

Weekly Farm Summary 28th October 2022

Farm-system impacts of: Kale vs Fodder beet for winter AND Reducing N loss to water by 30%.

	Std Brassica/ Baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	82.7	60.9	82.7	60.9
Peak cow numbers	223	137	223	137
Milking Area	73.8	55.1	73.8	55.1
Current Herd size (cows)	222	133	215	134
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	3.0	2.4	2.9	2.4
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Swede/Bale	Baleage	Beet 80 days	Beet 60 days
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + baleage as required			
Average Cover	2398	2431	2492	2573
Average Growth	51	54	69	67
Target rotation length	22	26	22	26
Last week act rotation (d)	22	27	22	33
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	3.1	1.7	2.3	5.8
Average BCS	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4
% of herd on priority feeding	7%	5%	7%	7%
Milk yield (L/cow)	25.3	25.7	25.0	25.3
Milk yield (kgMS/cow)	2.20	2.27	2.19	2.23
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	180	50	180	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	32% (58kg)	32% (16kg)	31% (56kg)	30% (15kg)
Effluent N YTD	2	1	2	2
Profit/ha comp to Control	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	283	174	243	214
YTD MS/cow	125	131	122	131
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	376 (336)	325 (294)	368 (328)	326 (295)

Business Area	Current Status
Milk Production	Trend continues with cows holding their peak and the LI Baleage cows producing better than the other farmlets.
Pasture & Feed	All farmlets have paddocks that need to be made into baleage. Trying to get to these between forecasts of poor weather. Pasture bases are starting to be stalky, and some residuals are not meeting target as a result. Majority of paddocks however are still green and lush.
Animals	1 cow still to calve! Bloat oil still being dispensed via inline dispenser. A couple of lame cows this week and 7-8 cases of mastitis identified following herd test. Cows that met criteria for CiDRs have been identified and CIDR's inserted 27 Oct.
Environment	Continuing to apply effluent following the cows' providing conditions allow. Round 3 of fertiliser for the Std farmlets is scheduled for end of week but will push out to next week. Lower Impact paddocks have continued with their 2 nd round of N fertiliser applications. Round 3 for LI farmlets not due for early December
Wintering	2022 winter crop paddocks still not ready for re-grassing, but have progressed a bit since last week, though still no seed in the ground.
People	Team members have been on annual leave, with a third needing bereavement leave. As a result, everyone is pitching in where they can and doing a good job including supporting their fellow team member through their grief
Research	Plantain plot trial area has been sprayed out and fenced off ready for groundwork and sowing. Dairy Trust Taranaki on-farm this week for a visit. Two articles in Rural life, <i>Cows more inclined to recline in paddocks with pugging</i> and <i>Dairy Hub starting to hit its straps</i> .

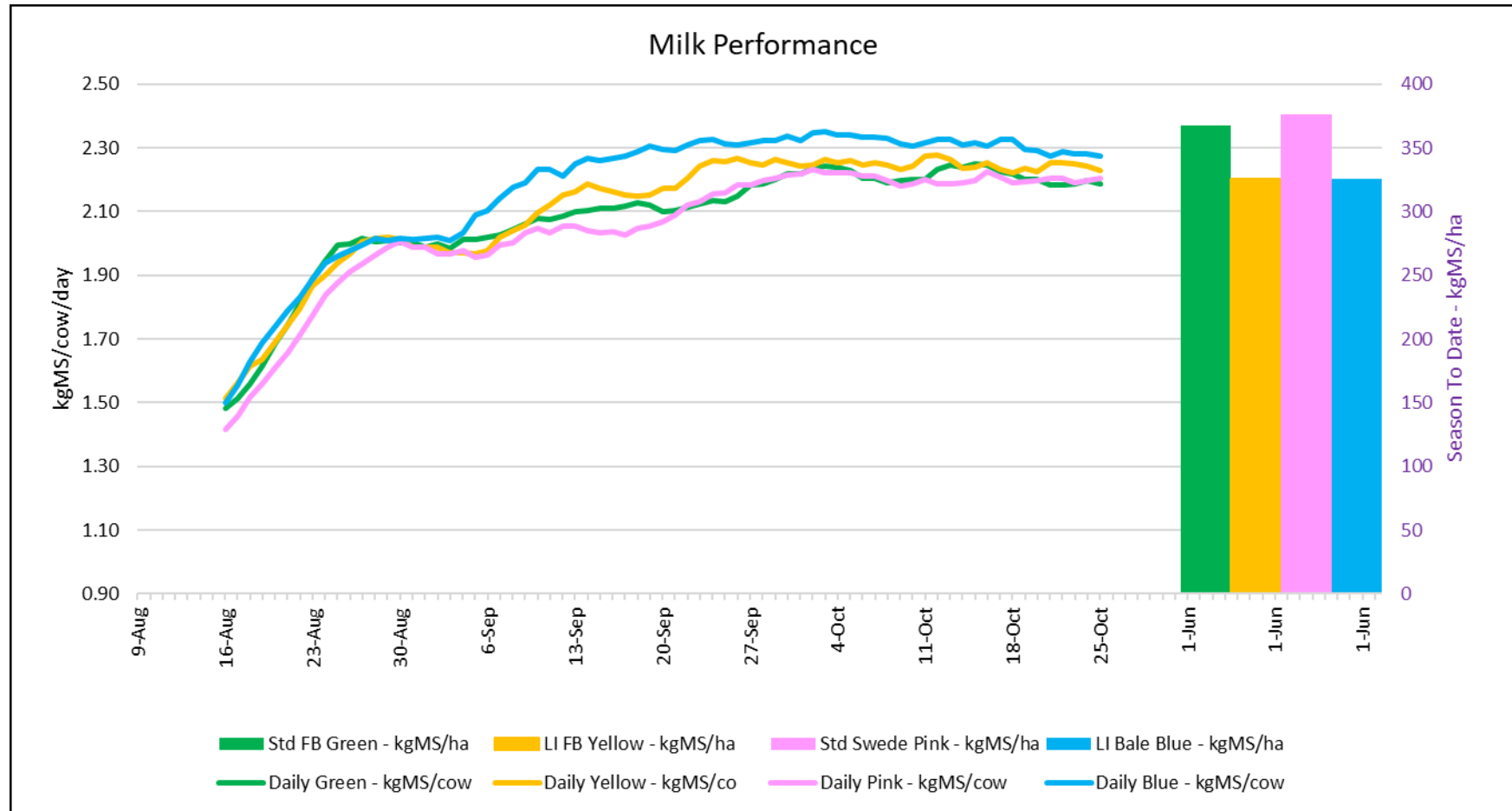
Milk Production

Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk Production	All herds continue to hold their production peak, with LI Baleage still performing better than other herds. Production compared to same period last year continues to be significantly ahead. Latest SCC herd test results identified a few animals from Std FB herd that required attention.
Key Influences on Milk Production	Production for all herds is starting to be influenced by the degree of heading in the paddocks they are grazing. With a range of cultivars across the farm with different heading dates we are starting to observe differences in pasture quality. Have reviewed our total daily feed allocation and given the LI baleage are consistently performing better than the other herds we have increased their daily allocation.
Cow Management	As we move into mating we have identified non cycling animals that are not suitable for getting a CIDR (low BCS, poor general condition) and put them onto OAD milking with priority feeding to hopefully get them cycling early in the mating period. Any animal below BCS 4 is automatically on the OAD and priority feeding list.

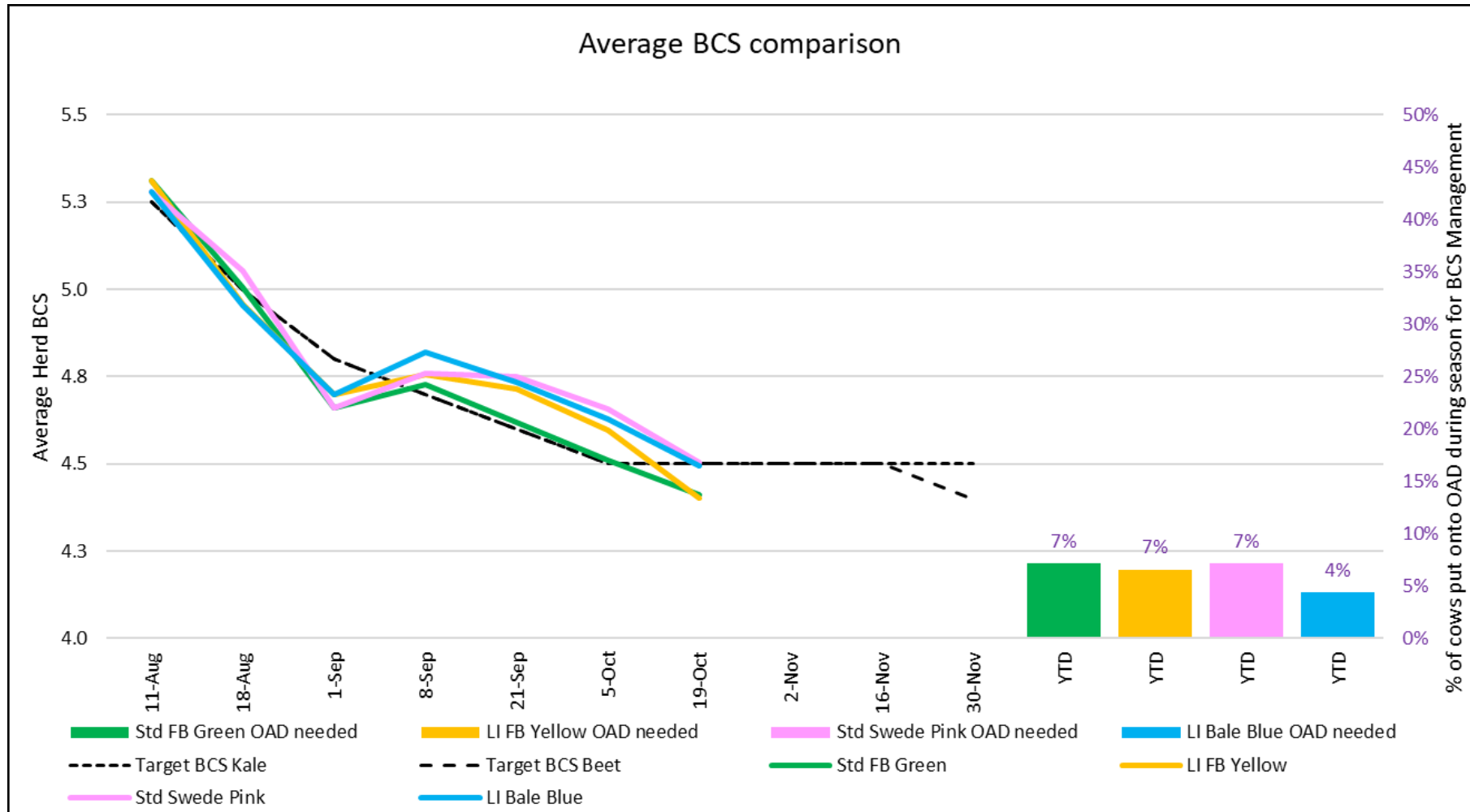
	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
kg Milksolids per cow this week / (last week)	2.20 (2.19)	2.27 (2.33)	2.19 (2.22)	2.23 (2.22)
kg Milksolids per ha this year / (same time last year)	376 (336)	325 (294)	368 (328)	326 (295)
% Var kg Milksolids per ha Season per ha to date vs last season to date	14.0	8.0	19.7	14.1
No. of Cows needing preferential feeding (% herd)	16 (7)	6 (5)	16 (7)	9 (7)
Animal health peculiarities	None	None	Mastitis	None

Milk Production



Body condition score

As at 19 October 2022 – updated fortnightly



Feed

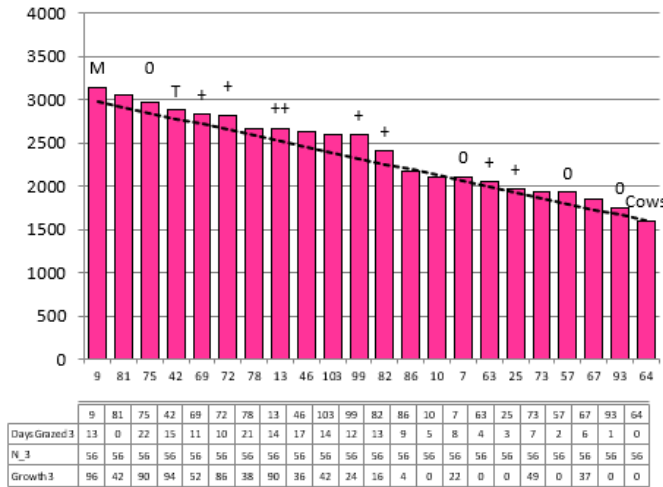
Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	Residuals are being to creep up around the farm, with some previously baled paddocks having a stalky base. We will discuss with contractor the height of mower setting to try and achieve the desired post mow target in these paddocks. Have observed a lot of flag leaf rather than seed head and the base of the pastures are hardening off. Pre-graze paddocks are looking lush and green. Calibration cuts and sample analysis being performed this week
Growth Rate Management	Good growth rates ranging from 50-70kgDM/c/day with good soil moisture and temperatures. Several paddocks identified to be skipped over and made into baleage in the possible small weather window in the next week. Will need to have fast decision making if need to implement Plan B of grazing paddocks if window does not occur. The two Std FB paddocks stepped over last week are the priority to get baled as if left too much longer regrowth will suffer.
Nitrogen Strategy	Std herds due to begin 3 rd round of Nitrogen applications (25 kg N/ha) in next week or so. Second round applications (12.5 kg N/ha) to the LI farmlets to be completed

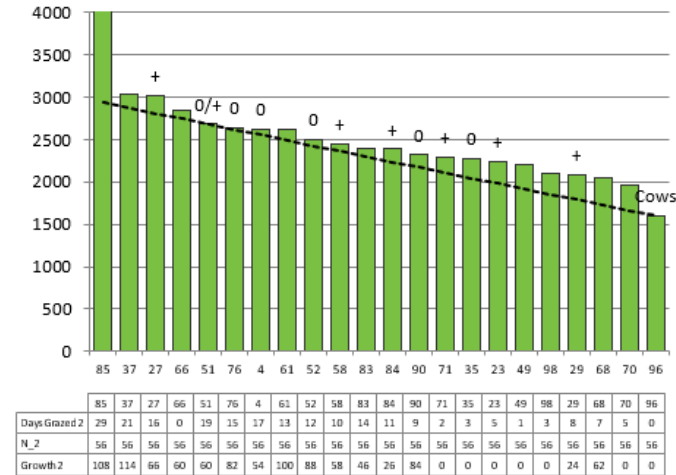
	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
Quantity	Surplus	Surplus	Surplus	Surplus
Quality	Some stem elongation and flag leaf emergence	Some stem elongation and flag leaf emergence	Some stem elongation and flag leaf emergence	Some stem elongation and flag leaf emergence
Surplus Management	X 1 pdks of baleage to be made	X 2 pdks of baleage to be made, further 1 earmarked	X 1.5 pdks of baleage to be made	X 3 pdks of baleage to be made, further 1 earmarked
Deficit Management - kgDM (diff from last week)	1.2 (-1.9)	2.1 (0.4)	1.0 (-1.2)	1.7 (-4.1)
Target Rotation Length (days)	22	26	22	26

Feed

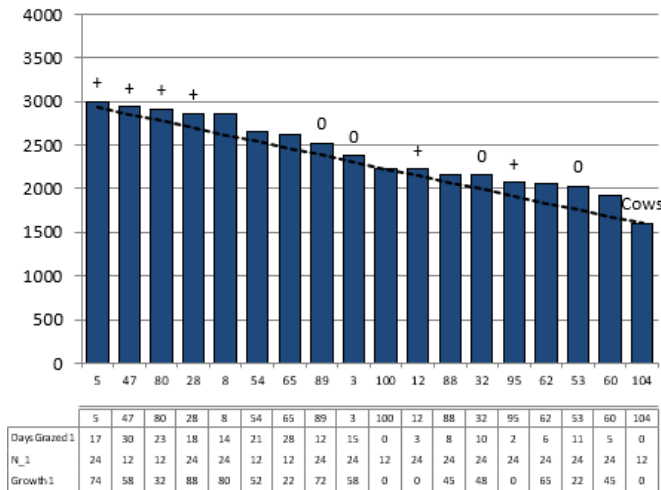
Standard Brassica/Baleage



Standard Fodder Beet



Lower Impact Baleage



Lower Impact Fodder Beet

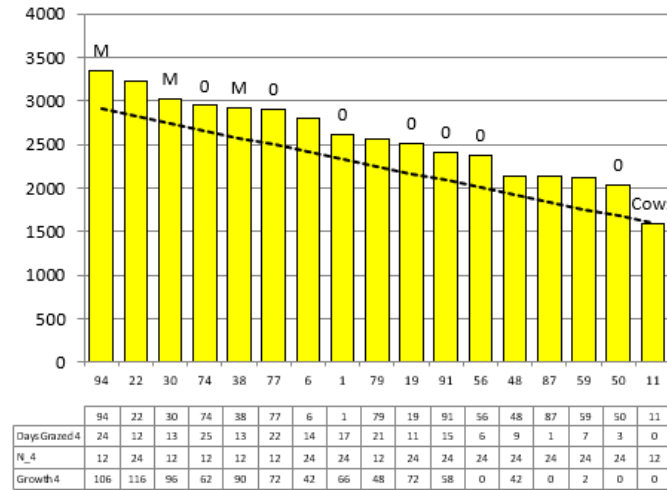
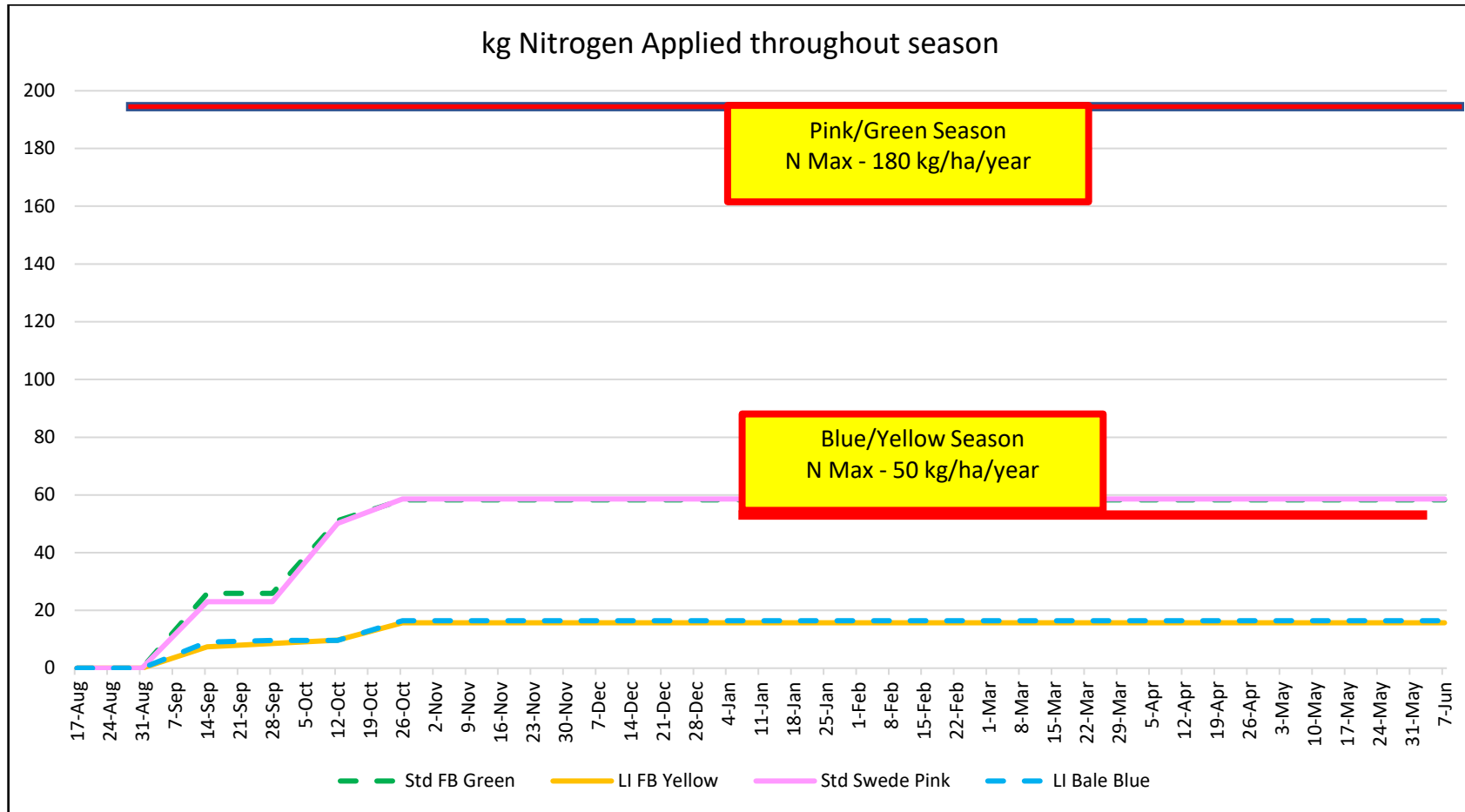


Figure 1: Feed Wedges as of 25th October 2022

Nitrogen



Mating

<p>Strategy</p>	<p>Planned start of mating (PSM): Due to a review of our latest calving spread, and the gestation BV for the herd which indicates a 3-day sorter gestation length of our 2021, 2020 and 2109 born cows we have opted to change our planned start of mating to ensure we can feed cows well with a tight calving spread. We have moved the PSM to the 3 November, 2 days later than last year to better match feed supply with demand. We have applied the same strategy to the 2021 borns but will continue to calve them a week before the mixed aged cows. Their new PSW is the 27 October 22</p> <p>Length of Mating: 10 Weeks This year we will be using short gestation semen towards the end of mating to pull the tail end of calving forward and further tighten our calving spread</p> <p>Bulls: Plan is to AB for all 10 weeks and not use bulls. The Allflex collars and tail paint will be used to identify cows on heat</p> <p>Pre-mating Bloods Testing for trace mineral levels (Selenium, iodine, copper, cobalt, and magnesium) for optimal reproductive tract function</p>
<p>Non-cycling cows</p>	<p>Two types of non-cyclers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Silent Heat: Cows have ovulated but not shown visible signs of heat. Can happen to 70-80% of cows at first ovulation post calving2. True Non-Cycler or Anoestrus: have not started ovulating since calving and therefore no heat <p>Treatment: A vet examination can distinguish between the two types of non-cyclers. Identifying and treating cows before mating improves reproductive performance. Hormone Treatment 8 days pre PSM increases the number of cows that conceive in the first 3 weeks.</p>
<p>SDH Management of Non-cyclers</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Round 1 Insert CiDRs to cows that meet the below criteria: No visual signs or collar data indicating cow has been on heat Not already identified as a cull Between 2 and-6 yrs. old Has been calved 52 day or more BCS 4.5+ with some discretionary selection of 4.0's - particularly if coat looks good and no other health issues are evident2. Other Non-cyclers that don't meet above criteria BCS 4.0 & below - these animals have been moved to OAD milking If udder conformation will not support OAD milking these cows will get priority feeding only3. Second round of CiDRs planned for 3 weeks' time

For more information and tools please visit the DairyNZ website: <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/reproduction-and-mating>