

# Weekly Farm Summary 6 March 2024

Farm-system impacts of: Bales vs Beet for winter AND Reducing N loss to water by 30%.

	Std Baleage Blue	LI Baleage Pink	Std FB Green	LI FB Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	52.2	93.6	86.9	62.2
Peak cow numbers	139	208	233	136
Milking Area	52.2	93.6	75.3	55.0
Current Herd size (cows)	139	208	230	135
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.7	2.2	3.1	2.5
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover (kgDM/ha)	2647	2529	2520	2569
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	54	54	60	49
Target rotation length (d)	27	32	26	28
Last week actual rotation (d)	30	34	26	28
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	2.2	2.5	1.8	1.8
Latest Average BCS	4.6	4.4	4.7	4.7
% of herd on priority management	22.3%	35.1%	29.4%	29.6%
% in Milk	100%	100%	100%	100%
7-day Average Milk yield (L/cow)	17.3	17.1	17.4	18.4
7-day Average Milk yield (kgMS/c)	1.73	1.71	1.74	1.84
<b>Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	73% (131kg)	90% (45kg)	77% (138kg)	94% (47kg)
Effluent N YTD	13	12	12	13
YTD Pasture growth TDM/ha	13.3	11.9	13.1	11.9
YTD supp (kg DM/c)	475	434	545	431
YTD MS/c	363	358	384	405
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	971 (971)	792 (792)	1210 (1048)	953 (842)
<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Current Status</b>			
<b>Milk Production</b>	The excellent quality and quantity of pasture sees the cows still holding well, 8000 milksolids ahead for the year (6%), really gaining daily now.			
<b>Pasture &amp; Feed</b>	Growth essentially matched demand this week, so last weeks baleage will be the last surplus harvested. In shed feeding remains dialled back to minimum. Pasture testing results show a variation of 10- 12 ME between paddocks, this means our cows on 18.5 kg/dm grass are facing a variation of 37 ME, or around 16% between paddocks			
<b>Animals</b>	2 new mastitis cows and some issues with between claw infections causing lameness. Final scan has been done with mixed results between the herds. Not in calf rates ranged from 9 to 16%. Time is required to work through all the data to understand the results			
<b>Environment</b>	Lower impact farmlets have their 4 <sup>th</sup> and final application going on, standard farmlets have their 6 <sup>th</sup> and some final applications going on. Effluent pond is at 31%, below trigger levels for double runs, so dropping back to single applications as is feasible.			
<b>Wintering</b>	Final scan completed on Wednesday, so dry-off and culling plans are underway in conjunction with the development of the autumn feed budget. Crop yield assessments on fodder beet start this week, with a fungicide application to follow.			
<b>People</b>	DJ has gone above and beyond this week, due to sickness and bereavement in the family of a team member. His rostered hours have changed 3 times - a real team player, great effort			
<b>Research</b>	Come along to our autumn field day on Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March where we will hear from AgResearch and DairyNZ scientist who have been conducting research at SDH.			

# Milk production

## Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk production	Herds remain relatively stable mostly due to plenty of good quality pasture available for this time of year. Growth rates matched demand, so cows are still being offered 18.5- 19 kg DM top pasture. A range of 10-12 ME/kg/DM means cows eating 18.5 kg/DM pasture can have a fluctuation of 37 ME or 16% . Any herd that is unlucky enough to eat a 10 ME paddock in conjunction with some bad weather will see a drop in production.
Key Influences of Milk Production	Despite the current pasture quality looking good, we do still see a change in production when cows graze paddocks where there is a range of sown and non-sown pasture species (12-10 ME/ kg/DM, or a 37 ME/cow difference at current intakes). Some paddocks on the lower terrace are particularly bad for non-sown grass species in their swards.
Cow Management	No change. TAD milking frequency with continued monitoring cow BCS on the fortnightly basis and adjusting the priority feeding and OAD milking groups as required. Final scan results are now available so we are collating all the data to start our autumn BCS management strategies centered around priority feeding, milking frequency and cow specific dry off considerations.

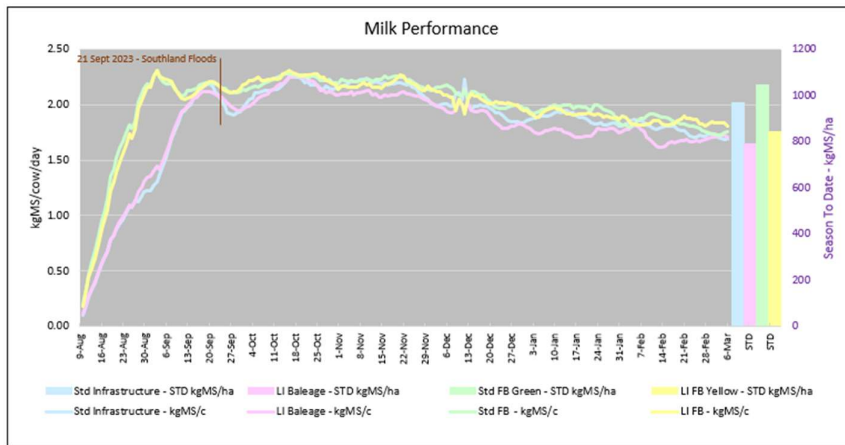


Figure 1. Milksolids per cow/day STD and kgMS/ha STD

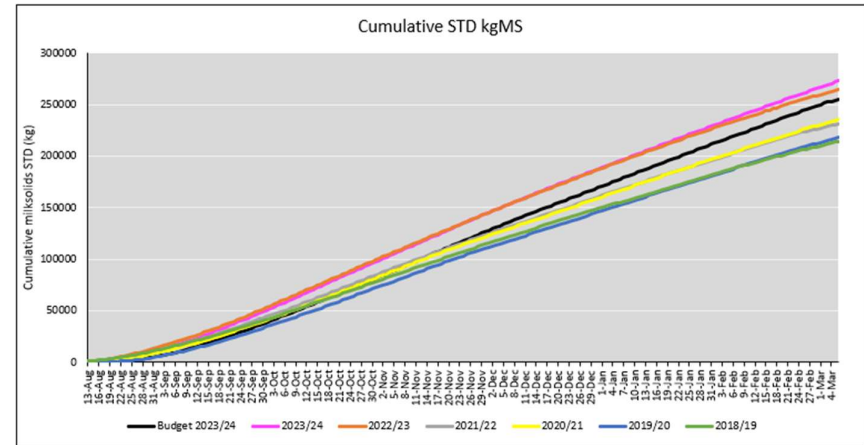


Figure 2. Cumulative kg Milksolids & Budget season to date

# Pasture Management

## Principles of Feed management this week

<p><b>Feed Quality</b></p>	<p>Due to different stocking rates the pre-graze targets between the herds vary slightly based on the current rotation length. Overall pastures are denser, lusher and have great amounts of clover and plantain than earlier in the season. Early decision making on paddocks where quality and quantity will allow for an extra feed is being implemented for the farmlets on the fastest rotation.</p>
<p><b>Growth Rate</b></p>	<p>Good soil temperatures, soil moisture and some warm days are still leading to growth rates matching demand. Starting to plan for extra grazings and some baleage use to begin extending round length to use any surplus. Two low FVI have been sprayed out and will be regrassed as part of our autumn regrassing program. We have managed to aerate two paddocks this week and will do more as conditions allow.</p>
<p><b>Nitrogen Strategy</b></p>	<p>Standard farmlets are beginning their 6<sup>th</sup> application of N fertiliser for the season. This will likely be the last application of N to the standard paddocks for the season. Given the current feed situation on the LI farmlets, and the plan for autumn regrassing and aeration, the final round of N application of 12.5 kg N/ha to these farmlets is underway.</p>

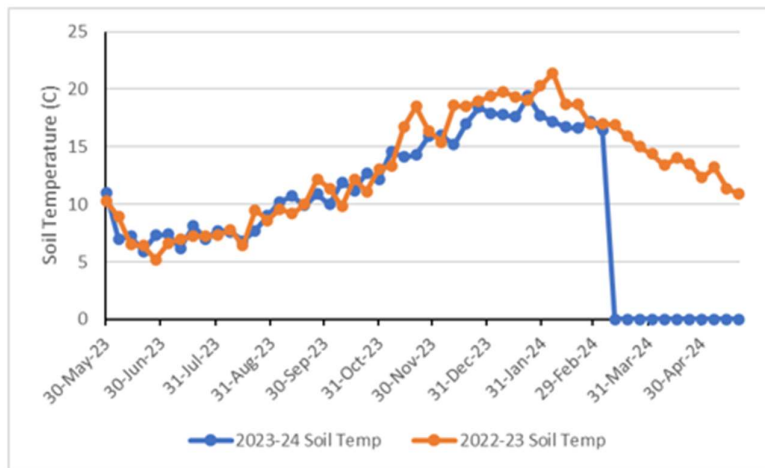


Figure 3. Soil temperatures 2023-24 vs 2022-23

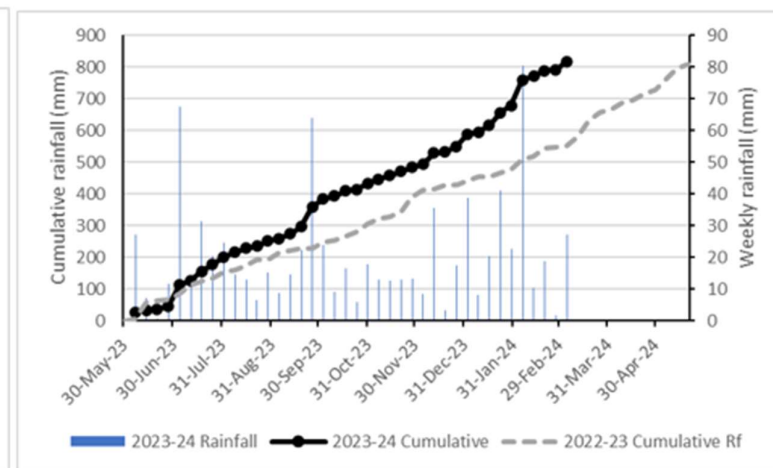


Figure 4. Season to date rainfall compared with cumulative rainfall 2022-23

# Feed wedges

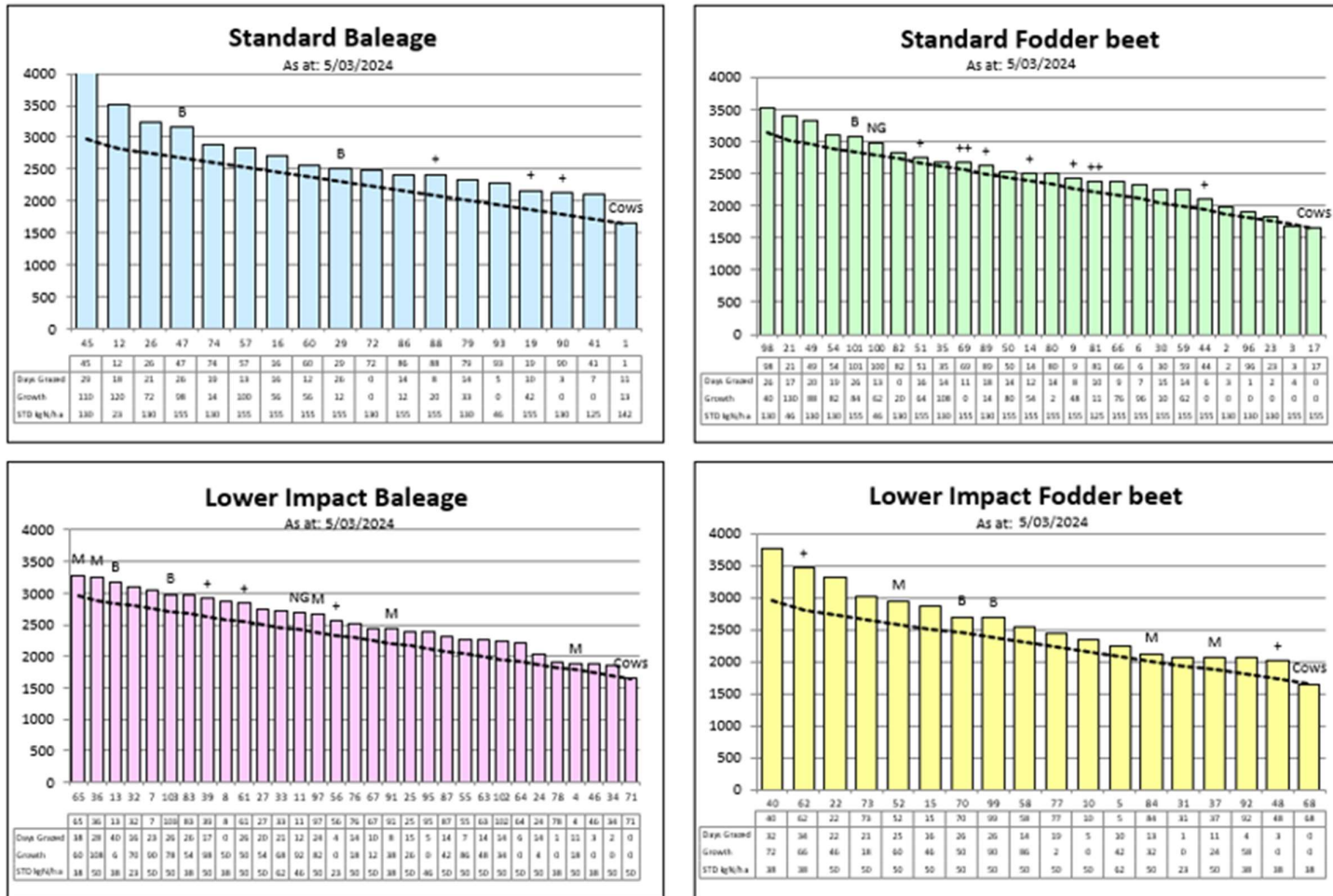


Figure 5. Plate meter feed wedges as at 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (NB: We have changed the name of the blue herd from Standard Infrastructure to Standard Baleage)