

Weekly Farm Summary 18 October 2023

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

	Std Infrastructure 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	141	218	243	141
Milking Area	43.5	82.0	69.5	52.1
Current Herd size (cows)	140	208	234	136
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	3.2	2.5	3.4	2.6
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover (kgDM/ha)	2321	2466	2288	2416
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	50.0	48.2	56.3	62.9
Target rotation length (d)	24	30	26	29
Last week actual rotation (d)	24	28	24	30
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	4.9	1.7	4.9	1.6
Latest Average BCS	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9
% of herd on priority management	11.4%	16.8%	14.5%	14.7%
7-day Average Milk yield (L/cow)	100%	100%	100%	100%
7-day Average Milk yield (kgMS/c)	25.0	24.9	25.2	25.4
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	7% (13kg)	6% (3kg)	8% (14kg)	8% (4kg)
Effluent N YTD	1	1	3	2
YTD supp (kg DM/c)	129	103	173	95
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	320 (283)	266 (233)	364 (291)	282 (242)
Focus area	Current Status			
Milk Production	Milk production continues to increase with more of the herds peaking higher this season than last. The SCC for both vats continues to be in at the excellence level. Fat to Protein Ratio's is very consistent across each of the Baleage and Fodder Beet farmlets.			
Pasture & Feed	Growth rates averaged 54 kgDM/ha/day across the farm this week. There was an improvement on the number of paddocks getting closer to residual as a result of good monitoring and decision making from the farm team on which and when to apply strategies from the toolbox. Rotation length has remained the same at its fastest as growth rates continue to increase with soil temperatures at 11.2 and N in the system.			
Animals	Calving has finally finished!!! The new priority feeding/preferential treatment of lower BCS cows has been implemented this week with ~15% of the whole herd been milked OAD and or been preferentially feed in-shed. A few incidences of Lameness, mostly coinciding with when the weather is wet and the laneways slippery.			
Environment	Second round applications to begin for the Std herds and will review next week when the LI paddocks will start their next round of Nitrogen applications.			
Wintering	With the drier weather this week groundwork returning wintered and springer paddocks back to Grass and into next winters FB has continued. Transition bales for next winters FB paddocks are insitu and ready to be placed on crop once it has been sown.			
People	The farm team had a very productive and informative session on reassessing their values and any requirements they believe will improve their day-to-day work life.			
Research	The research technicians have been busy as usual with collecting pasture samples, herd testing and BCS			

Milk production

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk production	<p>Milk production has continued to increase with cows producing 2.3 kgMS/cow/day for each farmlet. However, we are still tracking slightly behind in overall farm production compared to same time last year by 2.8%, mostly as a result of a slower start to calving and milking ~ 10 less cows.</p> <p>SCC for the FB has stabilized this week with the 7-day SCC (000) average for each vat being 92 (Baleage) and 113 (FB). Fat to Protein Ratio's is consistent across each of the Baleage and FB farmlets at 0.79 and 0.78 respectively.</p>
Key Influences of Milk Production	<p>The quantity of pasture remains the key driver for the increase in production, however when grazing some paddocks on the flats that still had some silt residual, we saw a decrease in production for that day as a result of the quality. Managing our residuals continues to be one of our key focus' to minimizing any negative impact on future production.</p>
Cow Management	<p>BCS management is another focus for protecting production. Continue to identify and preferentially feed any potentially at-risk cows with either milking individual animals OAD and/or an increase of in-shed feed. This is reviewed each fortnight when BCS is conducted.</p>

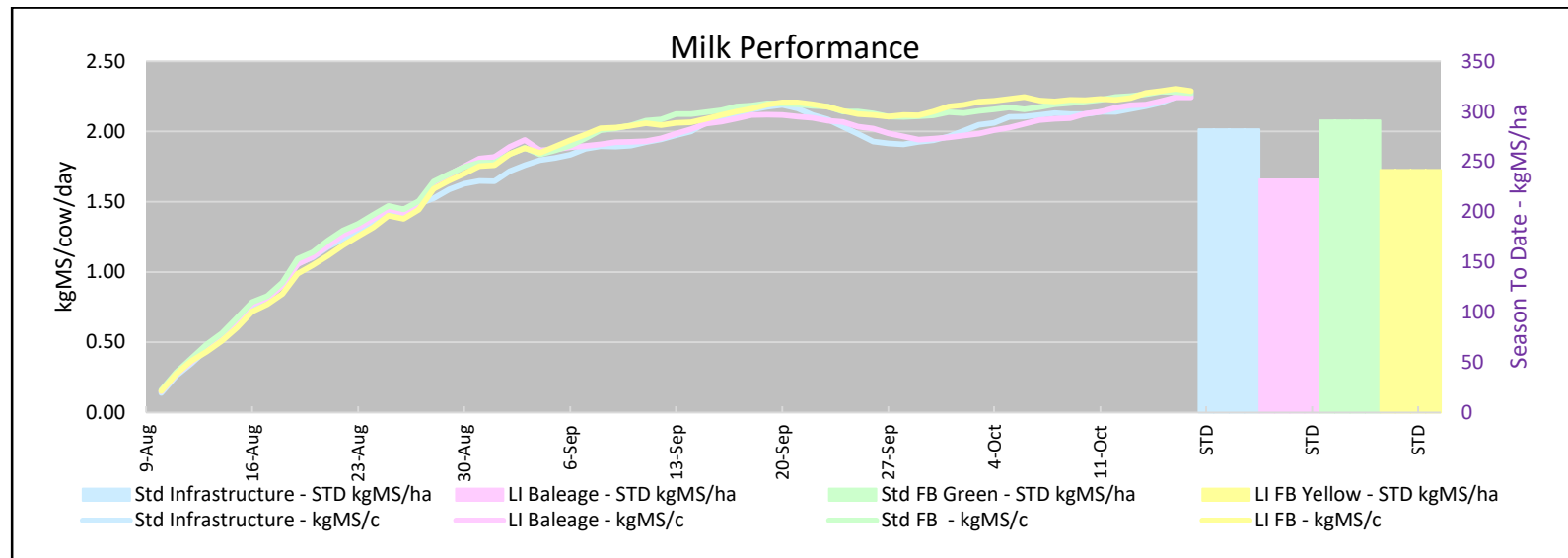


Figure 1. Milksolids per cow/day season to date and kgMS/ha season to date.

Feed management

Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality

Continue to focus on meeting residuals, with the farm team assessing the paddocks being grazed each day and making decisions on supplementation feeding as required. More evidence of stem elongation and seed head emerging on the farm walk this week. Some topping has started this week to help reset residuals in some paddocks. Will start by topping whole paddocks where required for the next few weeks and moving to only topping part of the paddocks as we get closer to summer. Good swards of clover are strong in most of the paddocks. Aeration of five of the identified six of last year's new grass paddocks was completed, so we are expecting these paddocks will be slower to return to the round.

Growth Rate

Good weather and soil temps at 11.2 have seen nice growing conditions. As a result, decision has been made to stay on the fastest round as growth rates continue to rise. The LI herds are growing above demand and so will monitor where there is a genuine surplus to step over for conservation. One paddock from each of the LI farmlets has been identified for conservation this week.

Nitrogen Strategy

Second round applications to begin for the Std herds and will review next week when the LI paddocks will start their next round of Nitrogen applications.

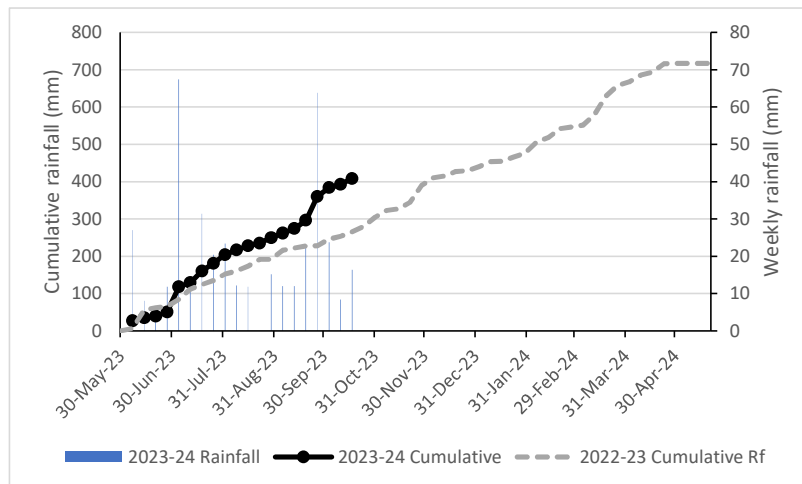


Figure 2. Season to date rainfall compared with cumulative rainfall 2022-23

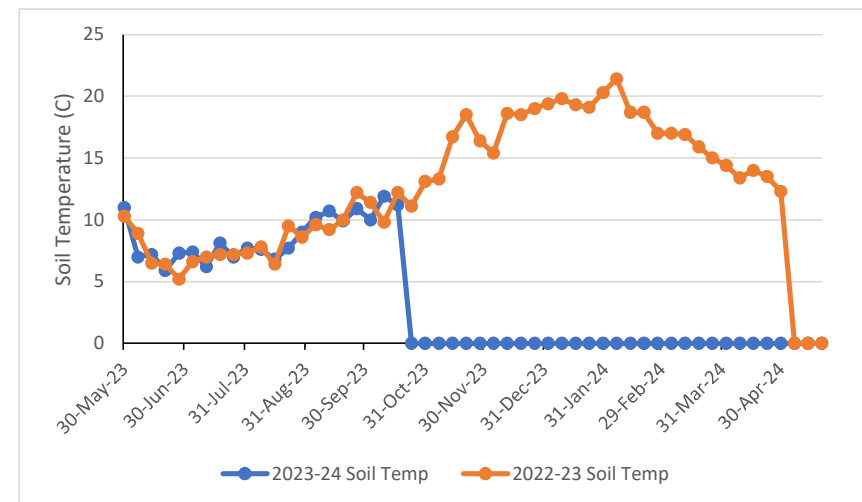


Figure 3. Soil temperatures 2023-24 vs 2022-23

Feed management

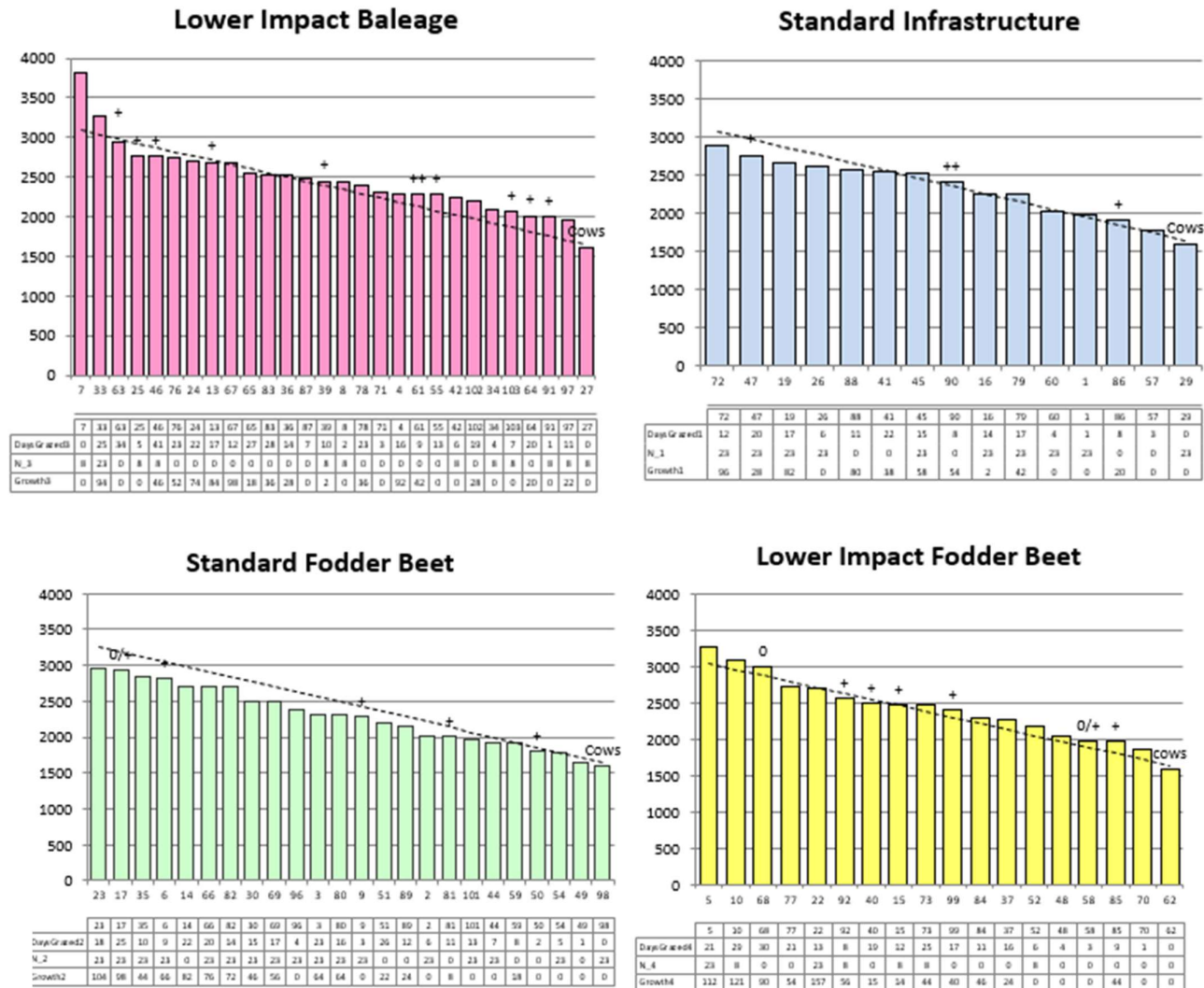


Figure 4. Plate meter feed wedges at 18 October 2023

Feed management

Feed Quality

The second round of pasture quality assessment is almost complete. Paddocks impacted by the floods have tested lower for ME and have had a higher ash content reflecting the silt damage. The DM content is very paddock dependent, ranging between 14 and 22% for second round paddocks. The paddocks with plantain continue to be lower in dry matter than those without plantain. Some of this will be the effect of the plantain but they are also all our youngest paddocks so this will be affecting the DM content as well. Crude protein content has increase across the farmlets following the application of our first round of nitrogen.

Table 1: Pasture quality summary for pre-graze samples collected in the first and second rounds of grazing

		DM (%)	ME (MJ/kg DM)	Crude protein (% DM)	NDF (% DM)	ADF (% DM)	Ash (%)	NSC (% DM)	Soluble Sugars (% DM)
With Plantain	1st round	17.8	12.3	19.3	38.1	19.5	9.8	29.4	12.4
	2nd round	16.3	12.0	21.7	39.7	21.0	11.1	24.2	12.2
No Plantain	1st round	17.3	12.1	21.1	39.8	20.7	10.3	25.2	10.6
	2nd round	17.9	12.2	23.5	40.3	21.1	11.2	21.6	10.1
Range		12.4-22.4	11.4-12.8	16.3-25.7	32.8-47.5	17.8-22.5	8.7-14.9	15.1-34.5	6.1-15.1

