

# Weekly Farm Summary 10 February 2023

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

	Std Swede Pink	LI Bale Blue	Std FB Green	LI FB Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	82.7	60.9	82.7	60.9
Peak cow numbers	222	137	221	135
Milking Area	73.8	55.1	73.8	55.1
Current Herd size (cows)	210	135	209	130
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.8	2.5	2.8	2.4
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Swede/Bale	Baleage	Beet 80 days	Beet 60 days
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover	2160	2227	2265	2300
Average Growth	33	34	41	30
Target rotation length	39	37	39	38
Last week act rotation (d)	32	44	42	30
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	6.6	3.8	7.4	6.7
Average BCS	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4
% of herd on priority feeding	15%	9%	18%	14%
Milk yield (L/cow)	18.2	20.2	17.1	17.4
Milk yield (kgMS/cow)	1.70	1.92	1.63	1.66
<b>Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	49% (89kg)	60% (30kg)	47% (85kg)	58% (29kg)
Effluent N YTD	11	10	10	9
YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	639	423	588	419
YTD MS/cow	324	345	318	339
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	974	858	953	830

Business Area	Current Status
<b>Milk Production</b>	Impact of heat stress in the herds in the past week, with production dropping & feed left behind. Officially into 3 in 2 milking as of Wed 8 Feb & team stripping herd 1 quarter per milking 4 days/week
<b>Pasture &amp; Feed</b>	Growth lifted slightly with some moisture, but still in significant deficit. Feeding baleage to all herds, & flat 2.5kgDM/cow in-shed across all groups. Surplus feed at support block cut for summer milking stack to eat in 4 weeks
<b>Animals</b>	Some lameness emerging, with white-line popping up across the herds. Johnes cows from Milk testing, high SCC culls/MTs & other problematic culls are being exited this week.
<b>Environment</b>	Effluent pond maintained at minimum levels, with applications being used on new grasses where possible. No Nitrogen applied to farm when soil & weather conditions won't see N converted efficiently to pasture growth
<b>Wintering</b>	Monitoring winter crops (Fodder beet) for fungus & insect pressure. Winter baleage supplies secured & planning for bale placement underway
<b>People</b>	The team are adept at change and have planned together for a seamless switch to 3-in-2 milking. Considerable time spent daily managing & feeding bales to each herd
<b>Research</b>	First week of the Heat stress trial completed, with some significant differences between days for heat, humidity & cloud cover adding to the data collected around the trial.

# Milk Production

## Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk Production	The LI baleage herd continues to hold milk production while the other 3 herds continue their downward trend. This result is surprising given the same feeding decision rules across the farmlets.
Key Influences on Milk Production	Hot temperatures and high humidity resulted in several days of heat stress which would have impacted on grazing time and milk production. The high proportion of baleage in the diet would have also contributed to increased heat load and reduce drive to graze
Cow Management	Wednesday was the first day of OAD milking in the 3n2 regime. Several herds were a little confused with the change in milking time, all congregating by the gate at the normal milking time. The farm team have recommenced regular stripping of each quarter for proactive mastitis management

	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
kg Milksolids per cow this week / (last week)	1.70 (1.75)	1.92 (1.93)	1.63 (1.71)	1.66 (1.74)
kg Milksolids per ha this year / (same time last year)	974 (870)	858 (776)	953 (851)	830 (751)
% Var kg Milksolids per ha Season per ha to date vs last season to date	8.9	8.2	13.9	11.1
No. of Cows needing preferential feeding (% herd)	37 (18)	17 (14)	31 (15)	12 (10)
Animal Health peculiarities	None	None	None	None

# Milk Production

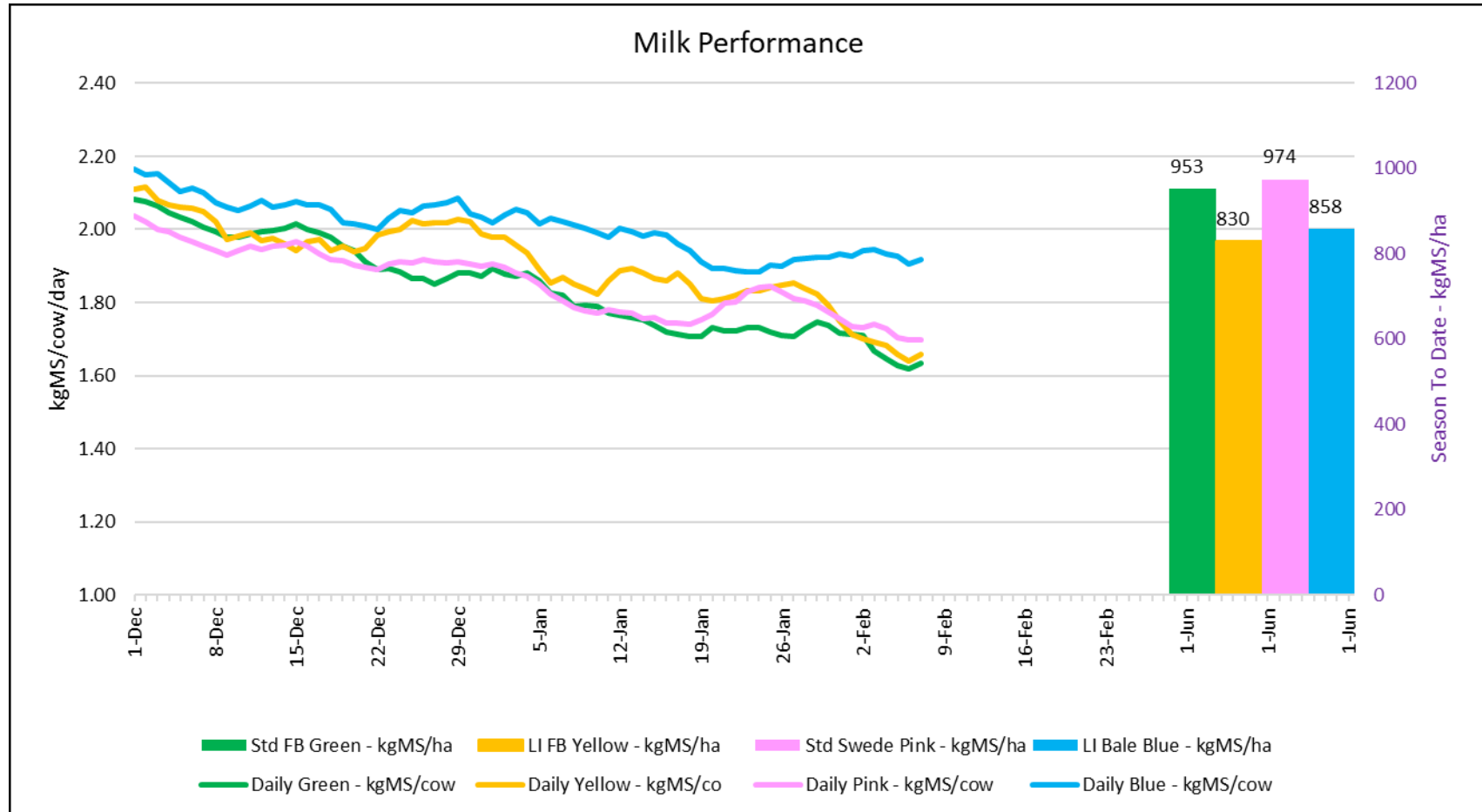


Figure 1: Milk solids production (/cow/day) plus cumulative season production (kg/ha)

# Feed

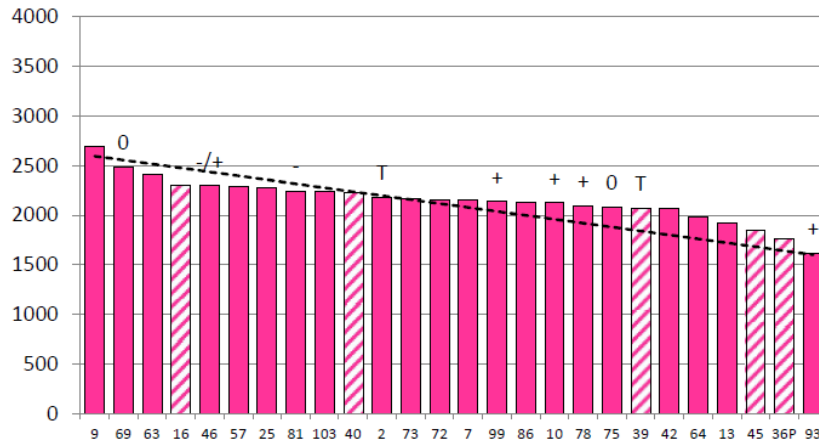
## Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	Increase in dry matter and likely decline in quality with more dry pasture between green urine patches. Still awaiting results of recent pasture samples that have been collected. Of the paddocks sampled for botanical composition so far the standard paddocks have averaged 9% clover, compared with 20% in the LI farmlets. LI farmlets have less ryegrass and more other grasses. All farmlets have a high proportion (25-30%) dead matter, with most of this below the grazing horizon.
Growth Rate Management	Maintaining the longer rotation length and ensuring paddocks are not being overgrazed, especially the new grass paddocks that are now fully into the rotation. Five of the historical low FVI paddocks have been sprayed out and direct drilled.
Nitrogen Strategy	Still not enough reliable rain in the forecast to generate a good response from nitrogen applications so we continue to hold off on fertiliser applications

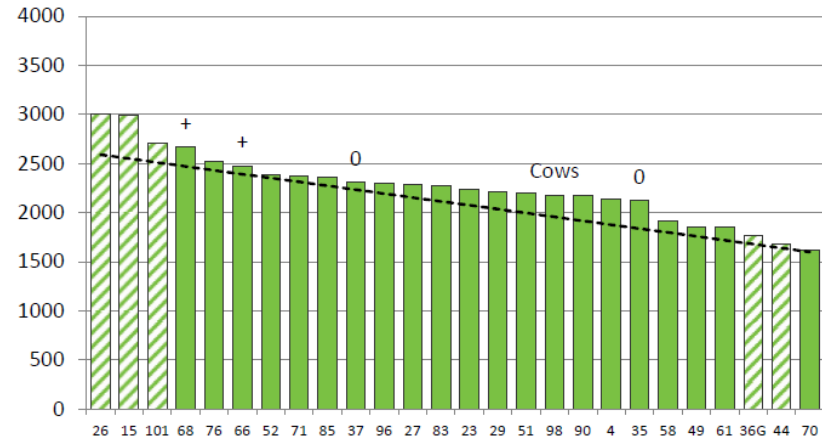
	Std brassica/baleage Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std Fodder beet Green	LI Fodder beet Yellow
Quantity	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
Quality	High dry matter but likely quality decline	High dry matter but likely quality decline	High dry matter but likely quality decline	High dry matter but likely quality decline
Surplus Management	None	None	None	None
Deficit Management for coming week- kgDM (diff from last week)	6.6 (-2.2)	3.8 (-2.2)	9.3 (+0.5)	6.7 (+0.8)
Target Rotation Length (days)	39	37	39	38

# Feed

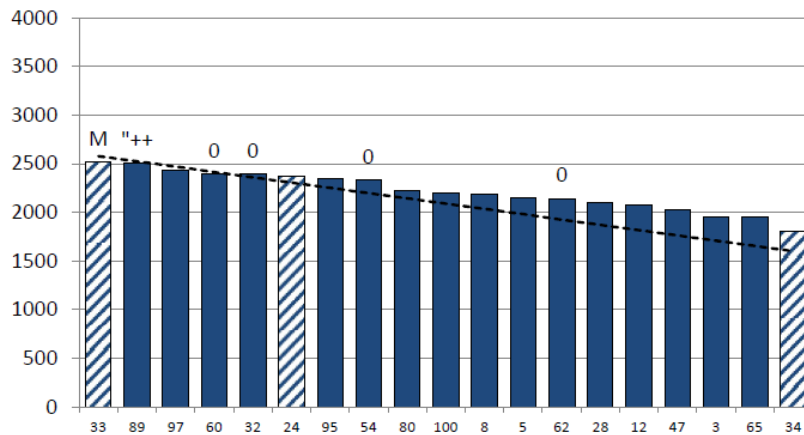
## Standard Brassica/Baleage



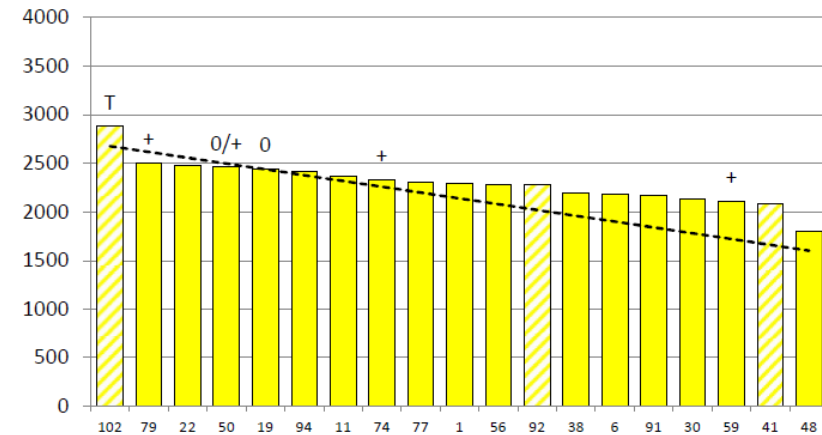
## Standard Fodder Beet



## Lower Impact Baleage



## Lower Impact Fodder Beet



	33	89	97	60	32	24	95	54	80	100	8	5	62	28	12	47	3	65	34
DaysGrazed1	20	16	17	20	31	33	26	22	33	28	2	12	24	18	8	6	4	10	0
_1	25	37	25	37	37	25	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	49
rowth1	46	32	88	0	0	40	30	0	10	4	0	32	0	8	28	58	0	0	0

	102	79	22	50	19	94	11	74	77	1	56	92	38	6	91	30	59	41	48
DaysGrazed4	27	25	18	22	30	29	20	16	10	0	33	22	6	4	2	8	12	18	12
N_4	0	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	25	37	37	37	37	37	25	37
Growth4	76	22	18	12	30	14	2	38	22	0	18	52	42	0	0	0	0	55	14

Figure 2: Feed Wedges as of 31<sup>st</sup> January

# Feed

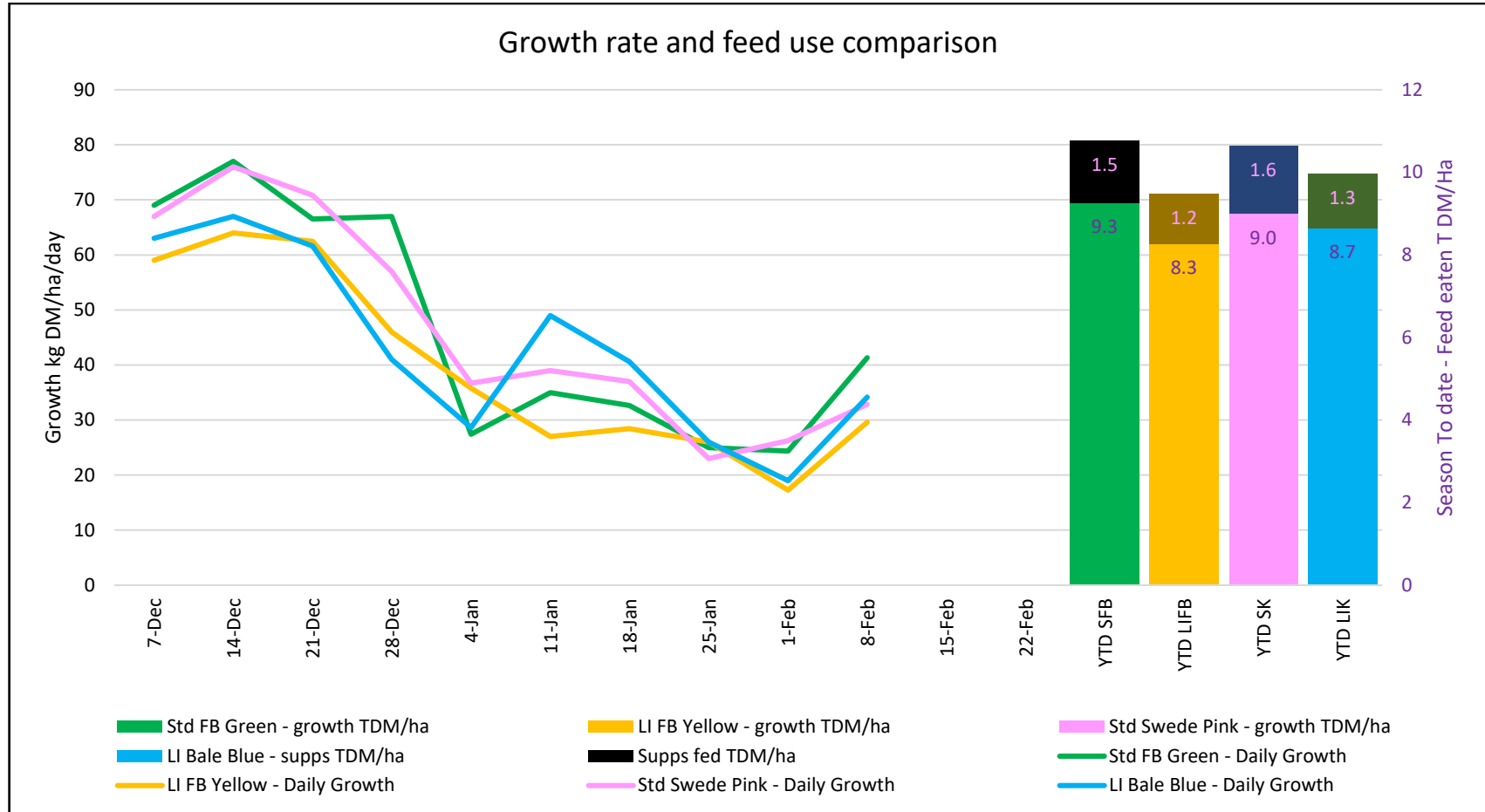


Figure 3: Weekly pasture growth rate and year to date total feed eaten