

# Weekly Farm Summary 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022

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

	Std Kale Pink	LI Kale Blue	Std FB Green	LI FB Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	83	61	83	61
Peak cow numbers	229	141	228	140
Milking Area	64	49	64	50
Current Herd size (cows)	229	140	228	140
Cows in Milk	36	18	20	12
Pasture Stocking rate	3.0	2.5	3.0	2.5
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Kale In-Shed feed		Fodder beet Fodder beet/Baleage	
Average Cover	2518	2223	2472	2478
Average Growth	7	8	10	12
Average BCS (21/07/22)	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.3
Crop allocation (kg DM/cow/d)	0	0	9.0	9.0
Baleage allocation (kg DM/cow/d)	11.8	11.8	4.0	4.0
<b>Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>60</b>
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	0	0	0	0

Business Area	Current Status
Feed	Continue to re assess winter feed allocations and the day-to-day practicality of managing so many smaller mobs on crop due to springer drafts. Decision has been made to consolidate mobs after the springer draft on 1 August. Working through finishing off crop paddocks. May have the opportunity to lift some fodder beet later, to be confirmed. SRP plans have been completed and implemented.
Milk Production	The combined colostrum/milker mob to be split on 8 <sup>th</sup> August and supply started. Milkers will continue to be milked OAD through the peak of calving. Once TAD milking starts, we propose to milk all fresh cow's OAD for an additional 10 days following the colostrum period, but they will join their respective milking mobs unless they have underlying health issues. Colostrum's will all be miked OAD.
People	All the farm team members have had a break prior to calving and are all back and rested for the start of the new season
Animals	87 animals have calved to date. Following the springer draft on 1 August the springer mob was over 120 cows. At this point the decision was made to create two springer mobs: a kale springer mob and a fodder beet springer mob. This makes springer management more practical and reduces the amount of DCP required as it will only be dusted to the cows that wintered on fodder beet rather than all springers that has been the case up till now
Environment	The effluent pond is currently at 53% so still a lot of capacity before we need to consider starting effluent applications
Wintering	Except for the Std FB and some late LI FB animals most cows are off crop and on baleage and grass for the remainder of the winter period. Std FB cows are being drafted off crop 14 days pre-calving and LI FB cows 28 days pre-calving. All swedes and kale have been consumed. The grass breakout areas in the crop paddocks have worked well during wet periods and some straw has been rolled out in baleage wintering paddocks.
Research	BCS assessments were completed on the 21 <sup>st</sup> of July and are being done again this week

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# Feed

## Principles of Pasture & Feed Management this week

### Feed Quality

Pastures are greening up and beginning to show signs of spring growth. Our focus is on getting the high mass pastures in each of the feed wedges grazed as soon as practical while considering the SRP.

The higher APC will allow us to feed less supplements, although all animals will be receiving 1 kg DM inshed feed as a carrier for early lactation minerals. Given all herds have access to the same inshed feed this year the decision was made to reduce the amount of dusting required but providing additional calcium and magnesium as a pellet with the grain.

### Growth Rate Management

Pasture growth rate through June and July at SDH has been about average resulting in high average pasture covers across 3 of the four farmlets. Achieving good grazing residuals while minimising soil and pasture damage will be a focus.

The LI Kale treatment continues to have the lowest APC and will likely require more supplementary feed or support from the 'farm' paddocks in the early part of lactation.

### Nitrogen Strategy

N applications won't start again until soil temperatures are above 7 deg C and rising in spring - likely late August/early September

# Animals: Springer Management

## Understanding transition management

Why do we need to do this: To Prevent the onset of metabolic and nutritional issues due to the change in feeding requirements, physiological changes and the onset of lactation

How can this happen: It is due to the sudden and large increase in energy requirements of the cows as they transition from pregnancy to lactation.

When this is not met the cow goes into a negative energy balance and starts mobilising body fat.

The other important reason for good springer management is to reduce the risk of cows calving on crop

## Drafting Springers

Cows at SDH are generally wintered in calving groups i.e. Earlies and Lates

Springer drafts are being conducted twice a week. The drafting criteria is based on expected calving date from pregnancy scanning i.e. 2 weeks from predicted calving with the exception of the LI FB mob who are transitioning off crop 4 weeks pre calving and then into the springer mob 2 weeks prior to calving

There is also discretionary drafting of any cows displaying significant udder movement that does not align with their predicted calving date.

## Feeding of Springers

The target intake for this group of animals is 10-11 kgDM/c/d, aiming for a 50:50 ratio of autumn/winter grown pasture and grass baleage

Pre-calving minerals are being dusted on the pasture and baleage daily

FB Springer mob is receiving = 50 g/cow/d MgO and 50 g/cow/d DCP

Kale Springer mob = 50 g/cow/d MgO

70 g MgCl/cow/d is being provided via the inline water dispenser.

# Animals: Springer Management



Figures 1: Springer Mob and next break set up for grazing

# Animals: Springer Management

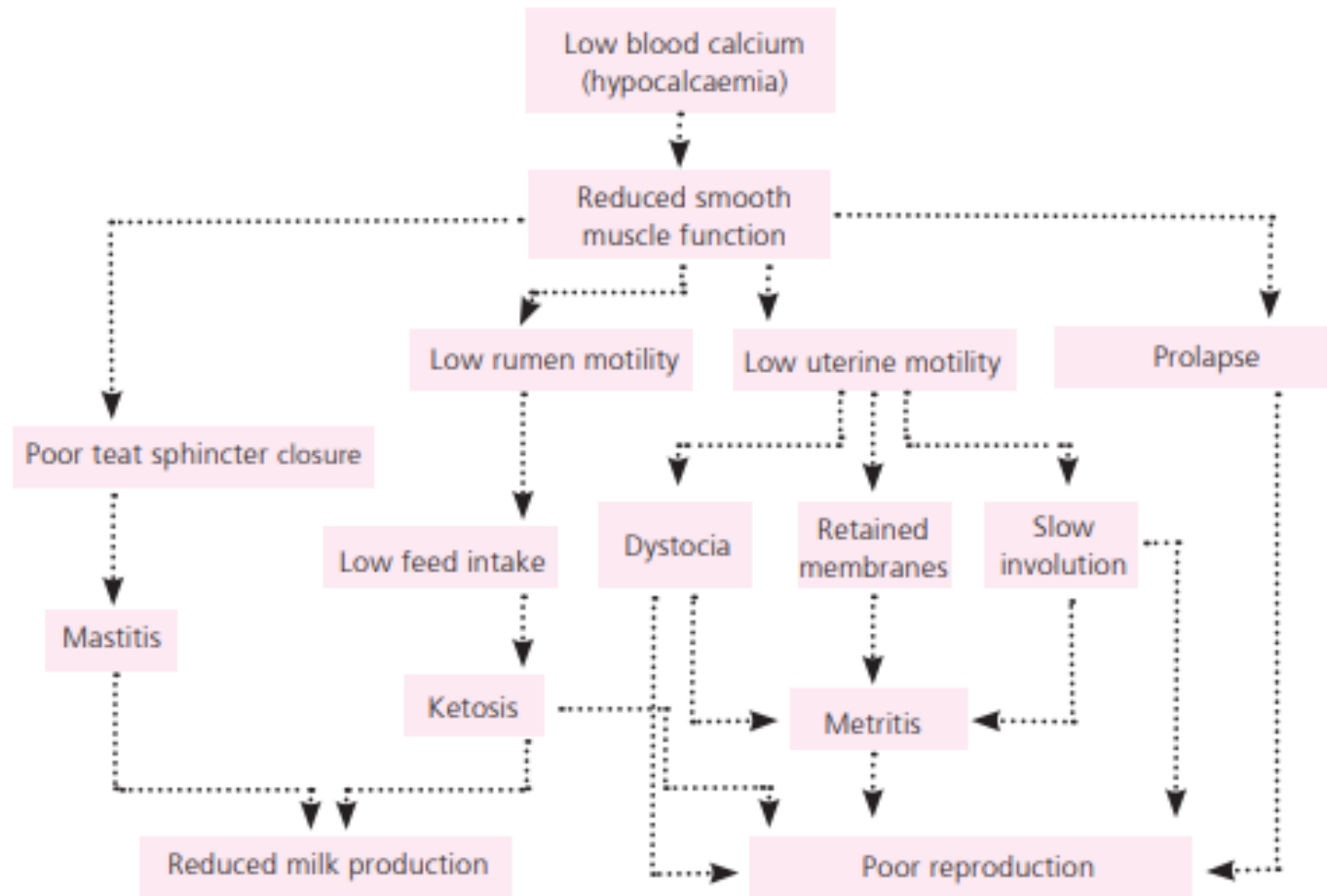


Figure 2: Relationship between mineral intake, blood mineral concentration and metabolic disorders



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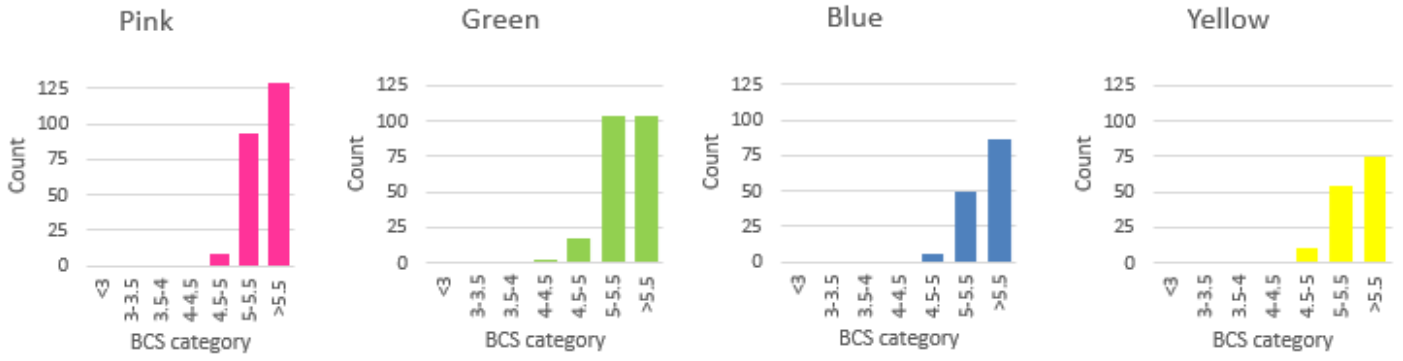


Figure 3: Herd BCS distribution from 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022



Figure 4: Feed Wedges as of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

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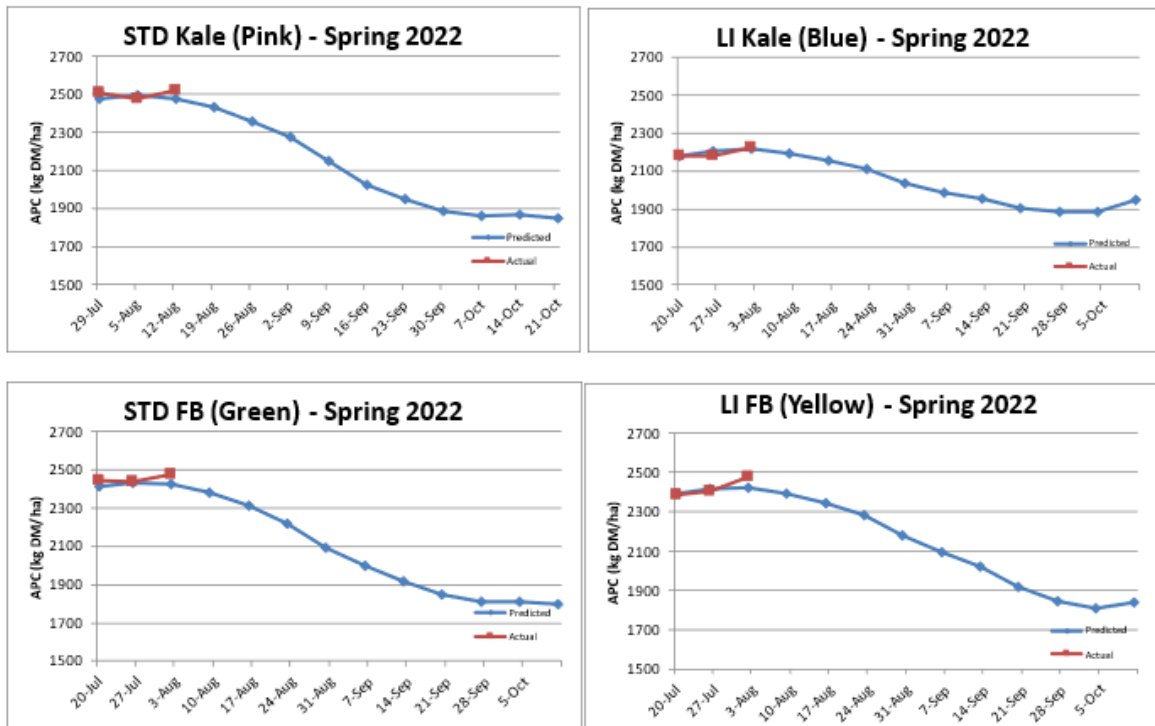


Figure 5: Spring feed budget APC targets vs actual - 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022