

Weekly Farm Summary 30 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)	2.8	2.7	3.2	2.5
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
Average Cover (kgDM/ha)	2547	2439	2501	2415
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	27	34	29	25
Target rotation length (d)	35	35	35	35
Last week actual rotation (d)	45	51	43	56
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.0
Latest Average BCS	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.2
% less than BCS 5	18%	9%	7%	7%
% in Milk	70	63	70	71
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)	12	9	15	12
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	45 (44)	40 (34)	48 (42)	41 (37)
Business Area	Current Status			
Milk Production	With calving being slower than last year, we still have a bigger proportion of the herd on OAD compared to this time last year resulting in less milk supply for this point in the season however are expecting to see this realign very quickly as these cows come onto TAD. There is no shortage of pasture and cows are holding BCS, so nutrition is not limiting milk production.			
Pasture & Feed	Growth rates have increased again this week to between 25-35kgDM/ha, this being helped by the warmer weather and increase in soil temperature up to 9 degrees. Total feed allocation is being increased to 18.5kgDM/cow/day however we will continue to hold area allocations in line with the SRP for a least another week so supplement will be used to fill any deficits.			
Animals	We now have 500 cows in milk, with 230 cows left to calve. All herds except the LI Baleage herd are sitting at 70% calved, with the LI Baleage slightly back at 63%. 181 heifer replacements are in the shed. We are still getting the occasional case of pink eye in the cows, but they are responding well to treatment.			
Environment	Effluent applications are being planned to start this week with careful consideration needed to avoid applying it to any compacted paddocks. Fertiliser plans are being completed with Ravensdown next week.			
Wintering	Planning with contractors will be completed in the next fortnight to identify a timeline for getting this year's winter paddocks back into grass. Due to FB yields being significantly higher than originally budgeted for (budget 22 tonne vs actual 27-30 tonne), we have an excess of 1ha of FB to be lifted and sold			
People	Refresher first aid courses have been booked in for several of the team.			
Research	Applicants for the vacant research technician role currently available at SDH are being short listed and interviews will be completed ASAP. Tash will be finishing up with the team at the end of September.			

Principles of Milk Production management this week

<p>Milk production</p>	<p>Production continues to lift and with the influx over the next week of cows coming off their 14 day post calving OAD period onto TAD this should lift even more. With 298 cows calved between the 15th August and now, there is a substantial number of cows to come onto TAD in the next fortnight.</p>
<p>Key Influences of Milk Production</p>	<p>The decision to have cows on OAD milking for the first 14 days may have slowed initial production into the vat, as well as the slower calving rate and two day later PSC are key factors affecting current milk production. However, the OAD decision is giving us the ability to protect cows from BCS loss immediately post calving when intake is depressed. By giving them time to recover from calving and get intake and rumination rates up to support good peak milk production we are expecting the cows to be set up well for a good lactation.</p>
<p>Cow Management</p>	<p>The first herd test of the season is being completed today and tomorrow morning (30th and 31st). Cows marked for priority feeding due to current BCS will be fed an additional 2kg in-shed and remain on OAD until BCS lifts again, there are currently 15 cows on priority treatment due to BCS levels.</p>

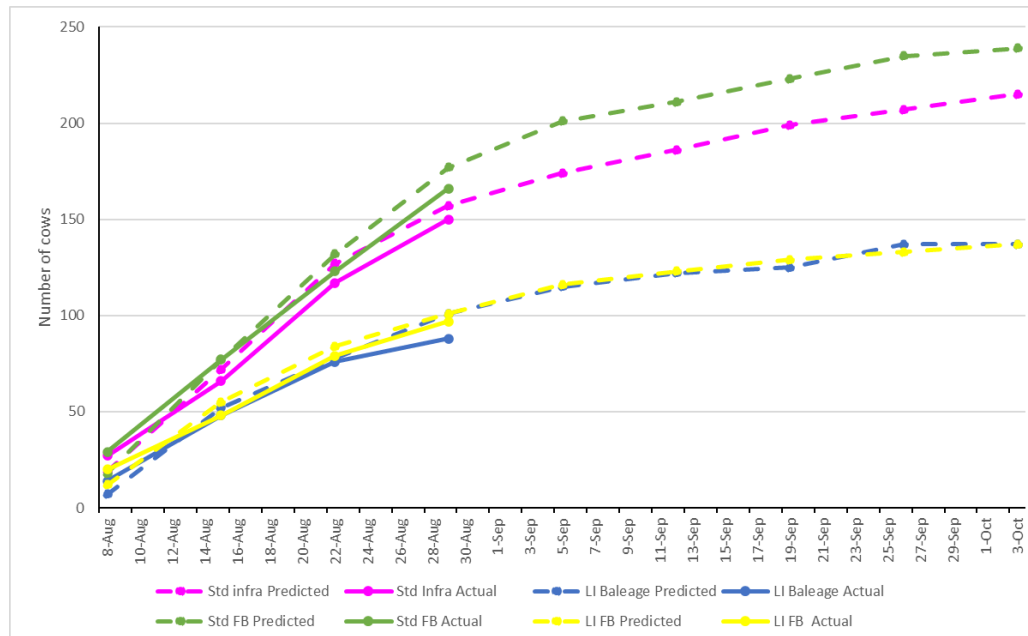


Figure 1. Predicted vs actual cows calved

Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	<p>Pasture quality for the milkers continues to vary across the farmlets and paddocks. Partially due to some longer paddocks still making their way through the wedge but also a reflection of the changes in pasture mixes and ryegrass cultivars planted across the farm. There is a huge range in proportion of ryegrass and clover between paddocks. Feed allocation has been increased to 18.5 kgDM/cow/day with any deficit to be filled with supplement to ensure our area allocation aligns with the spring rotation planners. Supplement will either be inshed feed (for herds needing up to 1kg of supps) and the spring silage stack will be opened for herds needing over 1kg of supplements to get to target allocation. Dry cows will be used to follow the milkers to manage residual where needed to ensure these are met and feed quality is optimized in the next round.</p>
Growth Rate	<p>Growth rates continue to lift and are currently 10kgDM/ha/day ahead of what was budgeted in the spring feed budget. Seeing good regrowth again this week in the freshly grazed paddocks. Clover growth is very prevalent across the farm and is rather unusual for this time of the year. APC is sitting higher than the predicted rates for both the standard farmlets, however on track now for the LI farmlets.</p>
Nitrogen Strategy	<p>Effluent applications are due to start for the season in the next week. Pond levels are not concerning but applications will boost growth where needed without having to start synthetic N applications. This will be applied strategically to avoid ponding in paddocks that have been impacted by compaction issues through wet periods.</p>

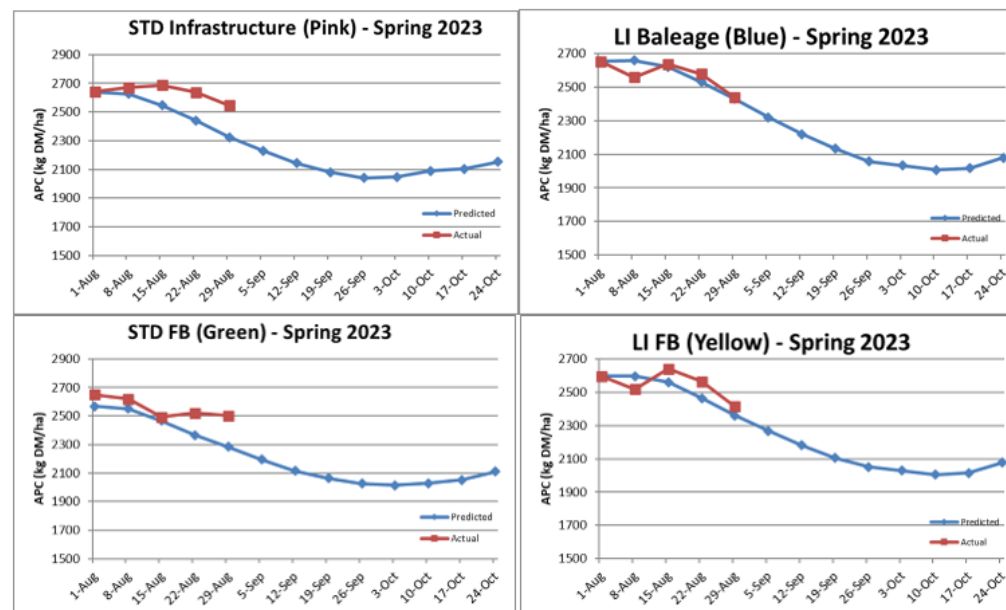


Figure 2. APC tracking in the spring feed budgets