

Weekly Farm Summary 5th May 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	75.0	72.1	75.0	69.2
Peak cow numbers	195	162	194	162
Milking Area	63.4	60.5	63.4	60.5
Current Herd size (cows)	136	98	142	121
Pasture Stocking rate	2.1	1.6	2.2	2.0
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Kale In-Shed feed		Fodder beet Fodder beet/Baleage	
Average Cover	2301	2140	2336	2166
Average Growth	36	37	40	31
Target rotation length	40	38	40	38
Last week act rotation (d)	31	44	43	45
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	6.5	7.6	6.1	8.1
Average BCS	4.66	4.50	4.49	4.49
% of herd on priority feeding	14%	20%	8%	5%
Milk yield (L/cow)	11.3	10.4	10.8	9.9
Milk yield (kgMS/cow)	1.28	1.20	1.25	1.14
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	190	50	190	50
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	84% (162kg)	106% (53kg)	79% (152kg)	108% (54kg)
Effluent N YTD	16	12	19	19
Profit/ha comp to Control	\$0	-\$210	-\$173	-\$166
YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	886	712	763	718
YTD MS/cow	402	398	376	377
YTD MS/ha	1,237	1,067	1,151	1,011

Business Area	Current Status
Feed	As soil temperatures hold around 13 deg C, pasture growth is at or above the feed budget target. Baleage will be removed from all herds except the LI FB herd. FB allocation will be reduced to ensure we have enough beet till the end of lactation.
Milk Production	Production continues to hold around 1.2 kgMS for all herds. 91 cows were dried off this week. Interestingly SCC has mirrored rainfall events in the FB herds that are grazing beet following milking each day. The LI FB herd hit 1000 kgMS/ha this week, taking the farm average to 1116 kgMS/ha.
People	Planning is underway for an end of season event before Christian moves on.
Animals	Total of 104 cows are now dried off, with a range of treatments used. Planning has been completed for feeding any of the 40 culls still on farm post 1 June. Increase in lameness incidents over the past week, with occurrences across all farmlets.
Environment	Effluent applications are being reviewed weekly in alignment with soil temperature and moisture levels. Target pond level at dry off is 25% to 30%.
Wintering	Winter plans have been finalised by Louise and Billy. Baleage will not be pre-laid out in the transition areas of the paddocks, instead it will be done on the day to ensure wastage does not occur and bales can be placed out for easy cow access in the smaller transition breaks.
Research	We have just completed the last round of N intake estimates and pasture quality sampling for the season. Unfortunately, an oven malfunction has impacted the calculation of yield in some of the recently sampled paddocks.

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Feed

Principles of Pasture Management this week

Feed Quality	<p>As strong pasture growth post the dry period continues, supplementary feed for all herds is reducing to ensure we optimise pasture quality heading into winter. Growth rates and increasing APC suggests there is enough feed available to significantly reduce supplementary feed inputs. Dry matter % is currently 16.6-19.5%, crude protein 19-23% and ME 11-11.3 MJ/kg DM</p> <p>Lucerne baleage has been removed from the diet as the quality of the last load was poor and was potentially impacting milk production.</p>
Growth Rate Management	<p>The LI Kale herd has a slight pasture surplus this week due to having the most cows dried off. If required paddocks at the top of the wedge will be stepped over this week to allow them to reach the required pre-graze target for 3 days per paddock. The recently dried off cows will follow herds through paddocks where residual has not been met to clean up left over feed. They will spend no more than 2 days per paddock & will be supplemented with baleage and straw.</p>
Nitrogen Strategy	<p>Effluent applications are being reviewed weekly, however at current soil temperatures and moisture levels we will continue with applications until conditions change.</p>

	Standard Kale Pink	Low Impact Kale Blue	Standard Fodder beet Green	Low Impact Fodder beet Yellow
Quantity	Increasing	Increasing, slight surplus	Increasing	Increasing
Quality	DM% is now at 17.5%	DM% is now at 17.5%	DM% is now at 17.5%	DM% is now at 17.5%
Surplus Management	None	Step over paddocks until at 3 feed level if required	None	None
Deficit Management	2.0 kg inshed	0.3kg inshed	0.8 kg inshed 1.2 kg FB baleage as required	0.8 kg inshed 1.2kg FB 2.0 kg baleage
Rotation Length	34 days	48 days	47 days	49 days

Milk Production

Principles of Milk production management this week

Milk Production	<p>Milk production continues to fluctuate between 1.2 and 1.3 kg MS/cow/day across all herds. SCC in the fodder beet herds has fluctuated this week coinciding with rainfall events. We attribute this fluctuation to the grazing of beet in the crop paddock immediately after milking.</p> <p>All herds are behind last seasons production with the Std FB herd being the furthest below.</p>
Key influences on milk production	<p>It will be interesting to see how the herds respond to the decrease in supplementary feed, particularly the removal of baleage for most and reduction in inshed feeding. Pasture quality appears to have improved with more green leaf and fewer paddocks with significant dead material in the base.</p>
Cow Management	<p>91 cows dried off this week and the remainder booked for the 23rd and 24th May. Individual animals may be dried off before then based on milk yield, SCC, lameness or mastitis risk.</p>

	Standard Kale Pink	Low Impact Kale Blue	Standard Fodder beet Green	Low Impact Fodder beet Yellow
kg Milksolids per cow this week / (last week)	1.28/(1.37)	1.20/(1.22)	1.25/(1.30)	1.18/(1.29)
kg Milksolids per ha this year / (this time last year)	1237/(1275)	1067/(1047)	1151/(1224)	1011/(1006)
Season to date compared to last year	Down 0.6% total milk	Down 2.5% total milk	Down 5.6% total milk	Down 3.8% total milk
Cows dried off	36 cows (19% of herd)	38 cows (28% of herd)	20 cows (12% of herd)	24 cows (10% of herd)
Animal health peculiarities	None	None	SCC increase	SCC increase

Animals

Drying off strategies

There are a number a different drying off treatments being used at SDH this year as we look to give cows the best possible start to next season.

Triggers for drying off the 104 cows to date include current BCS and amount required to gain before the end of the season and then calving, milk yield, SCC and lameness.

As well as different drying off triggers, this year 3 dry cow treatments will be used: teatseal only, high strength DCT (Quadrant) or a Combo of teatseal and standard dry cow therapy.

The decision rules around who gets what are:

Quadrant: High SCC and repeat mastitis but not bad enough to cull (only 10 cows to date, we expect this number to stay relatively low)

Teatseal only: No mastitis and low seasonal SCC

Combination of teatseal and dry cow therapy: cows with a SCC over 100,000 at the last herd test or mastitis during season.

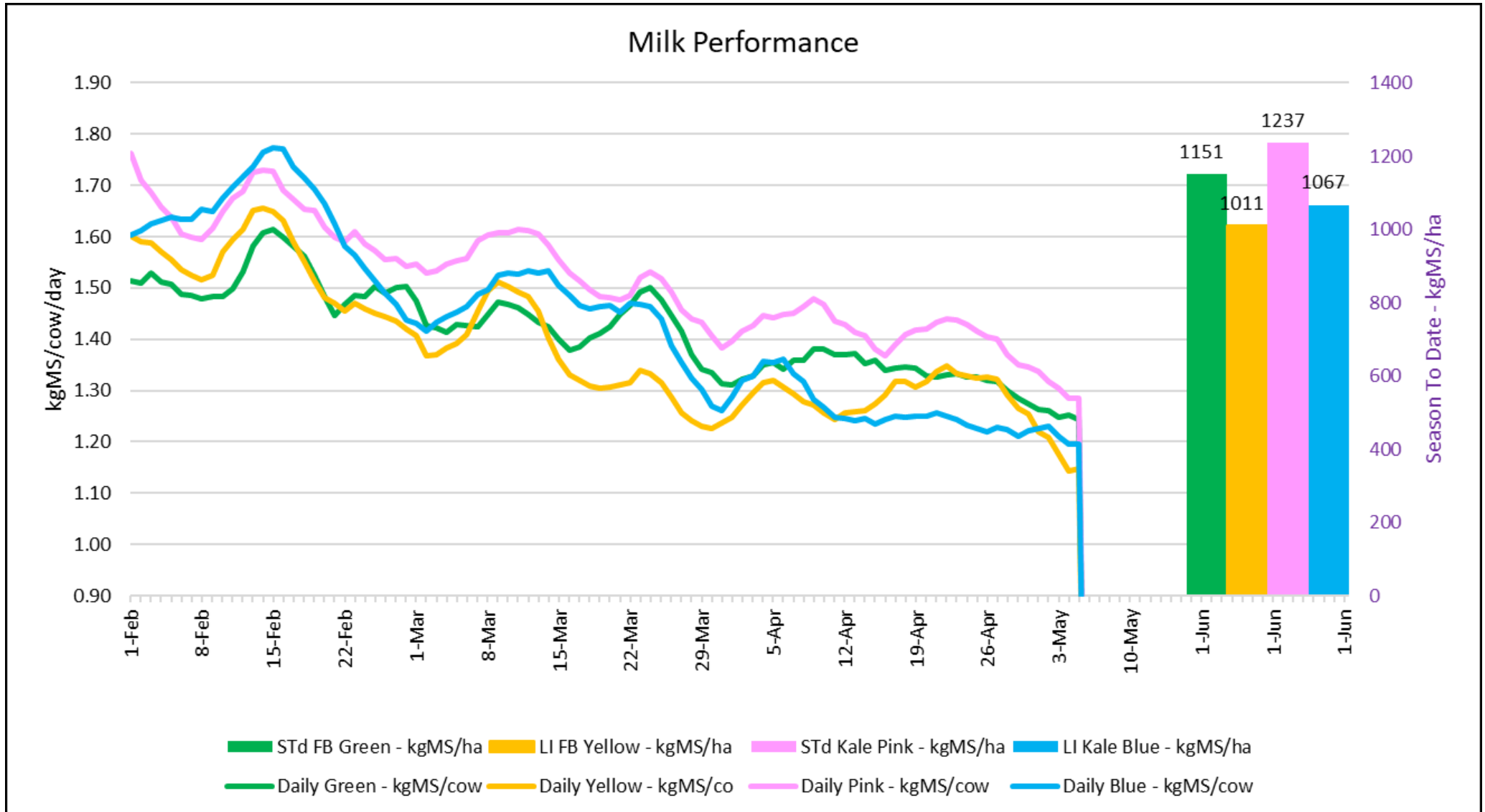
Dry off trigger by herd

	Std Kale	LI Kale	Std FB	LI FB	Total
Body Condition Score	23	25	7	6	61
Low yield	4	7	5	3	19
High SCC		3	2	1	6
Cull	1	0	4	2	7
Total	28	35	18	12	93

Dry off treatment by herd

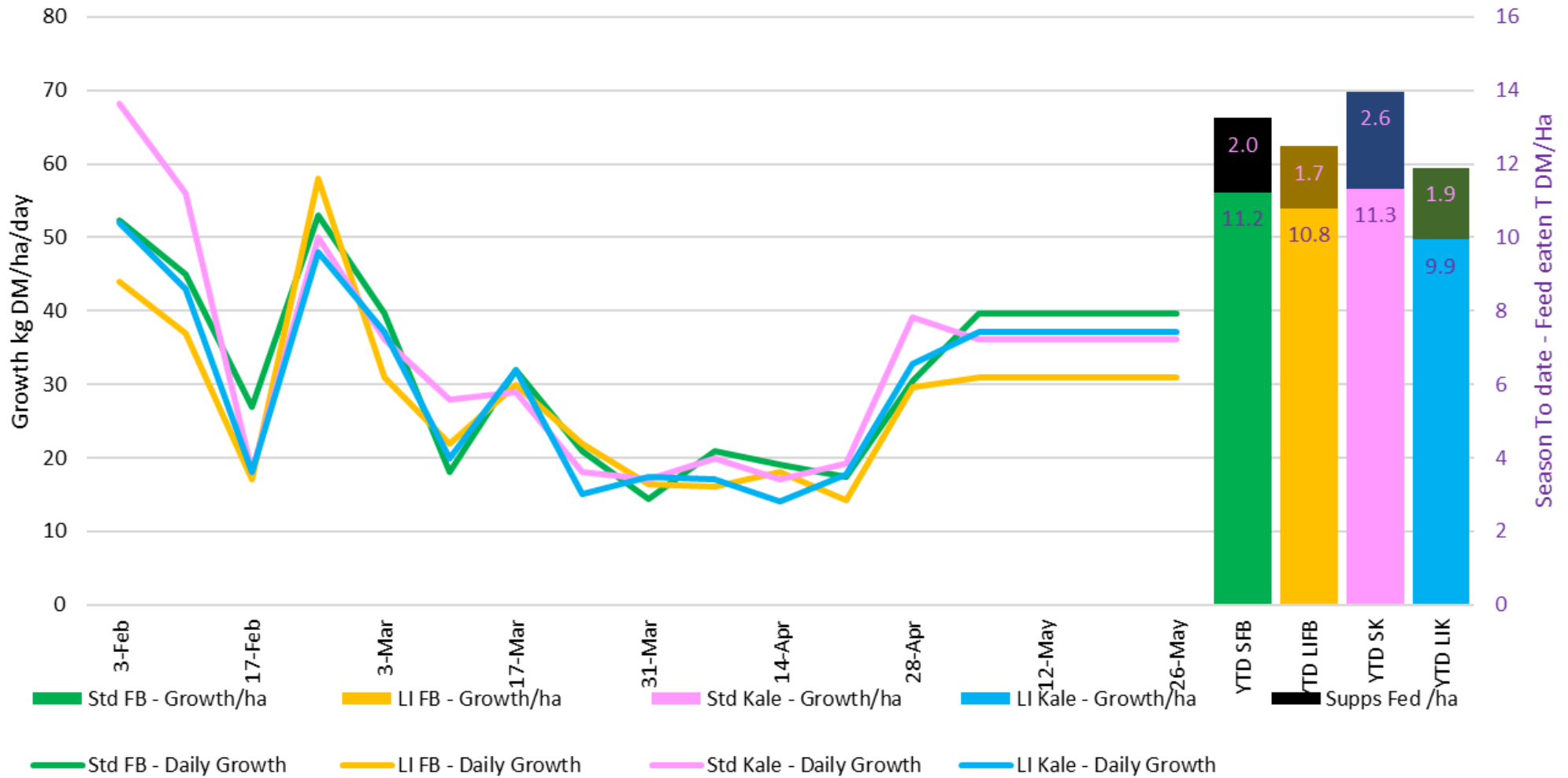
	Std Kale	LI Kale	Std FB	LI FB	Total
Teatseal only	15	22	6	8	51
Combo	11	9	4	1	25
Quadrant	1	4	4	1	10
Cull	1	0	4	2	7
Total	28	35	18	12	93

**Farm system impacts: of Kale vs Fodder beet for winter AND Reducing N loss to water by 30%.
 Kale, Winters on kale - in-shed feed available. Fodder beet, winters on Beet, Beet as lactation supp. Low impact (LI) limited Max 50kg N/ha/year vs Std 193kg N/ha/year**



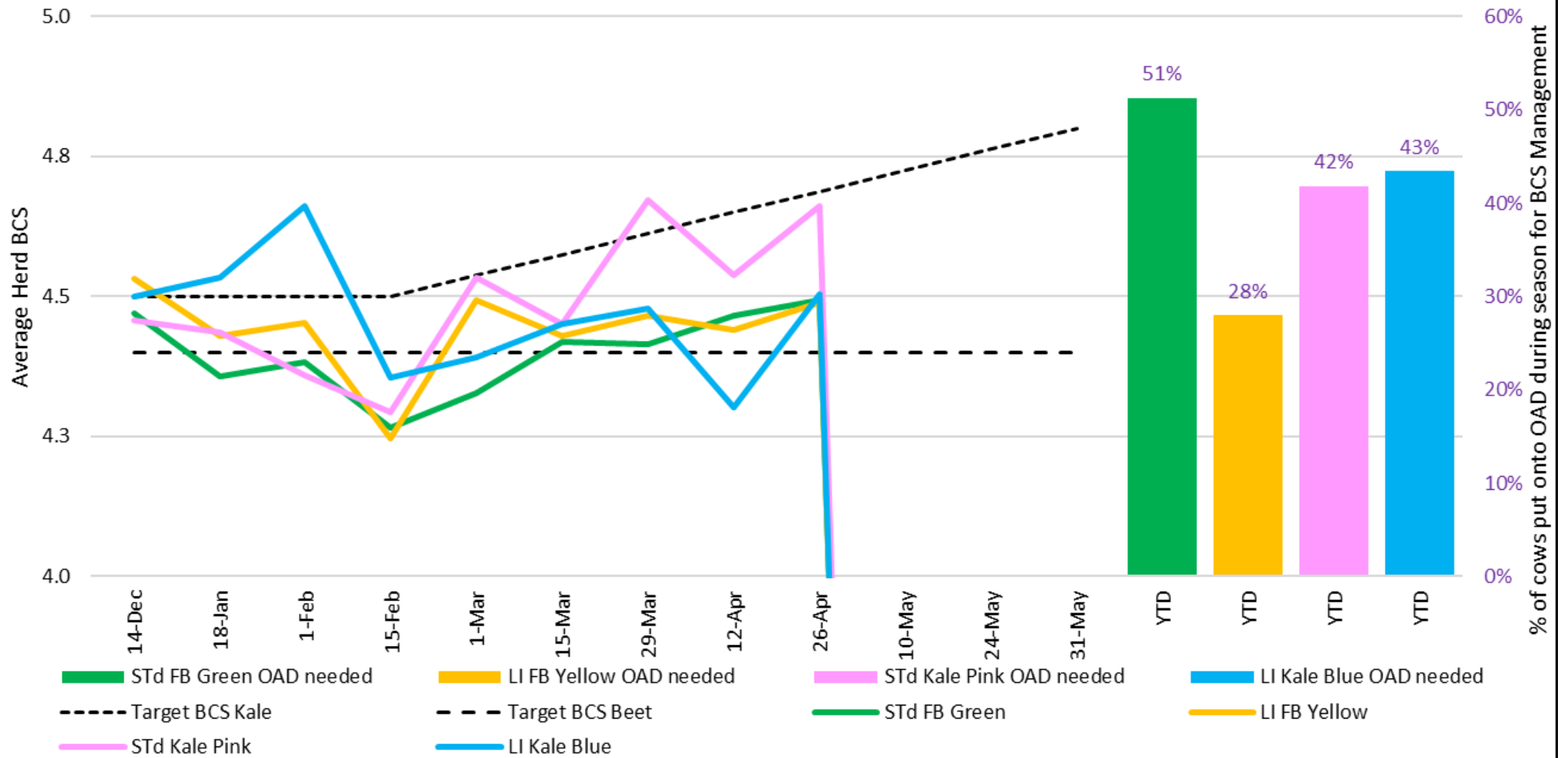
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Growth rate and feed use comparison



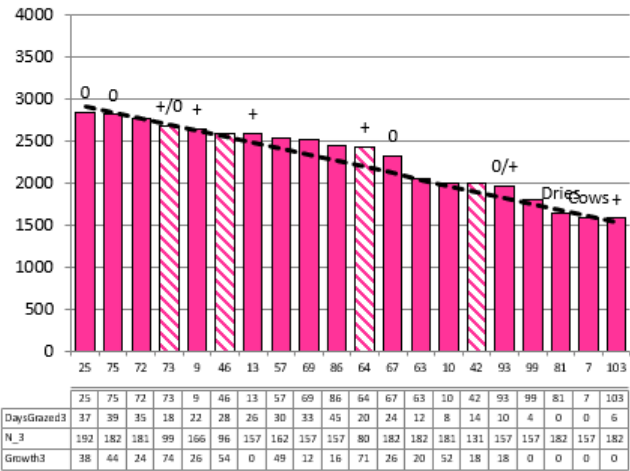
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Average BCS comparison

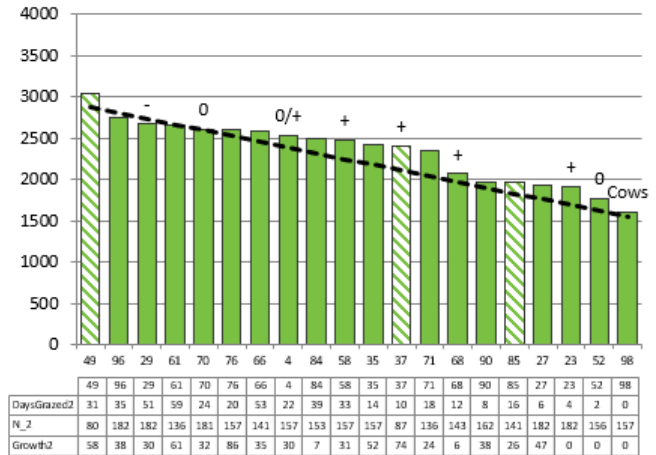


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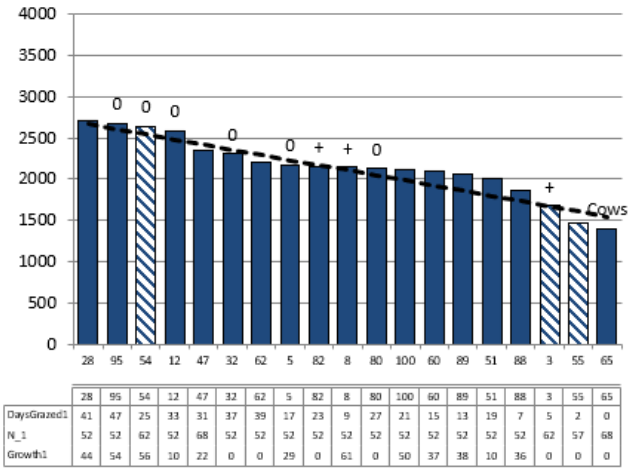
Standard Kale



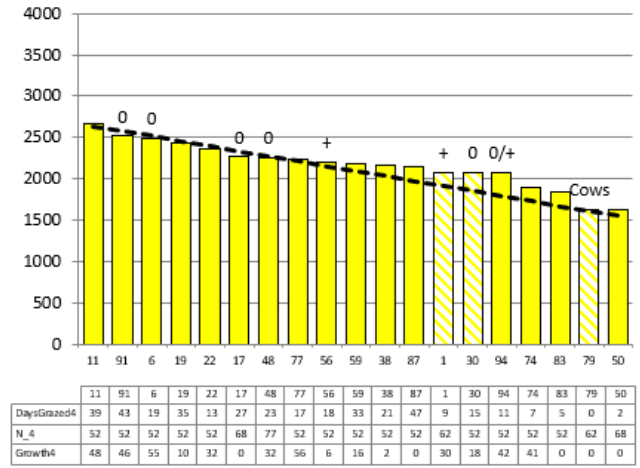
Standard Fodder Beet



Low Impact Kale



Low Impact Fodder Beet



NB: Hatched bars are 2021 new grass paddocks being managed on a faster rotation

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