

Weekly Farm Summary 16 August 2023

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

	Std Infrastructure Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std FB Green	LI FB Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	79.0	60.9	86.9	60.8
Peak cow numbers	218	141	243	141
Milking Area	73.2	49.3	69.5	52.1
Current Herd size (cows)	215	141	239	137
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.9	2.9	3.4	2.6
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover (kgDM/ha)	2687	2636	2493	2640
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	17	13	14	21
Target rotation length (d)	75	74	68	70
Last week actual rotation (d)	177	83	106	111
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Latest Average BCS	N	E	X	T
% less than BCS 5	W	E	E	K
% in Milk	31%	34%	32%	35%
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	0%	0%	0%	0%
Effluent N YTD	0	0	0	0
YTD supp (kg DM/c)	3	3	4	3
Business Area	Current Status			
Milk Production	We have sent the first 2 milk pick-ups of the season, with more and more colostrum's being added to the milkers every day. All milkers will remain on OAD until this Saturday (19th August) and post that all calvers will have 14 days on OAD (including colostrum days) with anything suspect remaining on OAD for as long as necessary.			
Pasture & Feed	Currently we are sitting on a higher APC than the spring rotation planner had indicated, suggesting there is the ability to open things up without running into a deficit. The colostrum mob has been grazing below the targeted 1650kgDM residual, so the team have adjusted the grazing plan to ensure residuals are met and milk production isn't being compromised.			
Animals	Calving is on track with the predicted numbers being in line with the actual cows calved with 239 calved as of 15th August. No major metabolic issues to date and preventative treatments being given to any cows that are looking suspicious. Weekly springer drafts are to continue until 1st of September			
Environment	With the pond only at 55% capacity there is no pressure to start applying effluent.			
Wintering	The fodder beet cows that are still on crop will be removed from the paddock next Tuesday (22nd August).			
People	A full team meeting was held this week to discuss policies, procedures and the complexities that come with the farm systems trials, which is even more important with the new team members on board. Everyone getting a sleep in every 2nd or 3rd day to manage hours and the roster has moved to 7-3 which the team are enjoying.			
Research	BAU on research front this week.			

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk production	<p>It is still very early in the season so getting an accurate gauge on milk production is tricky. Feeding levels in the colostrum mob are being increased to ensure milk production isn't being compromised by achieving tight residuals. Currently daily litres per cow is sitting between 12 L and 14L across the different herds with a high proportion of heifers having calved. First pickup SCC was in the low 300,000's but dropped to 200,000 with the removal of one mastitis cow. We expect SCC to continue falling especially with the move to twice a day milking on Saturday.</p>
Key Influences of Milk Production	<p>Rate of calving is having the biggest impact on milk production again this week, however we are on track with predicted calvings vs actuals as per Table 1. With no shortage of pasture on farm and good cow condition we are well set up for a good start to the season. The colostrum cows should see a lift in production with the additional pasture being offered to them this week but we will continue to monitor this closely to ensure we are providing sufficient feed to support good milk production post calving.</p>
Cow Management	<p>As mentioned above the milkers will be moved to twice a day milking from Saturday 19th, cows that calve from now on will remain on OAD for 14 days and colostrum cows will continue to be milked OAD. All cows are paddle tested before being moved out of the colostrum mob. The first herd test for the season is booked in for the 30-31st of August with them continuing fortnightly for the remainder of the season.</p>

Table 1: Cows calved to date - predicted vs actual

	Std infrastructure Predicted	Std Infrastructure Actual	LI Baleage Predicted	LI Baleage Actual	Std FB Predicted	Std FB Actual	LI FB Predicted	LI FB Actual	Total Predicted	Total Actual
8 August	19	27	7	14	18	29	12	20	56	91
15 August	72	66	52	48	77	77	55	48	256	239

Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	<p>Pasture quality is reasonable for this time of the year however there are a few older pasture paddocks that had higher masses going into the winter that are now showing signs of decay in the clumps. We are focusing on grazing the high mass paddocks with the most days since last grazing first. The quality in those paddocks that were shorter heading into the winter is good and as expected for this time in the season.</p> <p>Monitor paddock sampling has started for the season but we are waiting on the results of these to come through.</p>
Growth Rate	<p>Growth rates have slightly increased this week with the range between 13 -21 kgDM and APC still above where the spring rotation planner had predicted even with the poorer weather in the past few weeks. Milkers to be split into baleage and fodder beet on Friday and will remain in these groups for the next week to ensure high mass paddocks are brought back into the wedge with targeted post graze residuals.</p>
Nitrogen Strategy	<p>Conditions can change quickly at this time of the year and with our current APC still sitting higher than intended there is still no need for any additional pasture growth and until soil temperatures are rising N applications for the season will not start. Effluent is also not being applied yet in the season due to pond levels in a comfortable position.</p>



Figure 1: No shortage of feed in sight for these milkers