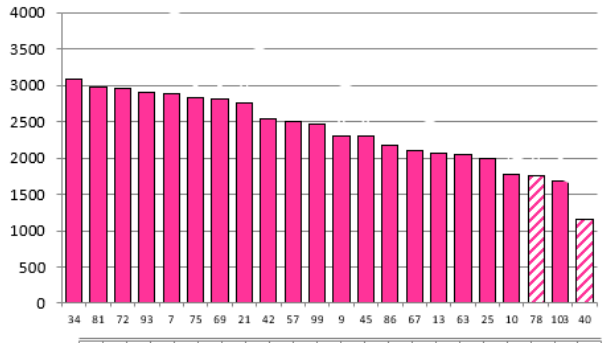
2021/22 Season
Hub Weekly Farm Update
Date: 26/08/2021

Date 25-08-21

Herd size (cows)	173	Average Cover	2349
Target residual (kg DM/ha)	1600	Average Growth	16
Target pasture intake (kg DM/cow)	15.5	Farmlet area	62.3
Target Area offered (ha/day)	0.9	Target rotation length	69
Last week actual rotation (d)	125	Target demand	43
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	1.8	YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	13
Last week N (kg N/ha)	0	Fert N YTD	0
Milk yield (L/cow)	18.3	Effluent N YTD	0
Fat%	4.8	Last wk MS	1.9
Prot%	4.2	YTD MS/cow	44
SCC	197	YTD MS/ha	136
Average BCS	5.2	% less than BCS 4.5	1%

Herd size (cows)	169	Average Cover	2236
Target residual (kg DM/ha)	1600	Average Growth	17
Target pasture intake (kg DM/cow)	15.5	Farmlet area	63.5
Target Area offered (ha/day)	0.9	Target rotation length	71
Last week actual rotation (d)	68	Target demand	41
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	1.6	YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	12
Last week N (kg N/ha)	0	Fert N YTD	0
Milk yield (L/cow)	18.0	Effluent N YTD	0
Fat%	5.0	Last wk MS	1.8
Prot%	4.0	YTD MS/cow	41
SCC	183	YTD MS/ha	122
Average BCS	5.2	% less than BCS 4.5	3%

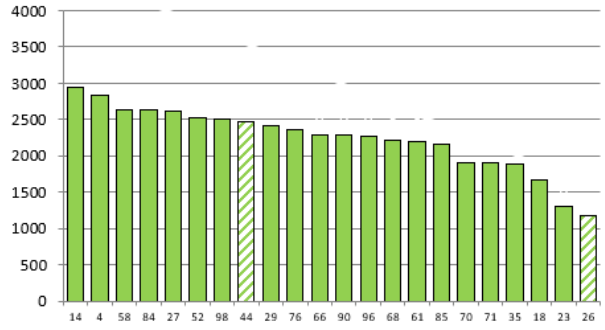
Standard Kale



	34	81	72	93	7	75	69	21	42	57	99	9	45	86	67	13	63	25	10	78	103	40
Days Grazed 3	105	96	0	113	121	101	99	109	105	101	106	97	94	98	95	8	93	12	13	14	2	11
N_3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Growth 3	39	32	0	14	36	10	14	6	2	0	9	6	16	2	2	64	18	14	10	7	0	8

Farmlet notes: Visual APC 2432, GR 19; 59% of cows in milk; averaging 13 days off crop and calving 3 days early; increased inshed feeding to 4 kg/cow to reduce baleage requirements; springers to be offered kale for 1 hour per day to get it eaten off before too much flowering occurs; milkers on TAD & colostrums on OAD; SRP & feed budgets both close to target

Standard Fodder Beet



	14	4	58	84	27	52	98	44	29	76	66	90	96	68	61	85	70	71	35	18	23	26
Days Grazed 2	93	93	102	110	104	0	116	4	100	109	94	96	107	112	94	95	2	10	9	14	2	14
N_2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Growth 2	12	34	22	36	21	0	12	0	12	10	22	8	9	2	21	2	0	22	34	18	0	0

Farmlet notes: Visual APC 2345, GR 17; 63% of cows in milk; averaging 12 days off crop and calving 3 days early; increased baleage feeding to meet feed demand; organising to lift beet as soon as conditions allow; dries still grazing fodder beet; milkers on TAD & colostrums on OAD; used slightly more area than SRP but APC still above feed budget estimates.

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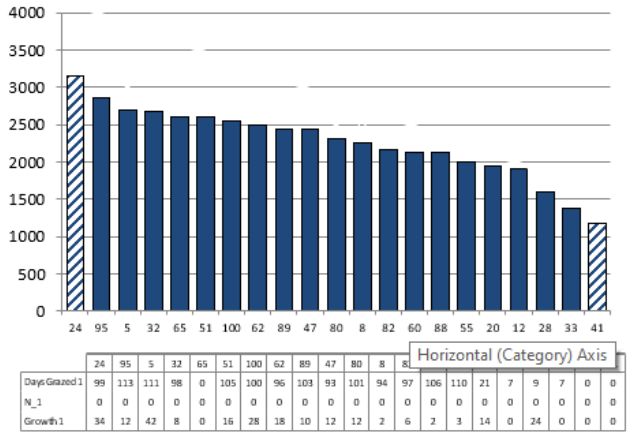
Herd size (cows)	145	Average Cover	2265
Target residual (kg DM/ha)	1600	Average Growth	15
Target pasture intake (kg DM/cow)	15.5	Farmlet area	61.0
Target Area offered (ha/day)	0.9	Target rotation length	68
Last week rotation avg	81	Target demand	37
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	1.6	YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	11
Last week N (kg N/ha)	0	Fert N YTD	0
Milk yield	19.0	Effluent N YTD	0
Fat%	4.8	Last wk MS	1.9
Prot%	4.2	YTD MS/cow	44
SCC	169	YTD MS/ha	120
Average BCS	5.1	% less than BCS 4.5	6%

Low Impact Kale

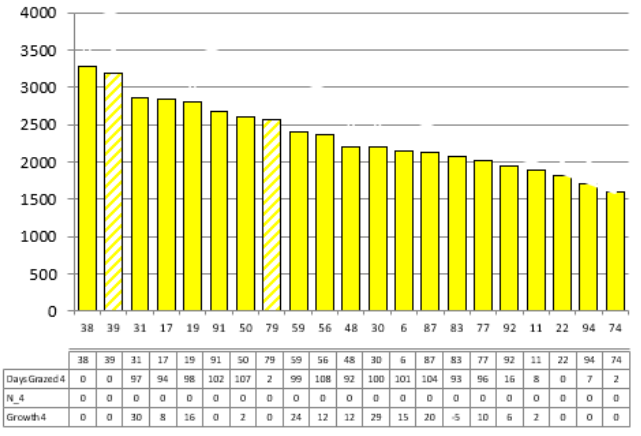


	24	95	5	32	65	51	100	62	89	47	80	8	82	60	88	55	20	12	28	33	41
Days Grazed 1	99	113	111	98	0	105	100	96	103	93	101	94	97	106	110	21	7	9	7	0	0
N_1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Growth 1	34	12	42	8	0	16	28	18	10	12	12	2	6	2	3	14	0	24	0	0	0

Farmlet notes: Visual APC 2377, GR 25; 62% of cows in milk; averaging 13 days off crop and calving 1 day early; increased inshed feeding to 3 kg/cow to reduce baleage requirements; springers to be offered kale for 1 hour per day to get it eaten off before too much flowering occurs; milkers on TAD & colostrums on OAD; SRP & feed budgets both close to target

Herd size (cows)	145	Average Cover	2350
Target residual (kg DM/ha)	1600	Average Growth	13
Target pasture intake (kg DM/cow)	15.5	Farmlet area	60.9
Target Area offered (ha/day)	0.9	Target rotation length	68
Last week rotation avg	94	Target demand	37
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	1.7	YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	12
Last week N (kg N/ha)	0	Fert N YTD	0
Milk yield	18.0	Effluent N YTD	0
Fat%	5.1	Last wk MS	1.8
Prot%	4.1	YTD MS/cow	41
SCC	114	YTD MS/ha	105
Average BCS	5.1	% less than BCS 4.5	2%

Low Impact Fodder Beet



	38	39	31	17	19	91	50	79	59	56	48	30	6	87	83	77	92	11	22	94	74
Days Grazed 4	0	0	97	94	98	102	107	2	99	108	92	100	101	104	93	96	16	8	0	7	2
N_4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Growth 4	0	0	30	8	16	0	2	0	24	12	12	29	15	20	-5	10	6	2	0	0	0

Farmlet notes: Visual APC 2443, GR 21; 69% of cows in milk; averaging 12 days off crop and calving 3 days early; increased baleage feeding to meet feed demand; organising to lift beet as soon as conditions allow; dries still grazing fodder beet; milkers on TAD & colostrums on OAD; used less area than SRP but springers & colostrums in this farmlet now; APC still good

NB: Hatched paddocks are springer paddocks

Table 1: Key Herd Numbers 26/08/2021 – number of cows in each mob

DATE: 26 August 2021	Std Kale	LI Kale	Std FB	LI FB	Total
Cows on Farm	201	167	198	167	733
Current being milked	118	104	122	116	460
Springers	54	38	45	29	166
Dries on crop	28	22	29	22	99
Slips/empty/deaths	2	1	5	1	9

General Farm Information

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Table 2: Key Weather and Feeding Numbers 26th August 2021

Soil Temp (°C) (weekly average)	8.4 °C			
Rainfall (mm)	12.8 mm			
Allocations kg DM/cow/day	**Std. Kale**	**LI Kale**	**Std FB**	**LI FB**
Milkers	16.5-17 kg DM (11-12 kg DM pasture + 4 kg inshed + baleage as required)	16.5-17 kg DM (11-12 kg DM pasture + 3 kg inshed + baleage as required)	16.5-17 kg DM (12 kg DM pasture + baleage)	16.5-17 kg DM (12 kg DM pasture + baleage)
Colostrum	15-16 kg DM (15 kg DM pasture + 1 kg DM baleage)			
Springers	3-5 kg pasture & 5-7 kg baleage			
Dry cows	Kale 11 kg DM/cow Baleage 4 kg DM/cow		Fodder beet 9.5 kg DM/cow Baleage 3.5 kg DM/cow	

Key Decisions: this week

- Feeding this time of year can have a large impact on successfully setting up lactation. It is a fine balance between making sure cows are not underfed and causing paddock damage, but also wanting to achieve acceptable grazing residuals to ensure good quality, milking feed for the next round.
- Our challenge from the last week is ensuring that our baleage fed FB farmlets do not become disadvantaged against our inshed supplemented kale farmlets. During this time of year it is important to keep reminding staff that each farmlet is to be treated as individual farms and can't have a blanket approach put over them all.
- We have booked the contractors to lift fodder beet as soon as the conditions allow. Lifted beet will be offered to milkers at 1-2 kg DM/day depending on the feed budget at the time.
- The stems of our kale crop are starting to elongate with flowers starting to develop. This has prompted us to make a plan to get it eaten off as quickly as is practical without wasting heaps of feed. To help with this we have decided to graze the springers on kale for an hour/day. This will help eat through the last kale paddock and also slow down the springer rotation so we don't run out of area and have to move them onto milker paddocks.

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Figure 1: Stem elongation evidence in our remaining kale crop

- Due to black rot in some of the kale we have not been pushing them to eat down residuals, instead focusing on the leaf and more palatable half of the stem before offering a new break. The left over kale residuals will be chopped up at the end before ploughing.
- We have organised for our FB R2s to leave for grazing at the end of the month. Half a dozen lighter animals will stay back for preferential treatment. With the rain last week we were conscious of wetter parts of the R2s pdk and made the decision to move them and graze from the other direction. The decision paid off as surface water soon settled where they would have been grazing
- Some colostrum pdks have significant areas of pasture damage in the corners and some grass seed will be broadcast onto these areas to help repair them in the interim.

Figure 2: Left over kale residuals; very woody

General Notes:

- Wet conditions on farm continue to be challenging, and although in COVID Level 4 lockdown, we are doing well to keep up with on-farm business as usual the best we can. Soil temperatures are still hovering around 8 degrees with a slight drop from last week from

8.7 to 8.4 degrees and a range of growth rates from 13-17 kg DM/ha/day. With current growth rates our average pasture cover is sitting between 2240 to 2350 kg DM/ha.

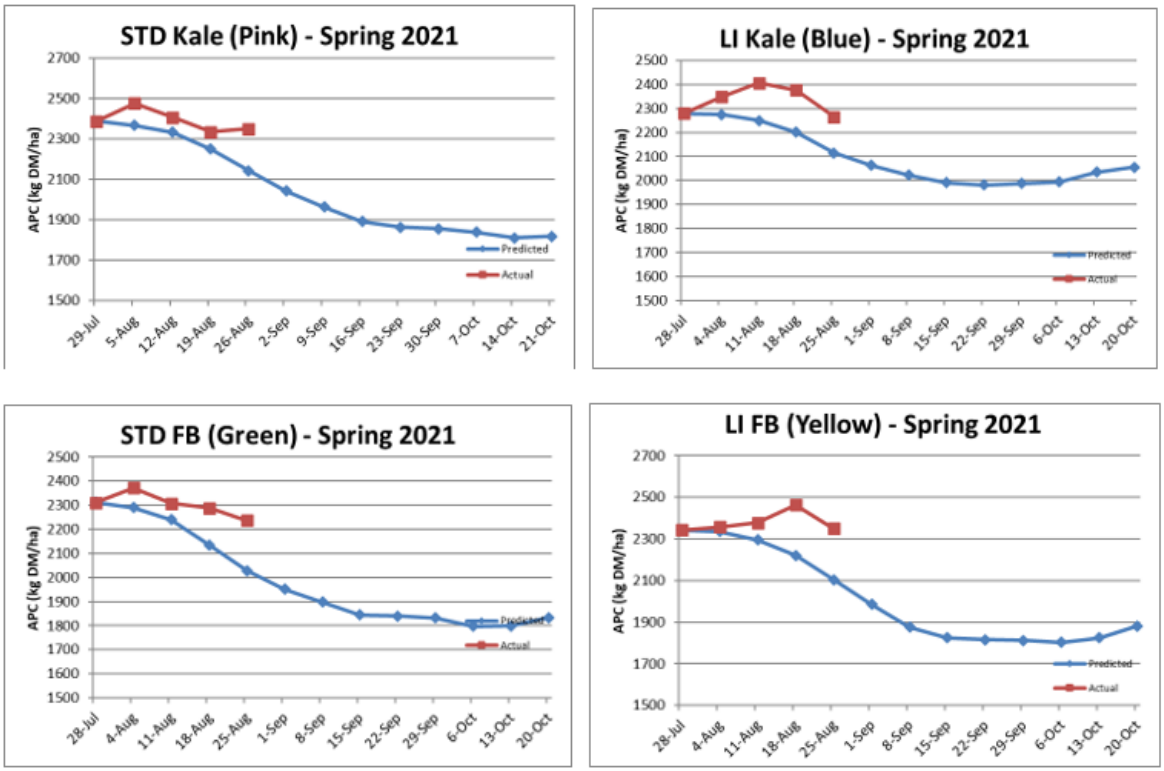

Figure 3: Actual vs. predicted average pasture cover for each farmlet

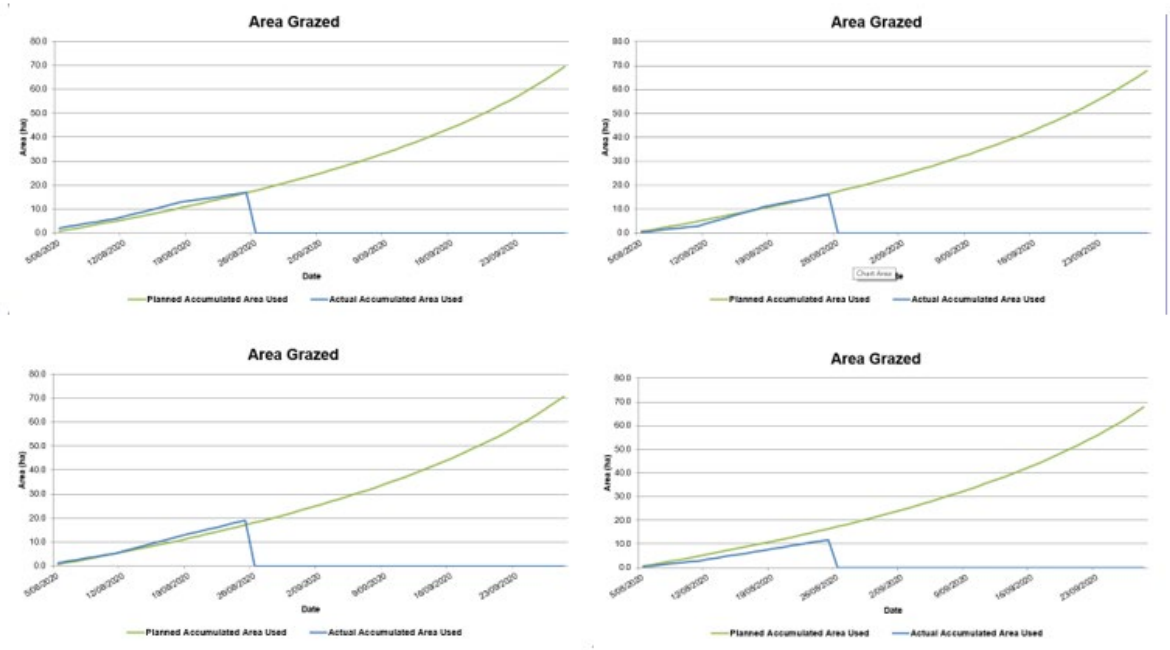

Figure 4: Area grazed compared to the SRP allocation (Std kale: top left, Std FB: bottom left, LI kale: top right, LI FB: bottom left)

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- Last week all the cows went through the shed to get a BCS assessment done. Because of Covid restrictions the data was captured with the BCS camera rather than using a trained assessor. We are happy with how the majority of the cows are looking although all herds have a bit of a tail in most mobs.

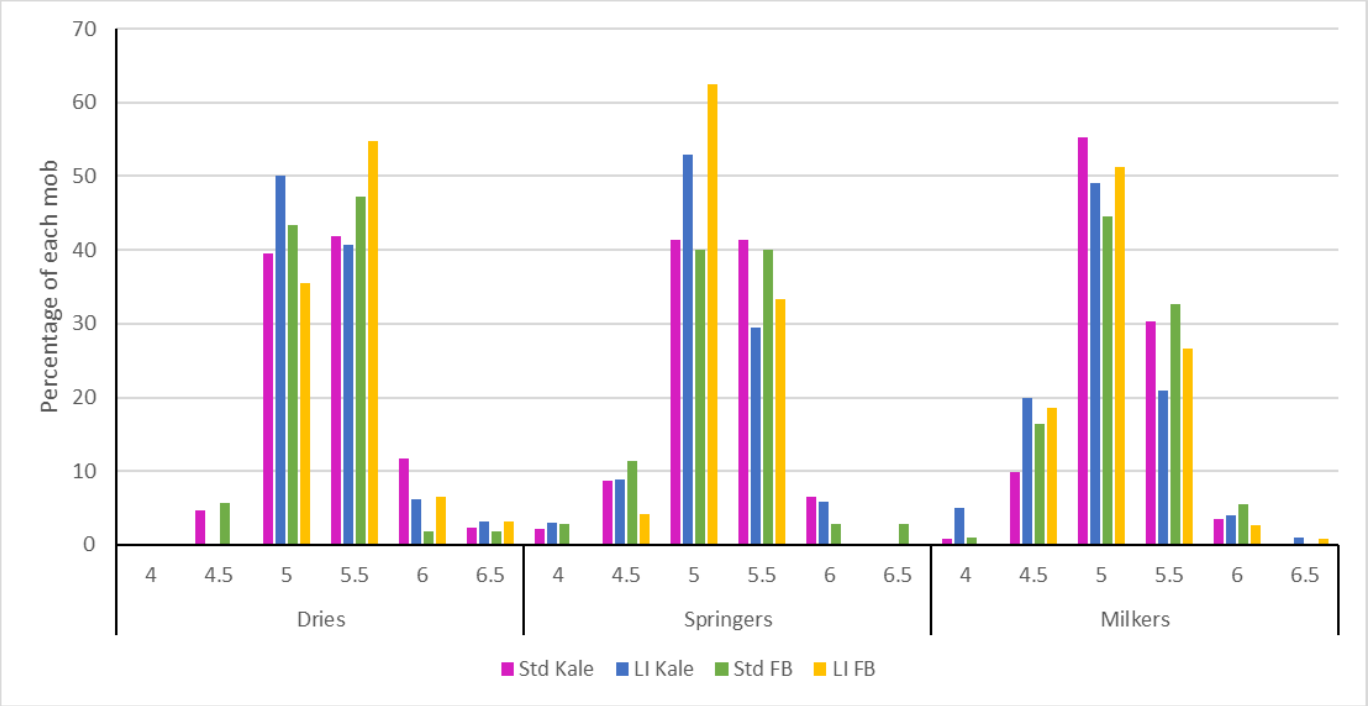

Figure 5: BCS distribution for each of the mobs on the farm by farmlet

Table 3: Herd average BCS for each farmlet

	Std_Kale (Pink)	LI_Kale (Blue)	Std_FB (Green)	LI_FB (Yellow)
Dries	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.4
Milkers	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.1
Springers	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1

- The grazing plan is taking on a life of its own as we try to make it as simple as possible for the farm team to keep track of where all the mobs are going and how much supplement they require.

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25-Aug		Pink		Blue		Green		Yellow		Colostrum	Kale Springers	FB Springers	Kale Dries	FB Dries
No. in herd		105-120		91-110		107-120		108-128		60-80	60-80	50-70	49-40	59-50
		am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm					
26-Aug	Thu	72	72	65	65	52	14	38	38	22	41	39	3	36b
	Inshed feeding	2	2	1.5	1.5						1 hr in 34b		1	1
	Baleage									0.5				
27-Aug	Fri	72	72	65	65	52	14	38	38	22	41	39	3	36b
	Inshed feeding	2	2	1.5	1.5						1 hr in 34b			
	Baleage				1 + 1?	1?	2	1?	1?					
28-Aug	Sat	34	34	65	100	14	14	19	19	22	41	39	3	36b
	Inshed feeding	2	2	1.5	1.5						1 hr in 34b		1	1
	Baleage		1?			1?	2		2	0.5				
29-Aug	Sun	34	34	100	100	14	14	19	19	93	41	39	3	36b
	Inshed feeding	2	2	1.5	1.5						1 hr in 34b			
	Baleage		1?		1 + 1?	1?	2	1?	2					
30-Aug	Mon	21	21	100	100	14	58	19	19	93	41	39	34b	36b
	Inshed feeding	2	2	1.5	1.5						1 hr in 34b		1	1
	Baleage				1 + 1?	1?		1?	2	0.5				
31-Aug	Tue	21	21	100	100	58	58	19	31	93	26	39	34b	36b
	Inshed feeding	2	2	1.5	1.5								1	
	Baleage		1?		1 + 1?	1	1+1?	1?						
1-Sep	Wed	21	21	51	51	58	58	31	31	93	26	39	34b	36b
	Inshed feeding	2	2	1.5	1.5								1	1
	Baleage		1?			1	1+1?	1?	1+1?	0.5				
2-Sep	Thu	21	81 x6	51	51	58	58	31	31	93	26	39	34b	36b
	Inshed feeding	2	2	1.5	1.5								1	
	Baleage	1?			1	1	1+1?	1?	1+1?					
3-Sep	Fri	81	81	51	51	84x6		31	31	95	26	39	34b	1b
	Inshed feeding												1	1
	Baleage				1			1?	1+1?	0.5				

Figure 6: Grazing plan for the next week.

- We have our first milk graphs to report through this week! The Std. FB have had a harder start with some potential under allocation of feed in one of their paddocks and this can be seen in their graph. Supplement feeding decisions have been revisited to minimise the chances of this happening again.

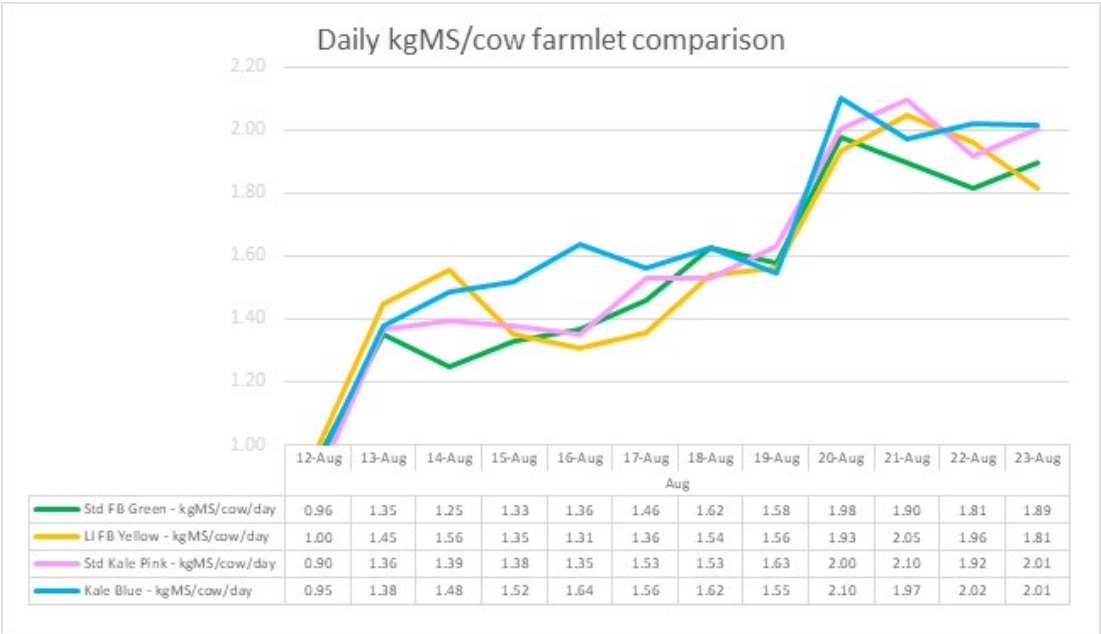

Figure 7: kg MS/cow farmlet comparison

- Below shows the kg MS per hectare comparison between farmlets and across seasons. All farmlets are tracking higher than previous seasons because of the more compact calving spread this season. It is encouraging to see the LIFB farmlet having a good start to the season. Fingers crossed they continue to milk well.

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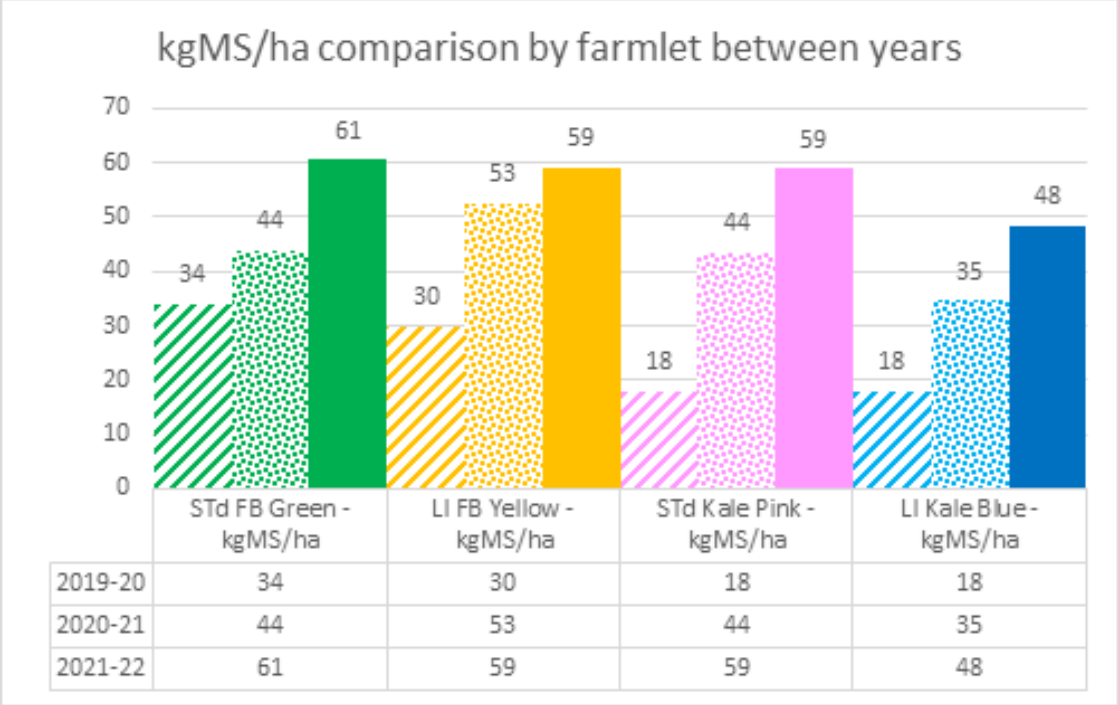

	STd FB Green - kgMS/ha	LI FB Yellow - kgMS/ha	STd Kale Pink - kgMS/ha	LI Kale Blue - kgMS/ha
2019-20	34	30	18	18
2020-21	44	53	44	35
2021-22	61	59	59	48

Figure 8: kg MS/ha comparison between farmlets across seasons

Animal Health

- The milkers are now all on TAD but any cows that were lighter, sick or struggling will remain on OAD to recover fully before transitioning.
- We have had 3 mastitis cows this week which is minimal for this time of year and the wet weather we have been having.
- We had the vet out last night to do a calving but overall have had minimal assisted calving's. We have found this surprising as we feel our calves are quite big this year, however the cows appear to be calving them well by themselves. We have also had a few sets of twins born.

SDH Research & Demonstration

- Under the current Covid Level 4 lockdown all research measurements have been put on hold. Only activities that relate to the well-being of the animals on farm can be completed.

General Farm Systems information

The project farm systems comparison has been designed to better understand crop-based wintering in relation to consequences for environmental impact and profit

- *The four herds are split evenly on age, BW / PW, calving date and breed to ensure the herds are as even as possible.*
- *Each herd allocated a farmlet corresponding to their herd tag colour Green, Blue, Yellow and Pink.*

- *Farmlets have paddocks allocated so each herd has equal walking distance from the shed and the same proportion of each soil type and equal proportions of pastures in the FVI trial (forage value trial – refer web site section on research).*

Research Proposals

The SDH welcome research proposals for any sampling or research on the SDH, these are assessed by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC). Just send your request or ask for information via louise.cook@southerndairyhub.co.nz

For more information check out the DairyNZ link:
https://www.dairynz.co.nz/about-us/research/research-farms/southern-dairy-hub