

Weekly Farm Summary 17 April 2024

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

	Std Baleage Blue	LI Baleage Pink	Std FB Green	LI FB Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	49.3	93.6	86.9	60.8
Peak cow numbers	139	208	233	136
Milking Area	49.3	82.0	75.3	52.1
Current Herd size (cows)	123	186	200	118
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.3
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover (kgDM/ha)	2360	2399	2298	2384
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	43	33	36	45
Target rotation length (d)	26	28	26	28
Last week actual rotation (d)	26	30	24	30
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	3.4	2.4	4.4	3.4
Latest Average BCS	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.9
% of herd on priority management	18.7%	22.6%	25.0%	28.8%
% in Milk	86%	85%	84%	86%
% dried off	3%	5%	3%	1%
7-day Average Milk yield (L/cow)	14.8	14.1	13.8	15.3
7-day Average Milk yield (kgMS/c)	1.52	1.44	1.52	1.69
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	86% (155kg)	100% (50kg)	88% (158kg)	98% (49kg)
Effluent N YTD	16	17	15	16
YTD Pasture growth TDM/ha	15.0	12.9	14.4	12.9
YTD supp (kg DM/c)	533	487	627	489
YTD MS/c	500	475	508	564
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	1270 (1270)	1065 (933)	1308 (1133)	1342 (1150)
Focus area	Current Status			
Milk Production	Milk production for all herds has dropped this week as the cows and farm team settle into the new feeding regime. The silage DM has come back lower than what was being used to calculate the amounts to feed which won't have helped. Autumn is always a challenging time to balance achieving good residuals in the last grazing but making sure cow requirements are being met			
Pasture & Feed	Growth rates have eased again this week which has resulted in a drop in APC for all farmlets. However, all are still tracking at or just above the feed budget target and less supplementary feed was offered than budgeted. Pasture dry matter content is coming back very low, particularly on wet days. The range has been from 10% for paddocks with plantain on wet days to 17% with no plantain paddocks on dry days.			
Animals	20 light BCS early calving cows were dried off this week. They were predominantly rising 3 year olds that need to get back to BCS 5.5 by calving. Of the 20 dried off there was x3 Std baleage, x10 LI baleage, x5 Std FB and x1 LI FB. BCS data assessments this week indicate that the cows on OAD milking are increasing BCS			
Environment	N applications for the year have finished. The effluent pond is 35% full so effluent continues to be applied when conditions allow, to paddocks that have not had much effluent this season. Looking at the latest soil moisture results our soils have been at field capacity several times in the last couple of weeks so monitoring when effluent goes out is critical.			
Wintering	Plans for baleage placement are finalised, with bales being laid out accordingly. Several more paddocks are having their last grazing to ensure the correct cover levels as springer paddocks			
People	Team sickness and days off mean Ravee has really stood up and taken on a lot of responsibility this week, good job Ravee!			
Research	BCS and herd testing on this week, along with coordinating baleage placement and source with the farm team has kept the research team busy this week.			

Milk Production

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk production	Milk production has dropped off this week. Std Baleage dropped 0.05 kg MS/day, LI Baleage dropped 0.08 kg MS/day, Std FB down 0.14 kg MS/day and a 0.09 MS drop in the LI FB.
Key Influences of Milk Production	Low dry matter in the grass (10%- 17%) continues to be an issue. This week silage began to be added to the cows diet in significant amount (2-3 kgs/ cow), and dry matter % tests have come back closer to 25 than the 30% that was being used to calculate feeding rates. These two factors mean residuals have been met easily, but at a cost to milk production and potentially BCS if the situation continued. The balance of getting the right residuals in paddocks on their last grazing and BCS gain is always a key trade off at this time of year. The Std FB cows dropped the most, but production from them has remained good after 2 weeks OAD, with them still producing 2 nd equal on a per cow basis
Cow Management	20 younger cows were dried off this week to meet BCS targets. They had all be on OAD milking for at least a month in their herds. Cows being dried off will be fed hay with some grass, the low protein diet will help them dry down quicker- cows should be fed no more than maintenance for 10-14 days post dry off, and cows producing more than 10 litres/day should be fed 30-50% less feed than normal for the week prior to their last milking. For more information Look up the SmartSAMM Drying off guideline (Guideline 16)

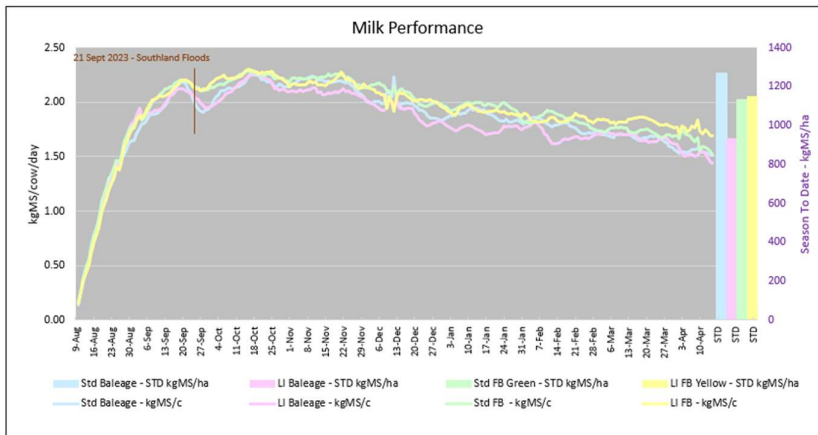


Figure 1. Milk solids per cow/day STD and kgMS/ha STD

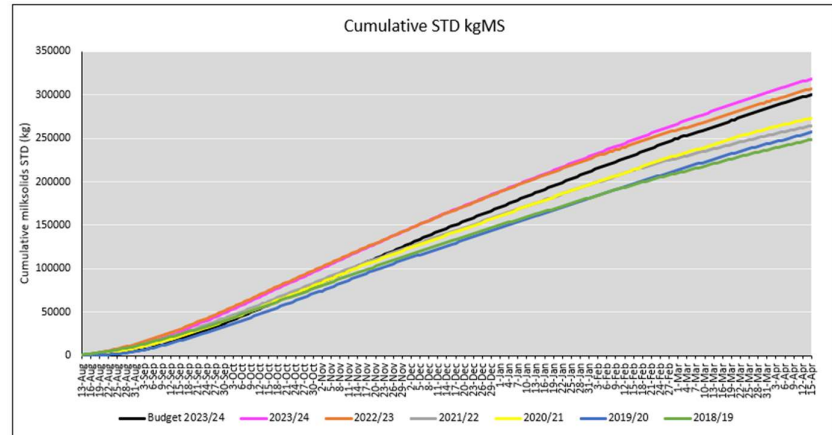


Figure 2. Cumulative kg Milk solids & Budget season to date

Feed Wedges

Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	While feed quality going into milking cows is still top priority for milk production and BCS gain, it is useful to have some hay or poorer quality, higher DM baleage to feed cows through the dry down process, some cows that need to dry off for BCS gain may still be milking quite a bit. Any cows producing more than 10 l need a 10-14 day process to dry off.
Growth Rate	Growth rates are dropping as soil temperatures drop in line with usual for the time of year. Pasture growth rates for the year are well ahead of last year, with 15 and 14.5 t/DM/ha already grown this year on the standard farmlets and 12.9 grown on both the lower impact farmlets.
Nitrogen Strategy	Final N applications have been completed on all farmlets.

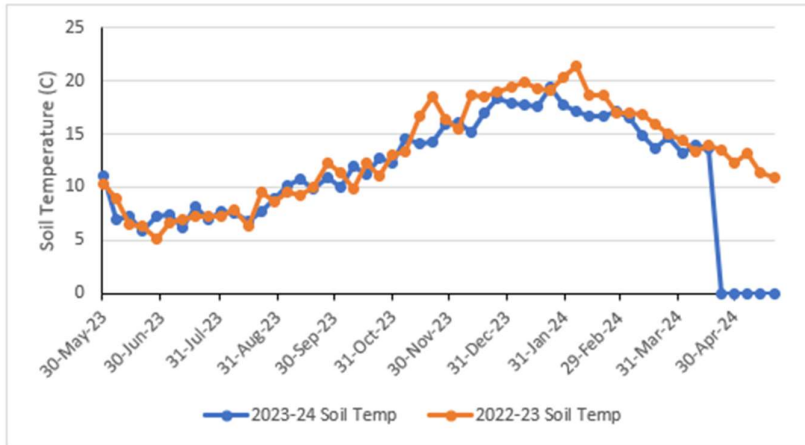


Figure 3. Soil temperatures 2023-24 vs 2022-23

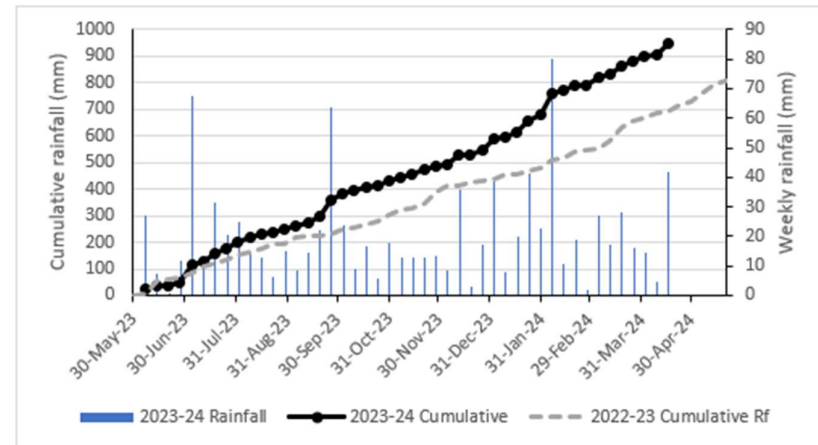


Figure 4. Season to date rainfall compared with cumulative rainfall 2022-23

Feed Wedges

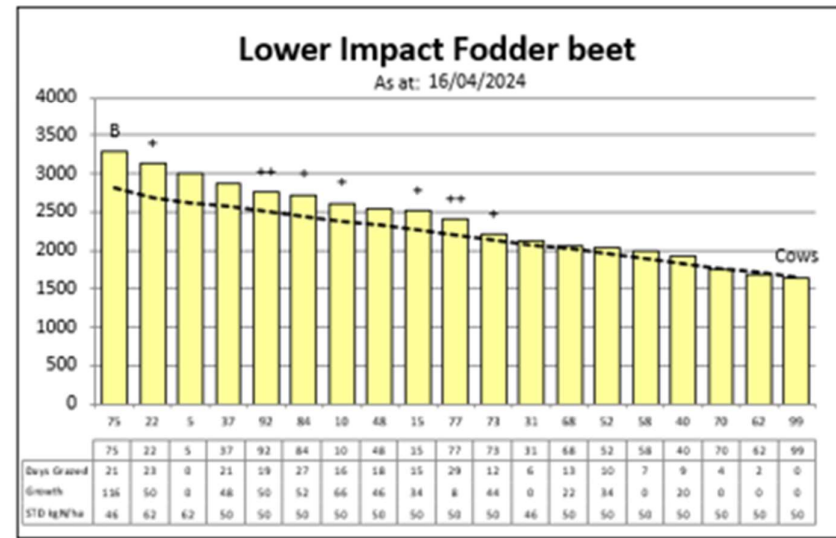
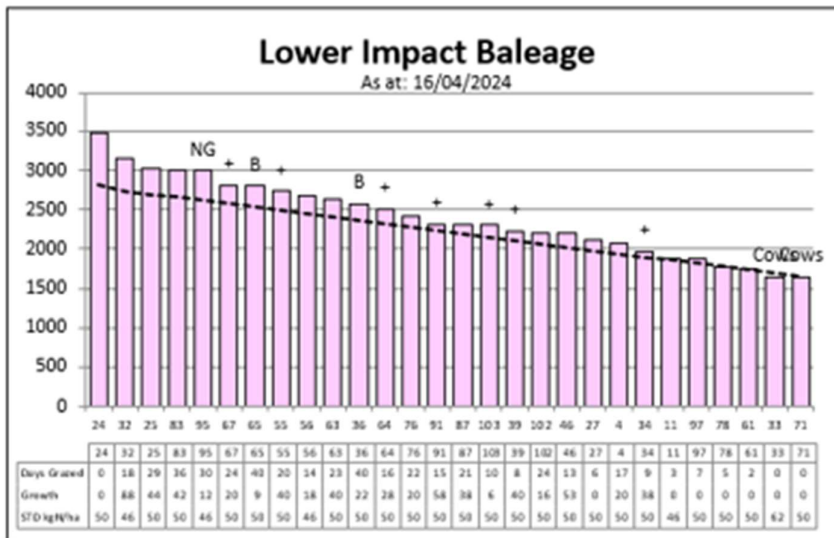
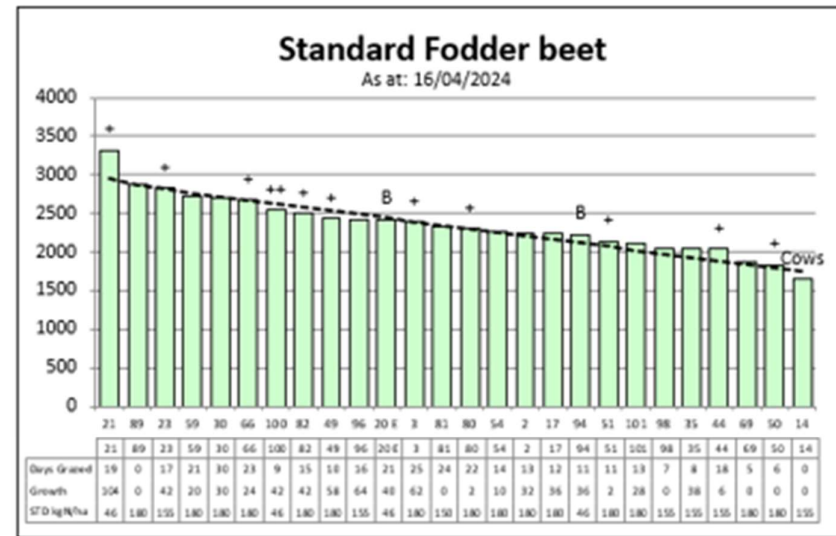
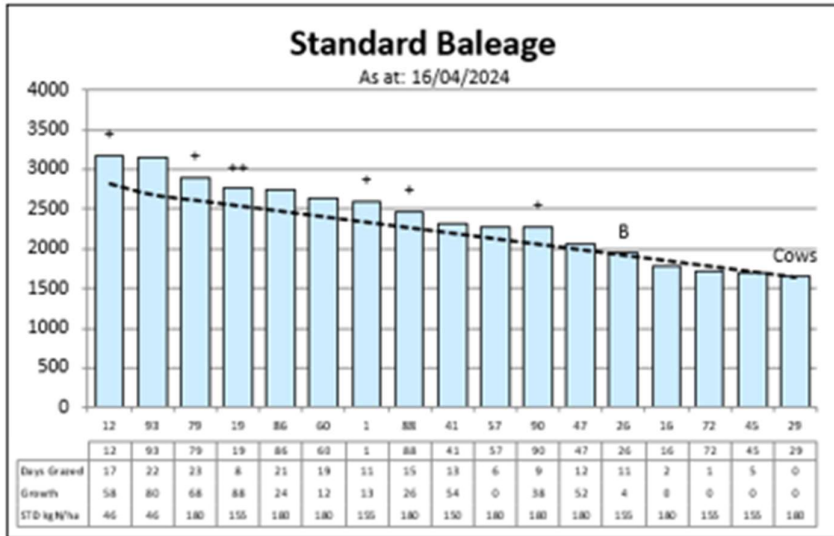


Figure 5. Plate meter feed wedges as at 16th April 2024

Feed budget APC tracking

