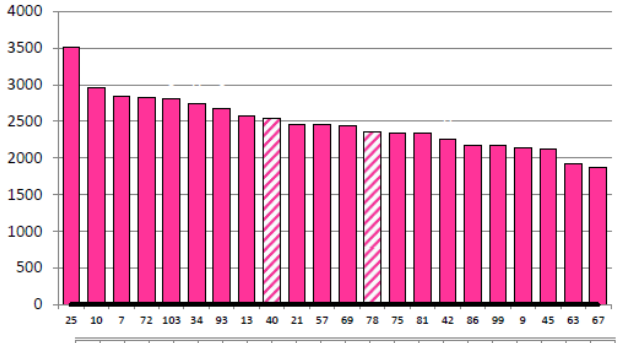
2021/22 Season
Hub Weekly Farm Update
Date: 5/08/2021

Date 04-08-21

Herd size (cows)	200	Average Cover	2475
Target residual (kg DM/ha)		Average Growth	22
Target pasture intake (kg DM/cow)		Farmlet area	62.3
Target Area offered (ha/day)		Target rotation length	#DIV/0!
Last week actual rotation (d)	#N/A	Target demand	0
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	#N/A	YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	#N/A
Last week N (kg N/ha)	#N/A	Fert N YTD	#N/A
Milk yield (L/cow)	7.0	Effluent N YTD	0
Fat%	N	Last wk MS	W
Prot%	E	YTD MS/cow	E
SCC	X	YTD MS/ha	E
Average BCS	T	% less than BCS 4	K

Herd size (cows)	202	Average Cover	2372
Target residual (kg DM/ha)		Average Growth	17
Target pasture intake (kg DM/cow)		Farmlet area	63.5
Target Area offered (ha/day)		Target rotation length	#DIV/0!
Last week actual rotation (d)	#N/A	Target demand	0
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	#N/A	YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	#N/A
Last week N (kg N/ha)	#N/A	Fert N YTD	#N/A
Milk yield (L/cow)	9.8	Effluent N YTD	0
Fat%	N	Last wk MS	W
Prot%	E	YTD MS/cow	E
SCC	X	YTD MS/ha	E
Average BCS	T	% less than BCS 4	K

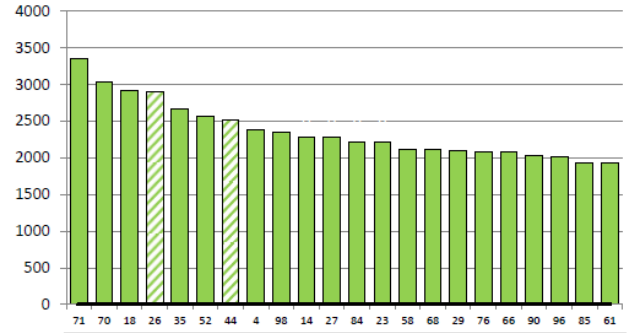
Standard Kale



	25	10	7	72	103	34	93	13	40	21	57	69	78	75	81	42	86	99	9	45	63	67
DaysGrazed3	97	91	100	90	87	84	92	83	1	88	80	78	1	80	75	84	77	85	76	73	72	74
N_3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Growth3	48	40	52	52	10	14	12	53	0	9	2	2	0	30	16	3	2	2	18	8	47	25

Farmlet notes: Visual APC 2538; GR 29: 6.5% of herd calved, Av days off crop 9 & on av 8 days early; kale springers grazing pdk 40 & heifer springers in 78; increased baleage to springers as 20 m2 only giving 4 kg DM pasture; springer drafting x2 per week; will split into milkers and colostrums on Mon once 100 cows calved; pdk 25 will be first to be grazed with milkers

Standard Fodder Beet



	71	70	18	26	35	52	44	4	98	14	27	84	23	58	68	29	76	66	90	96	85	61
DaysGrazed2	92	84	73	1	76	80	78	72	95	72	83	89	78	81	91	79	88	73	75	86	74	73
N_2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Growth2	38	26	42	0	38	49	8	26	12	15	2	2	7	5	8	18	5	4	15	20	8	13

Farmlet notes: Visual APC 2452 GR 26: 11% of herd calved, Av days off crop 9 & on av 7 days early; FB springers grazing pdk 26 & heifer springers in 78; increased baleage to springers as 20 m2 only giving 4 kg DM pasture; springer drafting x2 per week; will split into milkers and colostrums on Mon once 100 cows calved; pdk 71 will be grazed with colostrums

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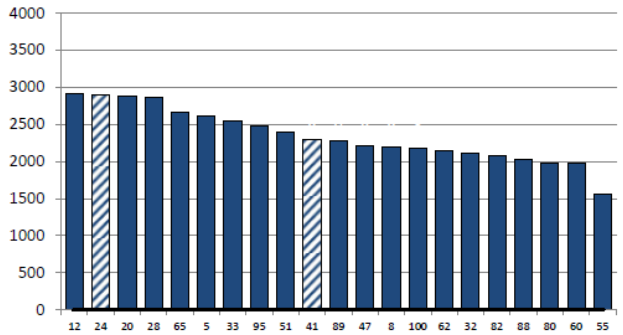
Herd size (cows)	167	Average Cover	2348
Target residual (kg DM/ha)		Average Growth	21
Target pasture intake (kg DM/cow)		Farmlet area	61.0
Target Area offered (ha/day)		Target rotation length	#DIV/0!
Last week rotation avg	#N/A	Target demand	0
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	#N/A	YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	#N/A
Last week N (kg N/ha)	#N/A	Fert N YTD	#N/A
Milk yield	12.8	Effluent N YTD	0
Fat%	N	Last wk MS	W
Prot%	E	YTD MS/cow	E
SCC	X	YTD MS/ha	E
Average BCS	T	% less than BCS 4	K

Herd size (cows)	167	Average Cover	2358
Target residual (kg DM/ha)		Average Growth	13
Target pasture intake (kg DM/cow)		Farmlet area	60.9
Target Area offered (ha/day)	2.3	Target rotation length	26
Last week rotation avg	#N/A	Target demand	0
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	#N/A	YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	#N/A
Last week N (kg N/ha)	#N/A	Fert N YTD	#N/A
Milk yield	11.0	Effluent N YTD	0
Fat%	N	Last wk MS	W
Prot%	E	YTD MS/cow	E
SCC	X	YTD MS/ha	E
Average BCS	T	% less than BCS 4	K

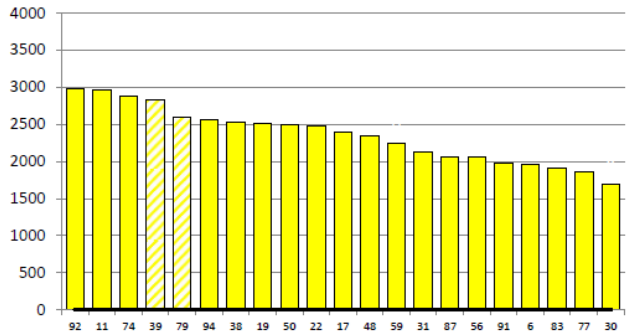
Low Impact Kale



	12	24	20	28	65	5	33	95	51	41	89	47	8	100	62	32	82	88	80	60	55
DaysGrazed1	89	78	86	93	87	90	97	92	84	77	82	72	73	79	75	77	76	89	80	85	2
N_1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Growth1	38	4	54	40	36	50	16	20	18	2	10	12	18	22	34	9	8	14	2	11	0

Farmlet notes: Visual APC 2391 GR 23: 8% of herd calved, Av days off crop 8 & on av 7 days early; kale springers grazing pdk 40 & heifer springers in 78; pdk 55 grazed by combined colostrum/milker mob increased baleage to springers as 20 m2 only giving 4 kg DM pasture; springer drafting x2 per week; will split into milkers and colostrums on Mon once 100 cows calved;

Low Impact Fodder Beet



	92	11	74	39	79	94	38	19	50	22	17	48	59	31	87	56	91	6	83	77	30
DaysGrazed4	99	91	93	128	111	84	90	77	86	96	73	71	78	76	83	87	81	80	72	75	79
N_4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Growth4	7	36	42	9	26	20	6	20	10	18	10	16	21	2	4	-8	2	17	2	6	3

Farmlet notes: Visual APC 2441, GR 17: 10% of herd calved, Av days off crop 7 & on av 9 days early;FB springers grazing pdk 26 & heifer springers in 78; increased baleage to springers as 20 m2 only giving 4 kg DM pasture; springer drafting x2 per week; will split into milkers and colostrums on Mon once 100 cows calved; pdk 78 next for heifer springres

NB: Hatched paddocks are springer paddocks

Table 1: Key Herd Numbers 4/08/2021 – number of cows in each mob

DATE: 10 June 2021	Std Kale	LI Kale	Std FB	LI FB	Total
Cows on Farm	201	167	199	167	735
Current being milked	13	13	21	17	64
Springers	65	44	51	53	213
Dries	124	110	125	97	456
Slips/empty/deaths	2	1	3	1	7

General Farm Information

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Table 2: Key Weather and Feeding Numbers 5th August 2021

Soil Temp (°C) (weekly average)	Weather station has gone down since 22 July so no soil temperature to report			
Rainfall (mm)	23 mm since the 23rd July			
Allocations kg DM/cow/day	**Std. Kale**	**LI Kale**	**Std FB**	**LI FB**
Colostrum	15-16 kg pasture			
Springers	3-5 kg pasture & 5-7 kg baleage			
Dry cows	Kale 11.8 kg DM/cow Baleage 3.3 kg DM/cow	Kale 11.8 kg DM/cow Baleage 3.3 kg DM/cow	Beet 10 kg DM/cow Baleage 3.3 kg DM/cow	Beet 10 kg DM/cow Baleage 3.3 kg DM/cow

Key Decisions: this week

- We have completed our spring rotation planners and feed budgets for the calving period. Below shows how our actual average pasture cover is tracking next to our predicted. With above predicted growth rates this week ranging between 13-22kg DM/ha/day our graphs are looking good however we expect this to change quickly once we get into the peak of calving. and will potentially need to add in supplements in about the 20th August to the Std farmlets to bridge any deficits depending on what growth rates do.

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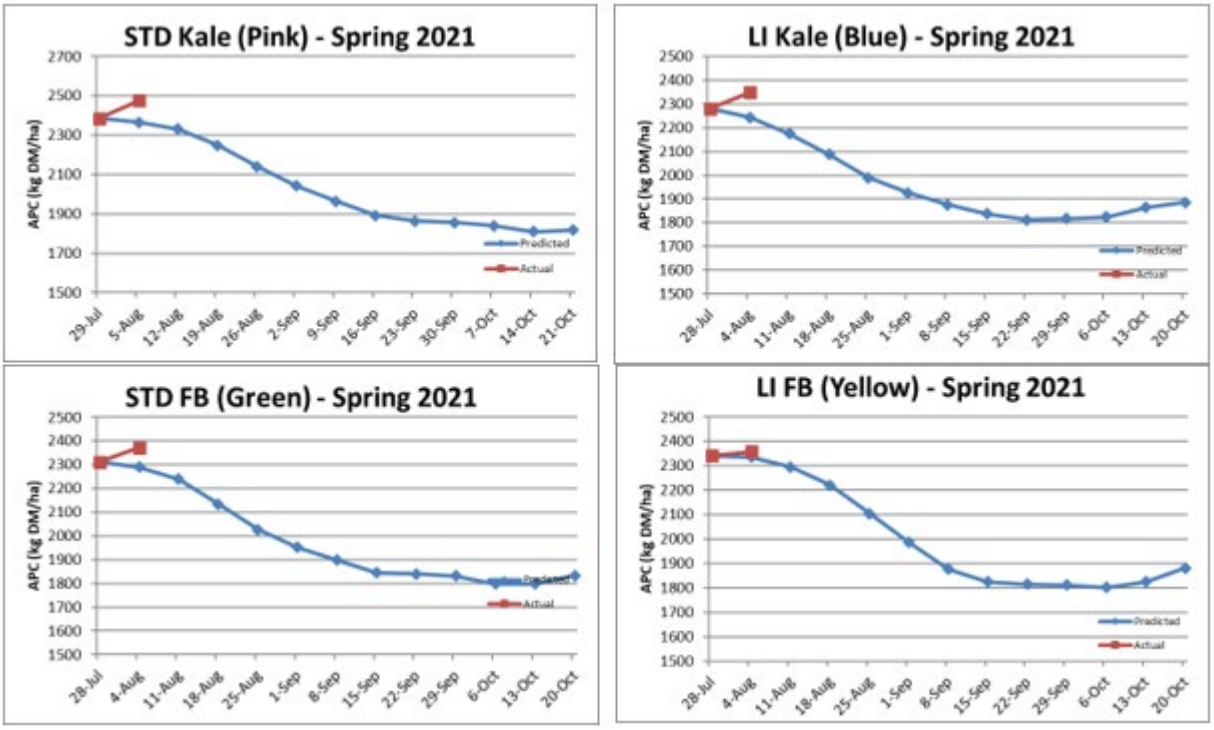

Figure 1: Actual vs. predicted average pasture cover for each farmlet

- Last week we altered feed allocations to minimise the amount of extra baleage going into the kale herds. This week we will also reduce the DM allocation to the late FB cows, mostly by removing fodder beet from their diet, due to them getting too fat. Over fat cows at calving can pose a risk to animal health through increased metabolic issues.
- Today (5th Aug) is planned start of calving for the heifers and we already have 9% of the herd calved! This has meant an early and busy start for the team. So far we have 10 replacement calves, the first of which can be seen below:

Figure 2: First replacement calf for the season

- We continue with our springer draft twice a week and this week have consolidated the mobs on crop. Each herd now have a mid-calving crop mob and then the lates for each crop type

e.g. kale or fodder beet have been consolidated into 1 herd giving us 3 cow mobs and 1 R2 mob for each crop type.

- Colostrums/milker mob being offered 100 m^2 per cow per day pasture
- Increased baleage allocation to springers as pre-graze cover and 20 m^2/cow was not offering enough pasture, working on 1 bale per 40 animals in the 3 springer mobs
- It is likely that calved cows will be split into colostrum and milker mobs on Monday as at the current rate of calving we will have at least 100 calved by then.
- The next split into kale and fodder beet milkers will occur when we get 100 in the milker mob

General Notes:

- Milkers and dry cows were BCS this week with springers to be done tomorrow. Overall we are happy with the results but will have to manage the lighter and fatter tail enders, with 10% kale and 15% FB cows at BCS 6 or above. As mentioned above we will cut back some of the FB allocation to the fat, later calving cows. The graph below shows the spread of BCS in the dry cows still on crop across each farmlet; on average the dries average BCS 5.3-5.4 and the milkers BCS 4.7-4.9.

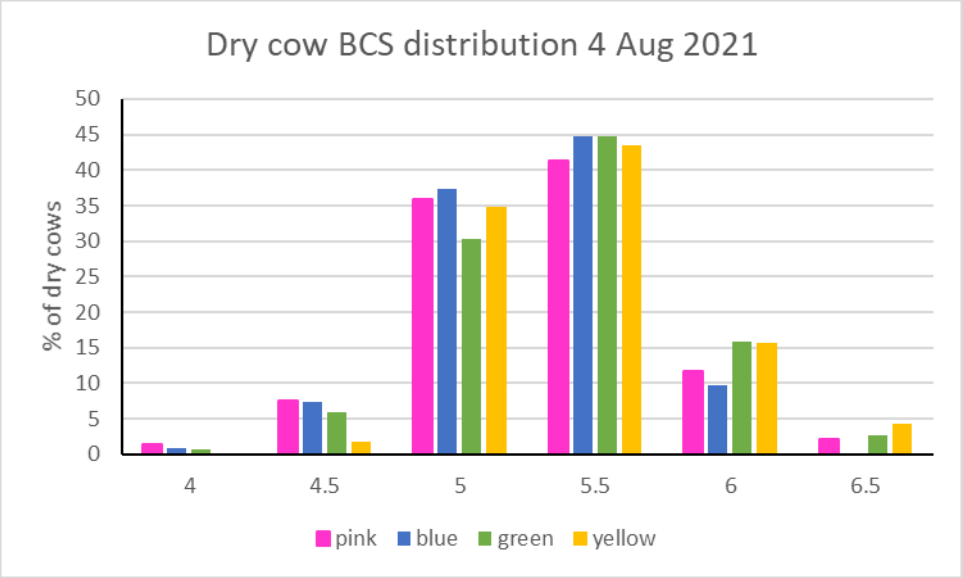

Figure 3: Dry cow BCS distribution across farmlet types

- Our R1 heifer calves are going well, though this week they have started to leave some kale behind. With only 2 weeks left at the support block before heading to the grazier there is less concern around crop running out.
- Some extra fencing has occurred on the farm which included around Vinny's house where the septic field has been extended and alongside the Makarewa Tributary where the buffer zone has been increased in preparation for more riparian planting. With a new map needing to be made to account for a change around in farmlet paddocks, we will also redraw these areas and update the paddock areas following these fence changes.
- Our first bobby calf pickup will be on Tuesday.

Animal Health

- One R1 had to be visited by the vet due to having blisters between its toes. It has been treated and put out onto grass. The cause was unknown.

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- Mineral supplementation is key this time of year and our staff continue to be proactive with its daily use. Springers and colostrums are currently getting 50 g DCP and 50 g MgO dusted onto pasture daily. MgCl is also going through the water system.
- After a run of down cows last week blood samples were collected on Thursday from animals in the springer mobs. Interestingly half had high Mg levels and the other half low but there was no trend with winter crop diet.
- We had one cow death this week and will continue to keep a detailed record of the autopsy results as we have in previous seasons.

SDH Research & Demonstration

- Our science tech team has been busy this week as they begin sampling SDH and the Hanning's lysimeters as part of the Plant and Food catch crop study.
- We are getting down to the last of the crop yielding and samples for quality determination.
- It has been a busy week with BCS assessment of all cows. We will resume fortnightly BCS assessments this week to coincide with the first herd test on the 23rd/24th August.

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