

# Weekly Farm Summary 9 August 2023

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

	Std Infrastructure Pink	LI Baleage Blue	Std FB Green	LI FB Yellow
Farmlet area including wintering	79.0	60.9	86.9	60.8
Peak cow numbers	218	141	243	141
Milking Area	73.2	49.3	69.5	52.1
Current Herd size (cows)	215	141	239	137
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.9	2.9	3.4	2.6
Winter Feed Milking supplement	Baleage	Baleage	Beet	Beet
	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + silage as required			
Average Cover (kgDM/ha)	2706	2567	2654	2531
Average Growth (kgDM/ha/d)	14.6	14.1	10.1	8.0
Target rotation length (d)	83	79	84	79
Last week actual rotation (d)	300	1326	182	190
Last week supp (kgDM/c)	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Latest Average BCS	5.2	5.4	5.3	5.3
% less than BCS 5	5%	0%	1%	2%
% in Milk	15%	12%	14%	18%
<b>Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	0%	0%	0%	0%
Effluent N YTD	0	0	0	0
YTD supp (kg DM/c)	0	1	1	1
<b>Business Area</b>	<b>Current Status</b>			
<b>Milk Production</b>	First pickup for the season is scheduled for the 11th August, 2 days later than last season reflecting our 2 day change in planned start of calving for this season. Will continue to milk OAD for all animals for the next week.			
<b>Pasture &amp; Feed</b>	There is no shortage of pasture on the farm with APC being 300 kg DM/ha higher than we were targeting. Our biggest challenge for the next couple of weeks will be timing the grazing of the high mass paddocks while we have a bigger milking herd to get through them quickly. Visually there appears to be a big range in pasture quality across all farmlets.			
<b>Animals</b>	Currently 91 cows calved compared with 56 expected based on predicted calving date. So far, we have had 5 sets of twins and have 21 replacements in the calf shed. Next week we are heading out to the grazier to see how the R1's are going. After starting winter on pasture, they have been on swedes for the last month.			
<b>Environment</b>	With the pond only at 55% capacity there is no pressure to start applying effluent.			
<b>Wintering</b>	This week we are consolidating wintering groups to reduce the workload on the team as we head into the peak calving period. The aim by Friday is for 1 mob on beet, 1 pre-springer mob and 1 winter baleage mob. Latest baleage quality results have again highlighted the range across the different batches so this is something we will be working to improve on for next winter.			
<b>People</b>	On Monday we celebrated with the team for Farm Worker appreciation day. The team have good systems and processes for calving and are on a 6:2 roster. Springer drafts are scheduled for Tues and Fri when we have the most people on farm			
<b>Research</b>	The plantain plot trial was harvested this week			

# Animals

## Principles of Milk Production management this week

Milk production	Milkers will be split from colostrum cows on the 10 <sup>th</sup> August with the first pickup scheduled for the 11 <sup>th</sup> . Estimating 70 animals in the milkers and 30 in the colostrum mob
Key Influences of Milk Production	Rate of calving is having the biggest impact on milk production now. With no shortage of pasture on farm and good cow condition we are well set up for a good start to the season
Cow Management	<p>The colostrum mob will be milked OAD throughout calving. Milking frequency of the milker mob will be reassessed next week but for now they are being milked OAD. If sufficient feed is available and grazing conditions and weather are OK we will move to TAD.</p> <p>Post calving it takes time for cows to achieve optimum rumination rates and research has indicated that a longer period on OAD milking can assist in stimulating appetite and getting cows to optimum rumination rates. Based on this research the Delpro milking system will be used to ensure all cows have at least 14 days on OAD milking immediately after calving. Rumination rates of any at risk cows (difficult calving, metabolics, retained membranes) will be monitored and cows only switched to OAD milking if they have good rumination rates.</p>



Figure 1: Milker/colostrum mob resting in the sun



Figure 2: Springers returning to the paddock after BCS assessment



# Feed

## Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	<p>Pasture analysis from our springer paddocks is back and crude protein ranges from 23.6 to 25.5%, DM from 14.2 to 14.6% and ME from 11.6 to 12.2 MJ/kg DM. We were interested in the mineral levels given two paddocks are in the effluent area. Potassium was between 2.5 and 3.2%, phosphorus 0.35-0.39%, magnesium 0.2-0.23% and calcium 0.35-0.5% of DM. Based on these results we will not be making any changes to our springer mineral supplement regime unless we see an increase in the incidence of metabolics at calving.</p> <p>Baleage quality was again extremely variable in quality which is something we need to address for next winter given the high proportion of baleage in the diet of many of our animals.</p> <p>It is surprising how much clover there is around the farm. Paddocks with plantain are variable in their plantain content.</p>
Growth Rate	<p>Growth rate has dropped back a bit this week but is still sitting in the 10-15 kg DM/ha. Average pasture cover is starting to decline as we get more cows into the colostrum and milker mobs. The Spring Rotation Planner is being used for area allocation and tracking our feed supply.</p>
Nitrogen Strategy	<p>While soil temperatures are above 7 degrees we have no intention of applying any nitrogen fertiliser for at least the next month. Conditions can change quickly at this time of the year and with our current APC we do not need to boost pasture growth.</p>



Figure 3: Good clover content in many of the paddocks



Figure 4: New grass paddock with plantain



# Our Week in Pictures



**Figure 5: Bakura to the rescue – night calving of a cow with big twins. Both calves were OK but unfortunately it was 1 bull and 1 heifer**



**Figure 6: Daytime assistance of twins - this time 2 bulls**



**Figure 6: Ominous sky earlier in the week**