

# Weekly Farm Summary 13 September 2023

Farm-system impacts of: Bales vs Beet for winter AND Reducing N loss to water by 30%.

	Pink -Std Infrastructure	Blue- LI Baleage	Green- Std FB	Yellow- LI FB
Farmlet area including wintering	79.0	60.9	86.9	60.8
Peak cow numbers	212	140	237	137
Milking Area	76.1	52.2	75.3	55.0
Current Herd size (cows)	212	140	237	137
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.8	2.7	3.1	2.5
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
Average Cover (kgDM/ha)	2488	2423	2314	2534
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	34	37	27	31
Target rotation length (d)	35	35	35	35
Last week actual rotation (d)	46	53	35	57
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4
Latest Average BCS	Next week	Next week	Next week	Next week
% less than BCS 5	Next week	Next week	Next week	Next week
% in Milk	84%	86%	89%	90%
7-day Average Milk yield (L/cow)	25.6	24.7	25.9	25.2
<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%
Effluent N YTD	0	0	1	0
YTD supp (kg DM/c)	31	21	35	27
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	88 (85)	83 (71)	101 (87)	80 (73)
<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Current Status</b>			
<b>Milk Production</b>	Milk yield is continuing to increase but with the slower calving rate we are behind last years supply season to date although the last 2 pickups have been ahead of the same time last year. With a few poorer quality high mass paddocks being grazed this week we have seen some fluctuation in pickup volumes. Ten low producing animals have been identified from the daily yields and will be checked to see if we can identify the cause.			
<b>Pasture &amp; Feed</b>	The Std Infrastructure, LI Baleage and LI FB herds all have sufficient pasture available to fully feed their herds this week. Baleage will be required at approx. 3 kg DM/day for the Std FB herd. Colostrum cows will graze ahead of the milkers to take so bulk out of the paddocks in an attempt to achieve tidy residuals. We are expecting to have to tidy up paddocks grazed in the next week next round. Plans for spring regrassing have been completed.			
<b>Animals</b>	Calving has slowed right up with only 1 cow calving in each of the last 2 days. With 93 cows still to calve the team are hoping for some busier days over the next couple of weeks. We have seen an increase in the incidence of lameness in the last week with most new cases being stones in the white line. All cows calved more than 28 days will be metrichecked Friday. 180 of the 220 replacements were disbudded and had tissue samples collected for DNA matching this week.			
<b>Environment</b>	While growth is still strong we plan to start our first round of N next week, weather permitting. Regrowth on some of the high mass paddocks is starting to look a bit hungry.			
<b>Wintering</b>	The team met with PGGW Seeds this week to work through the spring regrassing plan and winter 2024 cropping plans. Preparation is well underway for securing baleage for winter 2024.			
<b>People</b>	We are close to contracting a new senior farm assistant to join the team. In the interim we are recruiting a couple of casuals to help with milking.			
<b>Research</b>	Interviews have been completed for a new research technician to replace Tash. A morning tea this week acknowledged the significant input Tash has made to the science delivery over the last 2.5 years.			

# Milk Production

## Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk production	<p>After a slow start to milk supply it is great to see the last two pickups being ahead of the same time last season. With no shortage of pasture and great BCS we are hoping the herds continue to push ahead on a daily basis. No milk is being taken from the vat for calf feeding. In an attempt to unpick the lower early season milk production, we are comparing feeding levels, cows in milk and feed quality between the years. Milk urea levels have fluctuated between 9 and 18-20 this week. We attribute this variation to differences in pasture quality between paddocks, particularly with the range in clover content we are observing.</p>
Key Influences of Milk Production	<p>The fodder beet vat continues to have a higher SCC than the baleage vat which is unexpected given the re-randomisation of cows to herds at the start of the season. After herd test this week we will investigate whether by chance we have ended up with high SCC cows from the Std FB herd last year back in this herd again this year.</p>
Cow Management	<p>We continue to identify light conditioned cows for priority feeding and if necessary, a longer period on OAD milking. Our aim is to restrict BCS loss to less than 0.5 BCS units prior to mating to maximise the chances of the cows getting back in calf early.</p>

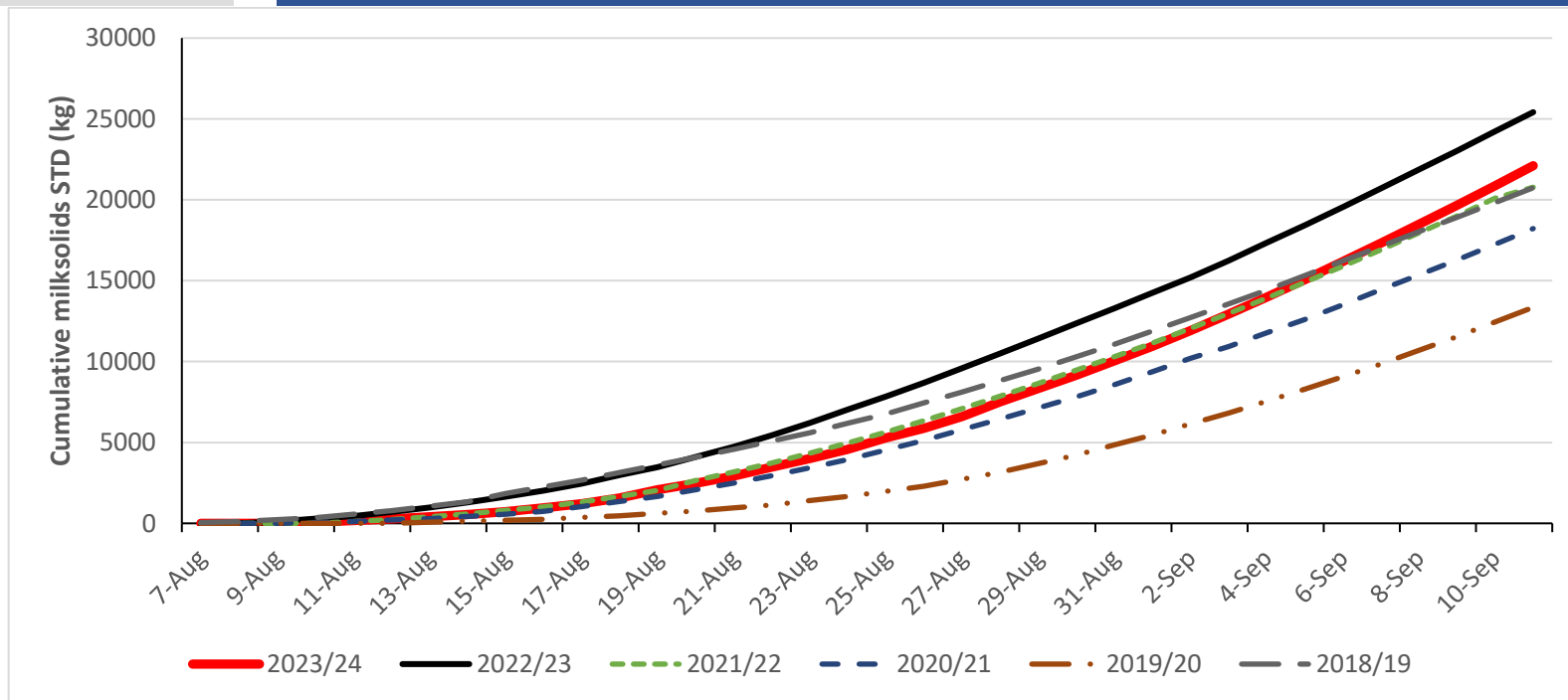


Figure 1. Cumulative total milksolids season to date compared with previous seasons

# Feed

## Principles of Feed management this week

<b>Feed Quality</b>	Pasture samples collected over the last couple of weeks will be sent off for analysis on Monday, however the variation in milk urea nitrogen (MUN) would suggest we have a range of crude protein contents across the paddocks. Springers will continue to be used to clean up behind milkers when the weather allows. A fresh strip of pasture will be left at the back of the paddock for dusting minerals onto. We are resigned to the fact that some remedial action will be required in the next round for paddocks grazed in the next week. We did consider pre-graze mowing but at this stage it would likely decrease the quality of pasture consumed by the cows as it removes the ability of them to select the best bits of the pasture.
<b>Growth Rate</b>	Growth rates continue to be in the 30-40 kg DM/day range primarily driven by the high average pasture cover and the grass grows grass principle. Cooler temperatures this week and predicted for next week could impact growth and as a result we will continue to allocate area according to the spring rotation planner.
<b>Nitrogen Strategy</b>	The fertiliser plan has been completed and weather permitting we will start N fertiliser applications next week focusing on all paddocks that have been grazed already. Unlike previous years where the last paddocks to be grazed in the first round have required N before they are grazed to get them growing, it doesn't look like this will be needed this year.



**Figure 2. Fodder beet lifting this week**

# Feed

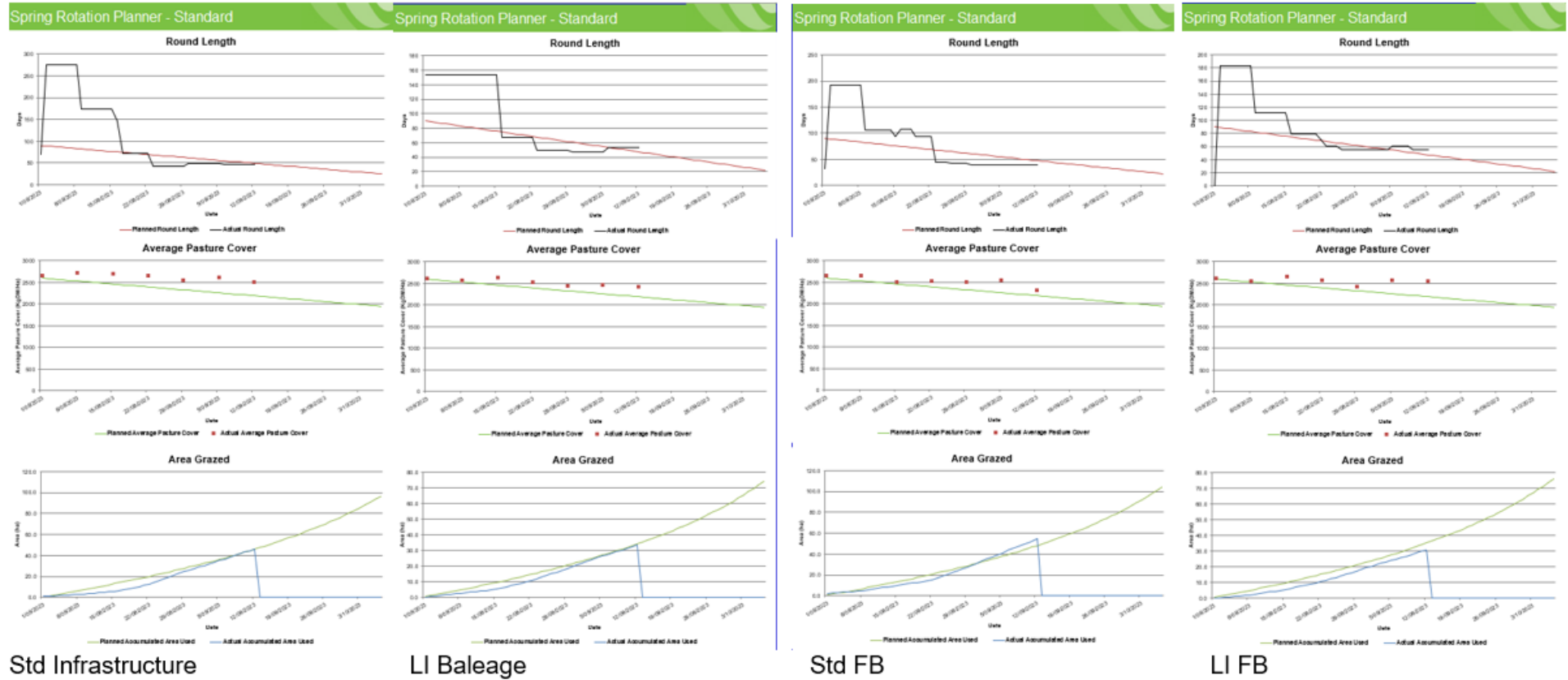


Figure 3. Farmlet spring rotation plan graphs