Weekly Farm Summary 12th May 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	75.0	72.1	75.0	69.2
Peak cow numbers	195	162	194	162
Milking Area	63.4	60.5	63.4	60.5
Current Herd size (cows)	136	98	142	121
Pasture Stocking rate	2.1	1.6	2.2	2.0
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Kale In-Shed feed		Fodder beet Fodder beet/Baleage	
Average Cover	2276	2119	2347	2232
Average Growth	32	30	31	35
Target rotation length	40	38	40	38
Last week act rotation (d)	39	38	44	38
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	0.8	0.3	2.6	2.9
Average BCS	4.66	4.50	4.49	4.49
% of herd on priority feeding	14%	20%	8%	5%
Milk yield (L/cow)	10.9	10.5	10.3	10.2
Milk yield (kgMS/cow)	1.18	1.19	1.15	1.13
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	**190**	**50**	**190**	**50**
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	84% (162kg)	106% (53kg)	79% (152kg)	108% (54kg)
Effluent N YTD	16	12	19	19
Profit/ha comp to Control	$0	-$210	-$173	-$166
YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	888	712	777	733
YTD MS/cow	409	404	383	384
YTD MS/ha	1,257	1,082	1,171	1,028

Business Area	Current Status
Feed	Currently in a unique feed situation. Using dry cows to follow milkers in paddocks where residual has not been achieved. Heifers to return to platform this week to pull the APC down as growth continues at or above demand for the milkers. Aeration continuing in compacted paddocks as determined from visual soil assessment
Milk Production	Both pasture quality and quantity seem to be driving the huge fluctuations in production over the past week. Possible energy deficit particularly in both Kale herds, however production dropping across the entire farm.
People	Team outing on Friday to thank the team and celebrate achievements from a very challenging season. Priority now is shifting baleage & setting up paddocks for winter.
Animals	All culls now identified, 50 still on farm. Minimal lameness relative to May last year which we attribute to OAD milking and dry weather conditions. Three empty cows identified on herd test milk sample & confirmed by the vet; Calves now 228 kg with ADG of 0.78 kg/day since the last weigh, heaviest 303 kg and lightest 164 kg
Environment	Soil temperatures still sitting at 13 degrees compared with 7 degrees this time last season so effluent continues to be applied. Pond level sitting at 35%.
Wintering	Last of the winter baleage arriving this week. Paddock plans almost complete
Research	Final herd test of the season completed this week, the 18th herd test for the year!

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Feed

Principles of Pasture Management this week

Feed Quality	Will increase inshed feeding for the kale herds to lift overall feed quality as milk productions suggests energy is limited. Pushing intakes as high as we can for the milkers and will use the dry cows in paddocks to correct any high residuals.
Growth Rate Management	Currently the farm is growing more than expected so APC higher than feed budget targets for all herds. Utilizing all available mobs (dry cows, milkers and heifers) to manage pasture so APC at 1st June is at targeted levels. Fine balance between dry cows putting on weight and residuals being achieved. In some instances supplements will be increased to milkers to ensure sufficient residuals to achieve weight gain in the dry cows.
Nitrogen Strategy	Effluent applications are being reviewed weekly, however at current soil temperatures and moisture levels we will continue with applications until conditions change.

	Standard Kale Pink	**Low Impact Kale Blue**	**Standard Fodder beet Green**	**Low Impact Fodder beet Yellow**
Quantity	APC 2276	APC 2119	APC 2347	APC 2232
Quality	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Surplus Management	Residuals tidied up by dry cows Heifers to increase demand	Residuals tidied up by dry cows Heifers to increase demand	Residuals tidied up by dry cows Heifers to increase demand	Residuals tidied up by dry cows Heifers to increase demand
Deficit Management	1.5kg inshed	1.5kg inshed	0.8 kg inshed 1.2 kg FB	0.8 kg inshed 1.2kg FB
Rotation Length	39 days	38 days	44 days	38 days

Milk Production

Principles of Milk production management this week

Milk Production	Milk production has declined this week as we approach the end of the season. 12 milkings to go!. Last herd test of the year completed this week with 5 cows having a SCC over 1 million Both low impact herds are slightly above last years production whilst the Std FB herd continues to be the furthest back, down 5.9% on the same time last season.
Key influences on milk production	Supplements increasing for both Kale herds, will hopefully result in milk production holding for the next 2 weeks until dry off. Fluctuations in milk production mainly driven by individual paddock quality but a couple of paddocks this week where quantity was an issue based on residuals.
Cow Management	All cows condition scored this week, allowing us to track BCS gain in dry cows. Individual animals may be dried off before full herd dry off based on milk yield, SCC, lameness or mastitis risk.

	Standard Kale Pink	**Low Impact Kale Blue**	**Standard Fodder beet Green**	**Low Impact Fodder beet Yellow**
kg Milksolids per cow this week / (last week)	1.18/(1.28)	1.19/(1.20)	1.15/(1.25)	1.13/(1.18)
kg Milksolids per ha this year / (this time last year)	1257/(1295)	1082/(1064)	1171/(1244)	1029/(1025)
Season to date compared to last year	Down 2.9% total milk	Up 1.7% total milk	Down 5.9% total milk	Up 1.7% total milk
Cows dried off	36 cows (19% of herd)	38 cows (28% of herd)	20 cows (12% of herd)	24 cows (10% of herd)
Animal health peculiarities	None	None	None	None

Wintering

Policy Update

The revised wintering rules for Essential Fresh Water have recently been released following industry consultation and feedback. While the rules only apply to Intensive Winter Grazing (IWG) i.e. grazing of forage crops between 1 May and 31st September in the same year, many of the principles also apply to pasture base wintering. Key requirements include:

Paddocks must be re-sown as soon as conditions allow, instead of by a fixed date

Pugging depth rules removed and replaced with requirement that farmers take all steps possible to minimise the effects of pugging on fresh water

Farmers must protect critical source areas, by not cultivating or planting in crop or grazing them from May to September.

Farmers who carry out winter grazing on land with slopes over 10 degrees will either require a resource consent or include management of these areas in their certitifed freshwater farm plan once they are available.

While these regulations don't become operative until November 2022 this winter provides an opportunity to get systems and processes in place to ensure you are well set up for winter 2023

SDH wintering plans

In preparing for winter 2023 we are reassessing our wintering plans in light of the impending regulations. Having robust paddock plans in place this winter will provide a good platform for next winter when it is a regulatory requirement.

Below is an example of our paddock plan. Items detailed are

bales/ day and total paddock bale requirements

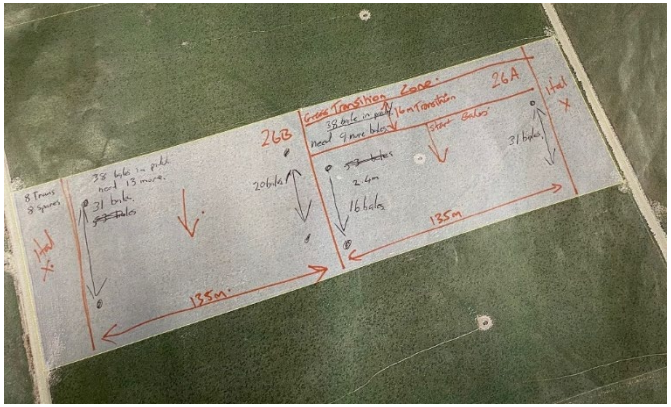
daily break length and paddock dimensions

Group name, mob size etc

By detailing grazing direction, fence location, transition areas etc the farm team are able to have clear visability on plans for each paddock reducing the risk of confusion through the winter and increasing the chance of success.

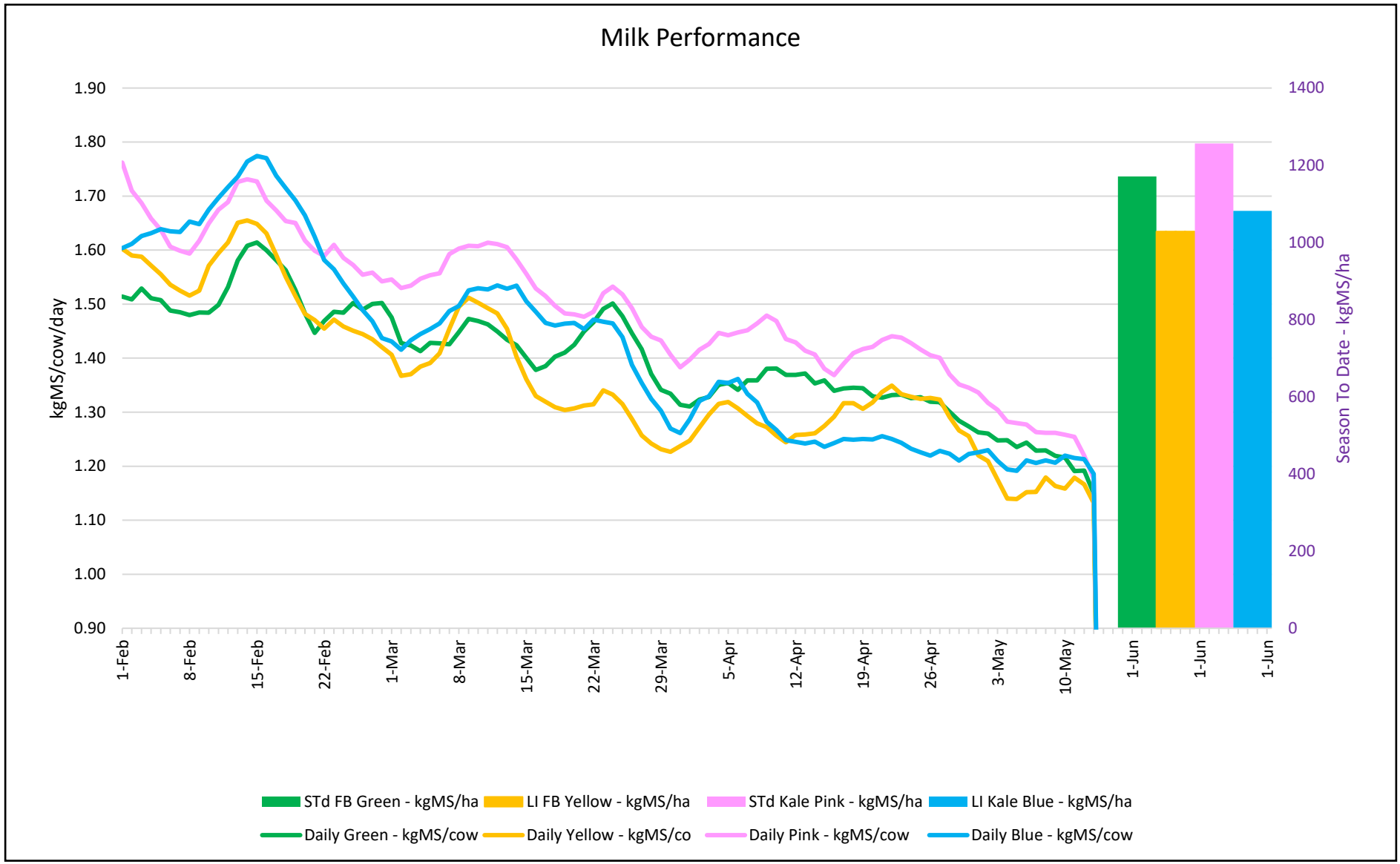
Check out www.dairynz.co.nz/feed/crops/wintering for the winter paddock plan template.

Paddock/Section	26	Beet
Total area pdk/section	2.3ha	paddock split in 2
Group Name	Beet std late	Graze towards 25
Cow tally	86	
Start grazing	**25-May**	
Paddock dimensions	135 Face	m pdk Length
Break length daily	**2.4 m/day**	322.5 sqm/day
Bales/day fed	**1.5**	
Bales laid out in breaks	106	
Spare bales in paddock	8	
Transition bales in paddock	8	
Total bales in paddock	**122**	



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

Kale, Winters on kale - in-shed feed available. Fodder beet, winters on Beet, Beet as lactation supp. Low impact (LI) limited Max 50kg N/ha/year vs Std 193kg N/ha/year



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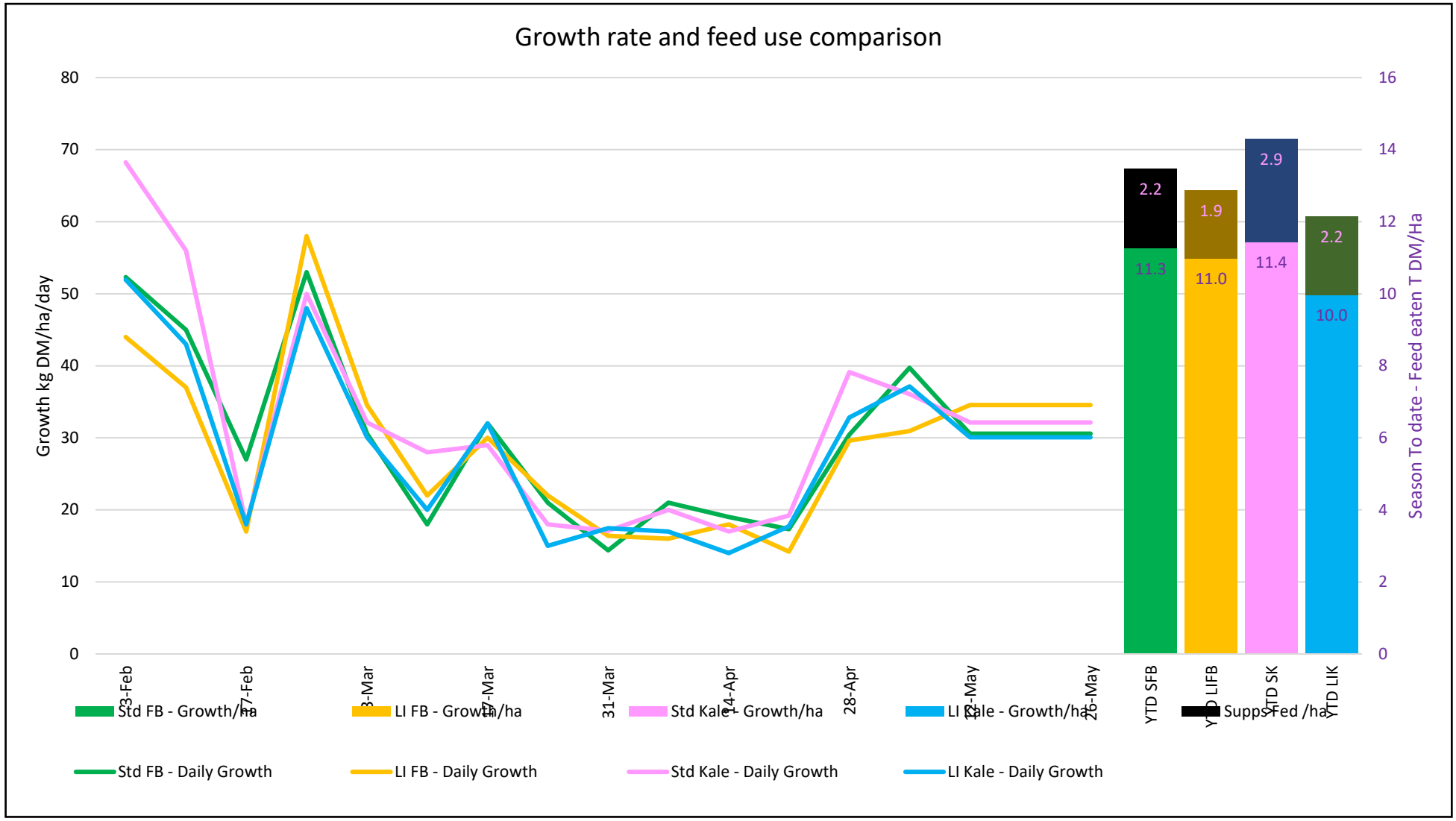

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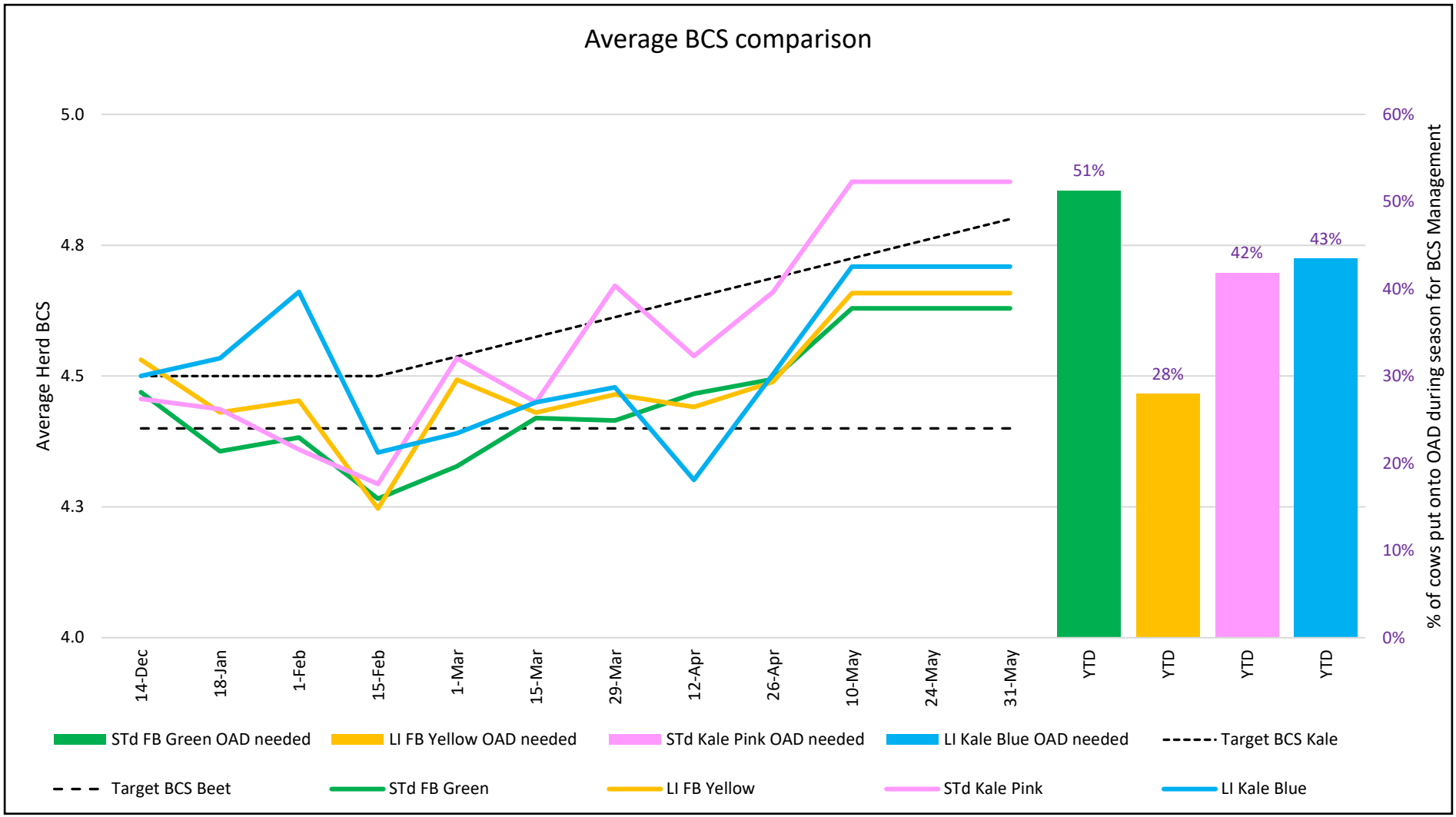

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Figure 1: Bales laid out in an Italian paddock being used for baleage wintering

Figure 2: Paddock post aeration

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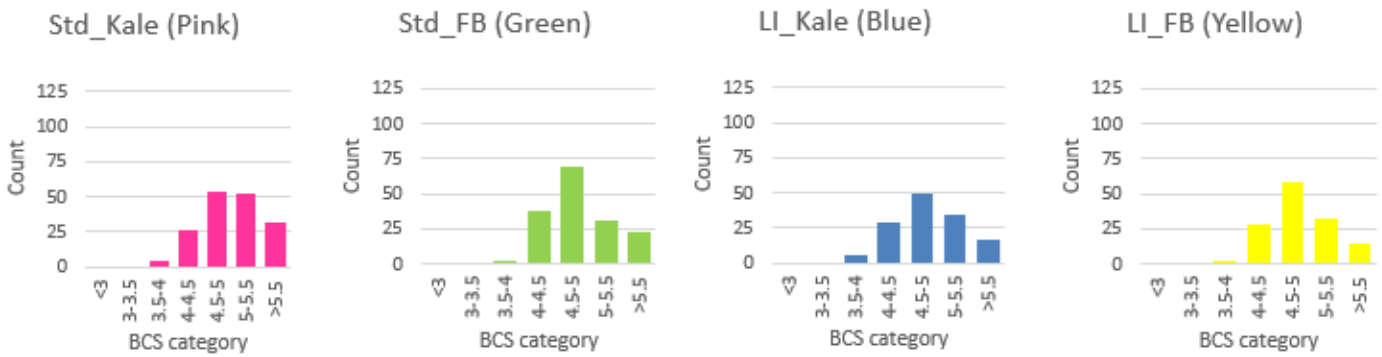
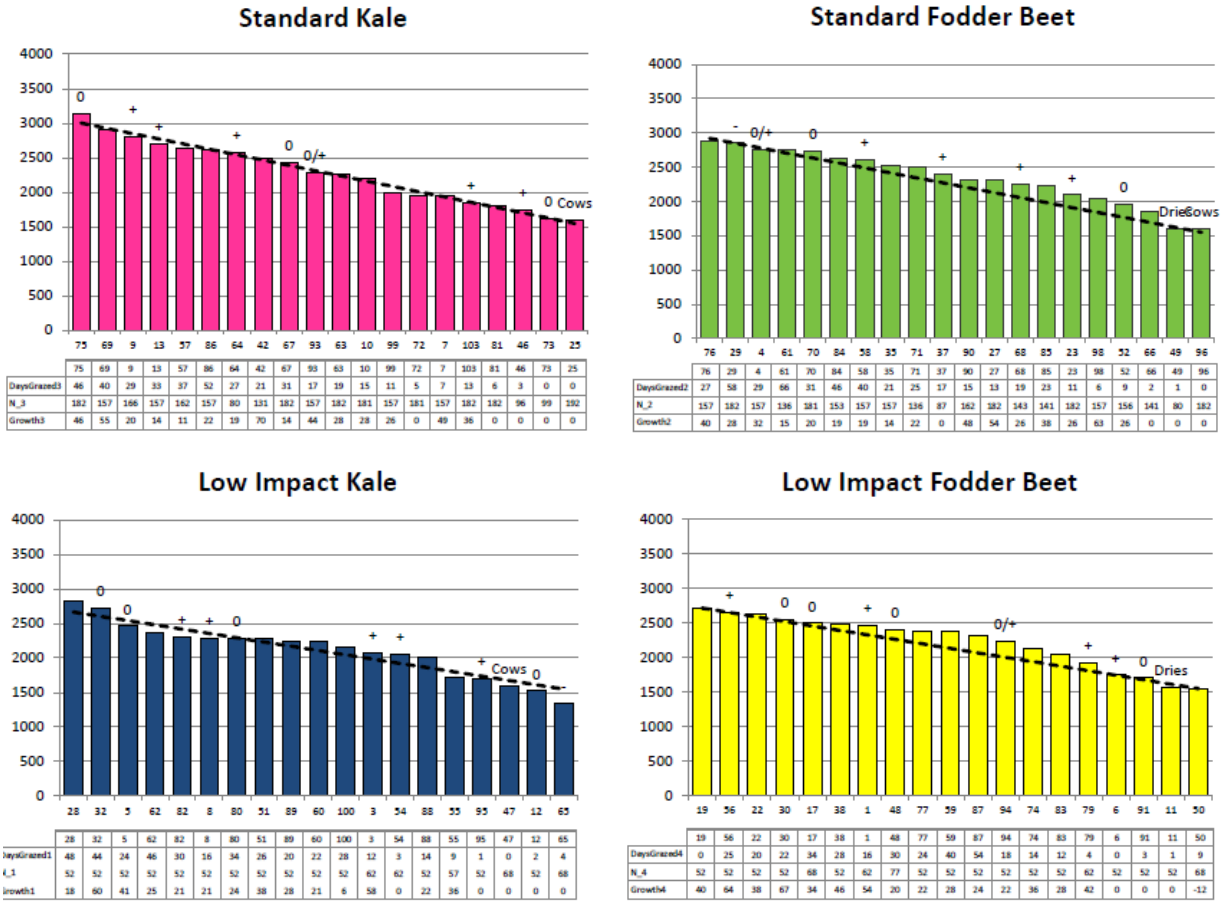


Figure 3: Body Condition Score distribution for each herd



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