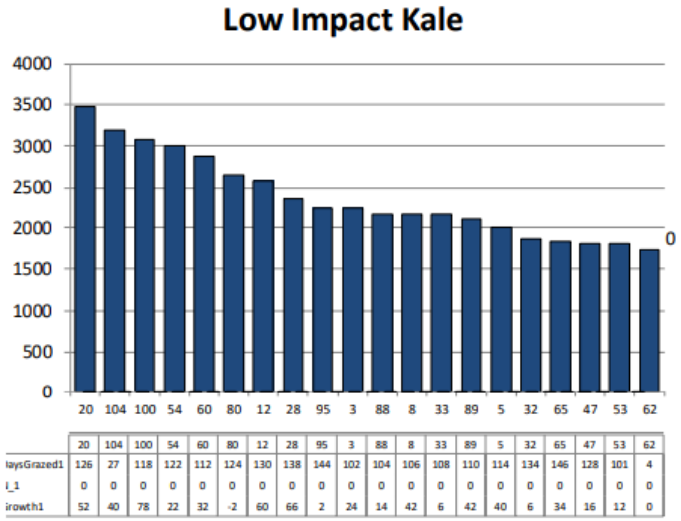


Figure 1: Herd BCS distribution from 8th August 2022





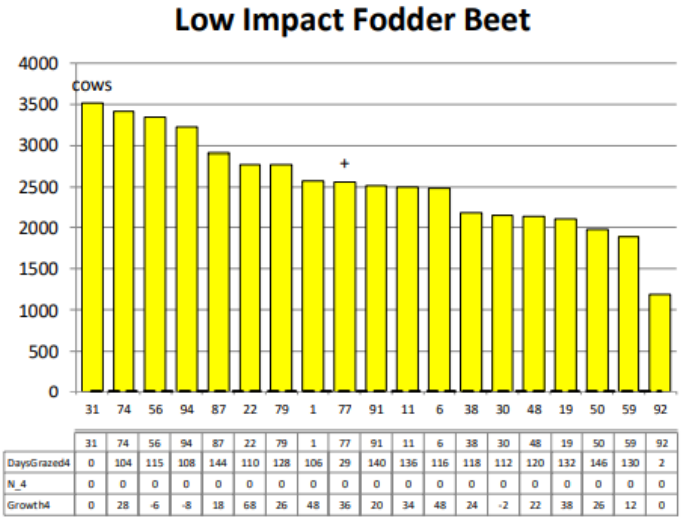


Figure 2: Feed Wedges as of 9th August 2022

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

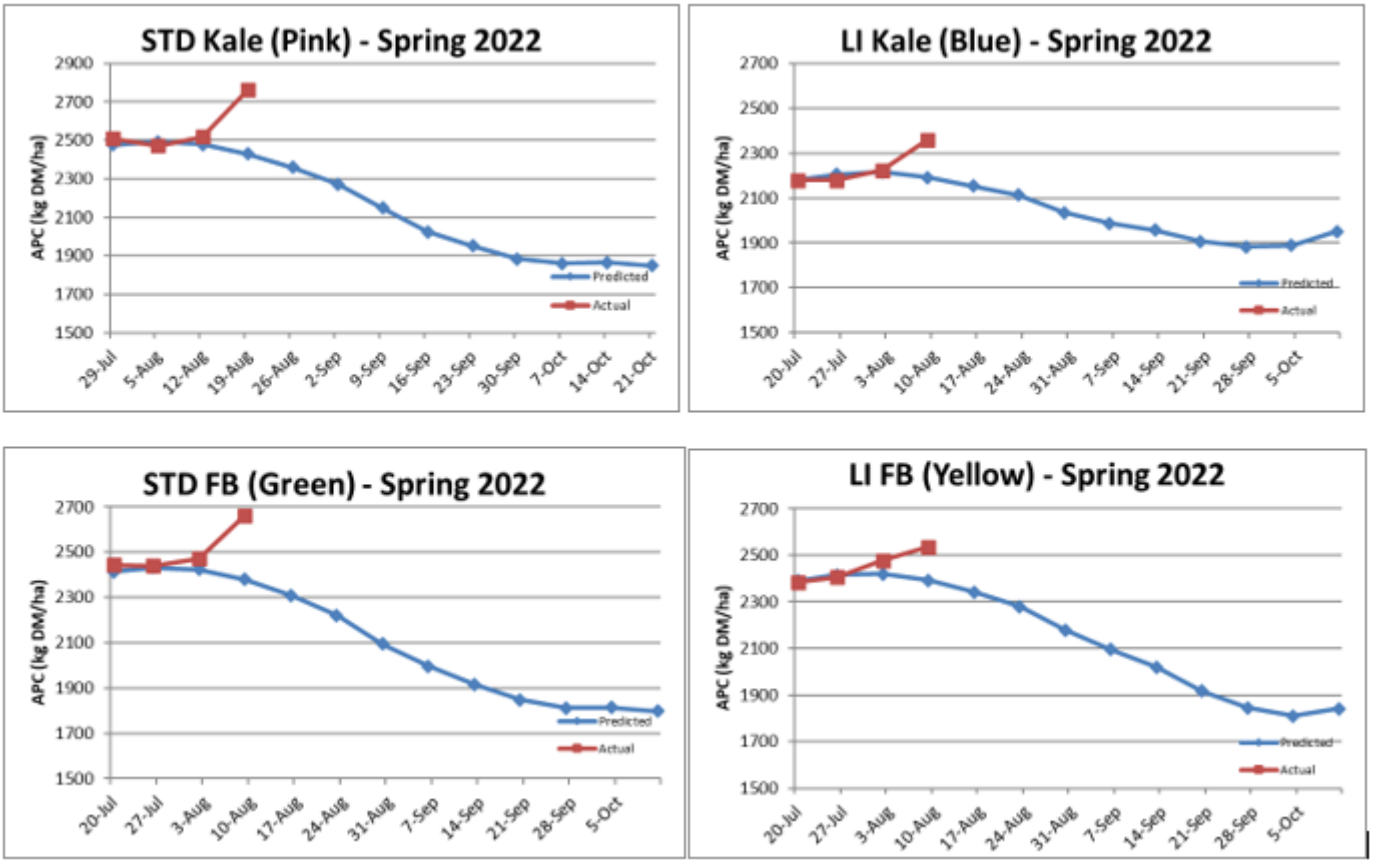


Figure 3: Spring feed budget APC targets vs actual – 9th August 2022

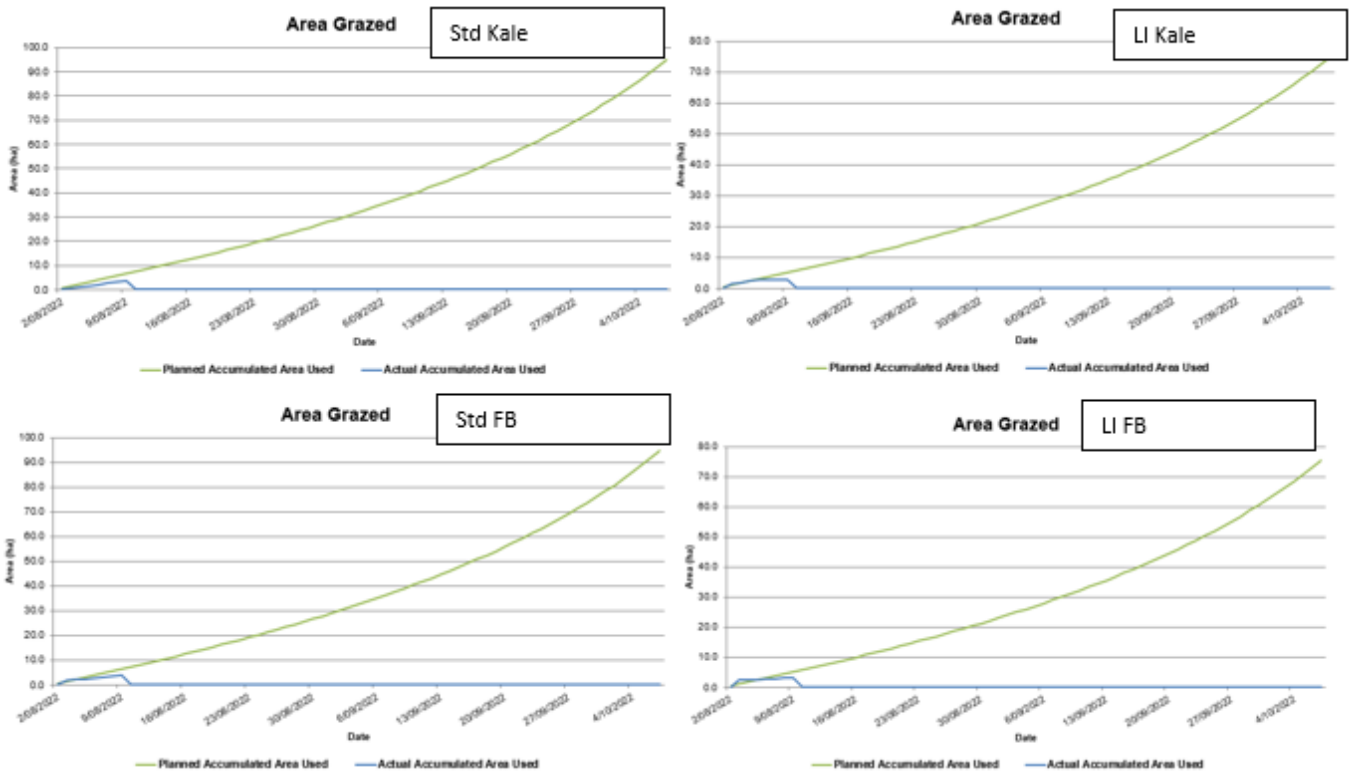


Figure 4: Area grazed vs predict from SRP by Farmlet - 9th August 2022