Weekly Farm Summary 9th September 2022

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	223	137	223	137
Milking Area	73.8	55.1	73.8	55.1
Current Herd size (cows)	175	105	175	110
Pasture Stocking rate (current)	2.4	1.9	2.4	2.0
Winter Feed	Swede/Bale	Baleage	Beet 80 days	Beet 60 days
Milking supplement	In-shed feed 500kg/cow + baleage as required			
Average Cover	2200	2119	2156	2184
Average Growth	24	15	22	22
Target rotation length	48	50	48	50
Last week act rotation (d)	43	49	50	54
Last week supp (kg DM/cow)	7.1	7.2	5.9	7.0
Average BCS	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0
% of herd on priority feeding	1	2	3	3
Milk yield (L/cow)	22.2	24.3	22.1	22.8
Milk yield (kgMS/cow)	1.96	2.09	2.02	1.97
Nitrogen Cap kgN/ha/yr	**180**	**50**	**180**	**50**
% Nitrogen used (kgN/ha) YTD	7% (13kg)	12% (6kg)	7% (13kg)	8% (4kg)
Effluent N YTD	1	0	1	2
Profit/ha comp to Control	$0	$0	$0	$0
YTD supp (kg DM/cow)	94	65	79	68
YTD MS/cow	24	27	22	26
YTD MS/milk ha (YTD MS/farm ha)	74 (66)	67 (61)	68 (61)	64 (58)

Business Area	Current Status
Milk Production	Milk production reasonably steady, wet weather impacting yield.
Pasture & Feed	APC are tracking close to target in our SRP. Approximately 8-9 kg DM supplement is required to fully feed milkers on current area allocation.
Animals	Increased incidence of down cows during the recent cold snap; increased MgO dose rate to springers & dusting onto baleage; Head start drench at calving for all mixed age cows until conditions improve
Environment	Effluent applications have begun around the farmlets at low rate (~2.5mm), targeting post grazed paddocks. Next application of nitrogen fertiliser to be applied via helicopter to minimise soil and pasture damage.
Wintering	Surplus fodder beet sold and organised to be lifted
People	Good attention to spotting cow health issues early and adjusting feed allocations as mob sizes change
Research	Working through the details for a plot trial on farm involving plantain

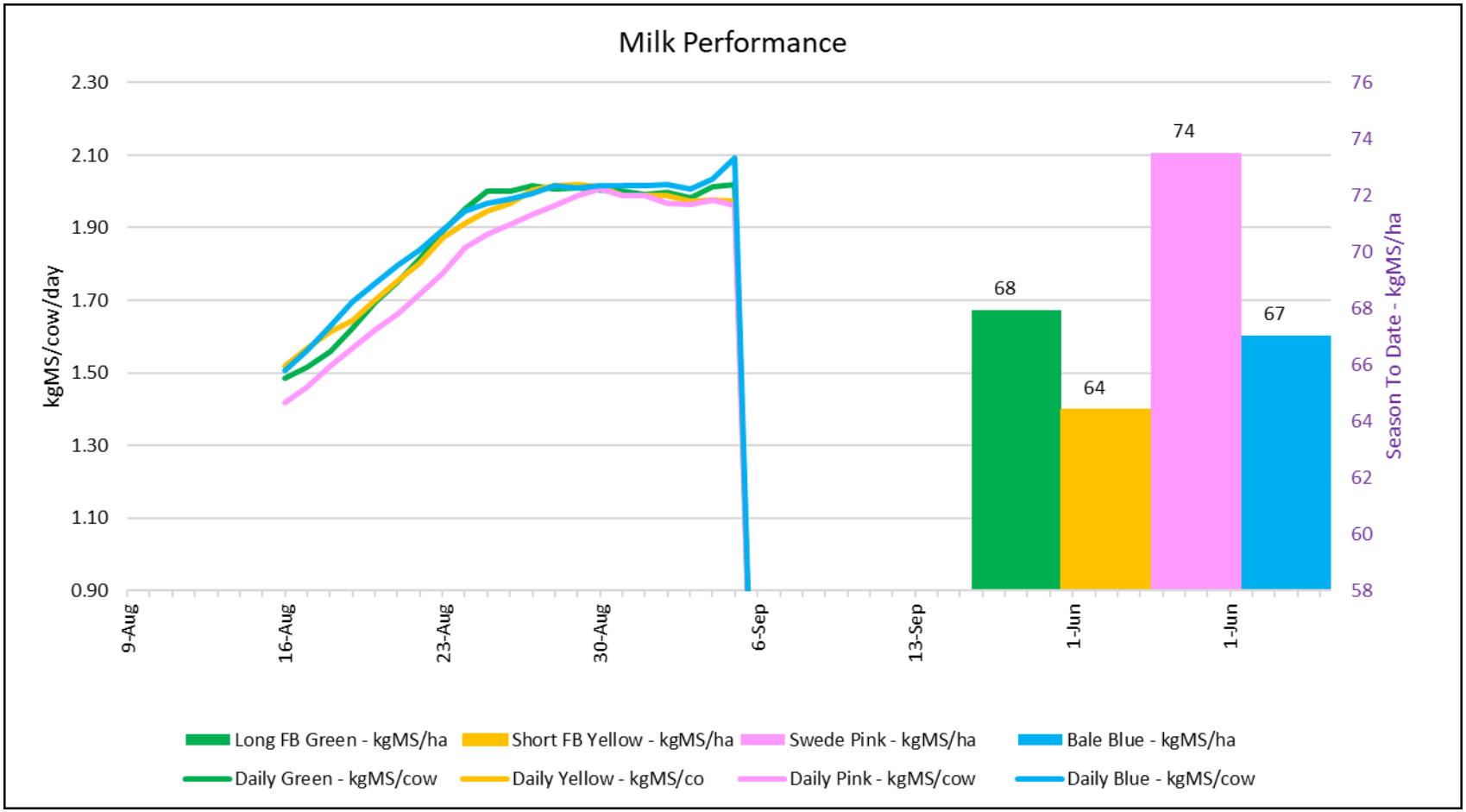
Milk Production

Principles of Milk Production Management this week

Milk Production	Similar across the herds, and overall, very strong yield relative to last season from the faster calving rate. Low impact baleage cows showing some yield advantage, which aligns with observations around them leaving residuals higher than the other herds. Other herds below target residual
Key Influences on Milk Production	Consistency of volume of feed, residuals fell below 1650 kg DM/ha for pink/green/yellow herds as week progressed.
Cow Management	Assessment carried out this week on cows with spring calving issues, and or low current BCS records. 17 cows across the farmlets have been flagged to stay on OAD milking in their herds for further recovery.

	Conserved Pasture - Std Pink	Conserved Pasture - LI Blue	Fodder beet - Std Green	Fodder beet - LI Yellow
kg Milksolids per cow this week/ (last week)	1.96 / (2.02)	2.09 / (2.04)	2.02 / (2.03)	1.97 / (2.01)
kg Milksolids per ha this year/ (same time last year)	74 / (66)	67 / (61)	68 / (61)	64 / (58)
Var kg Milksolids per ha Season per ha to date vs last season to date	+18.4%	+18.4%	+13.2%	+6.7%
Cows needing preferential feeding (% herd)	3 cows (1%)	3 cows (2%)	7 cows (3%)	4 cows (3%)
Animal health peculiarities	None	None	None	None

Milk Production



Feed

Principles of Feed management this week

Feed Quality	Strong wedge but still eating autumn/winter stored pasture. Herds have moved from baleage onto silage, all herds receiving silage from the same stack. Stack silage is 40% DM, 11.4 MJME/kg DM, and 17% crude protein
Growth Rate Management	Growth rates remain consistent with our spring feed budget; grazed 50% of each farmlet area Decline in APC following the same trend as previous years but is two weeks earlier due to faster calving rate (Figure 3)
Nitrogen Strategy	Due to warmer soil temps' and the tightening of pasture covers, nitrogen and sulphate has been applied to all farmlets. This was 2 weeks earlier than usual. Focus is on paddocks un-grazed this season, in bottom half of wedge, and paddocks grazed this spring. The next round of N application will likely be via helicopter to minimize paddock & pasture damage given recent weather events

	Conserved Pasture - Std Pink	Conserved Pasture - LI Blue	Fodder beet - Std Green	Fodder beet - LI Yellow
Quantity	Currently OK	Currently OK	Currently OK	Currently OK
Quality	Variable depending on paddock history	Variable depending on paddock history	Variable depending on paddock history	Variable depending on paddock history
Surplus Management	None	None	None	None
Deficit Management	8.4 kg (up 1.3 kg from last week)	9.3 kg (Up 2.1 kg from last week)	9.0 kg (up 2.1 kg from last week)	7.9 kg (up 1.0 kg from last week)
Target Rotation Length	48 days	50 days	48 days	50 days

Feed

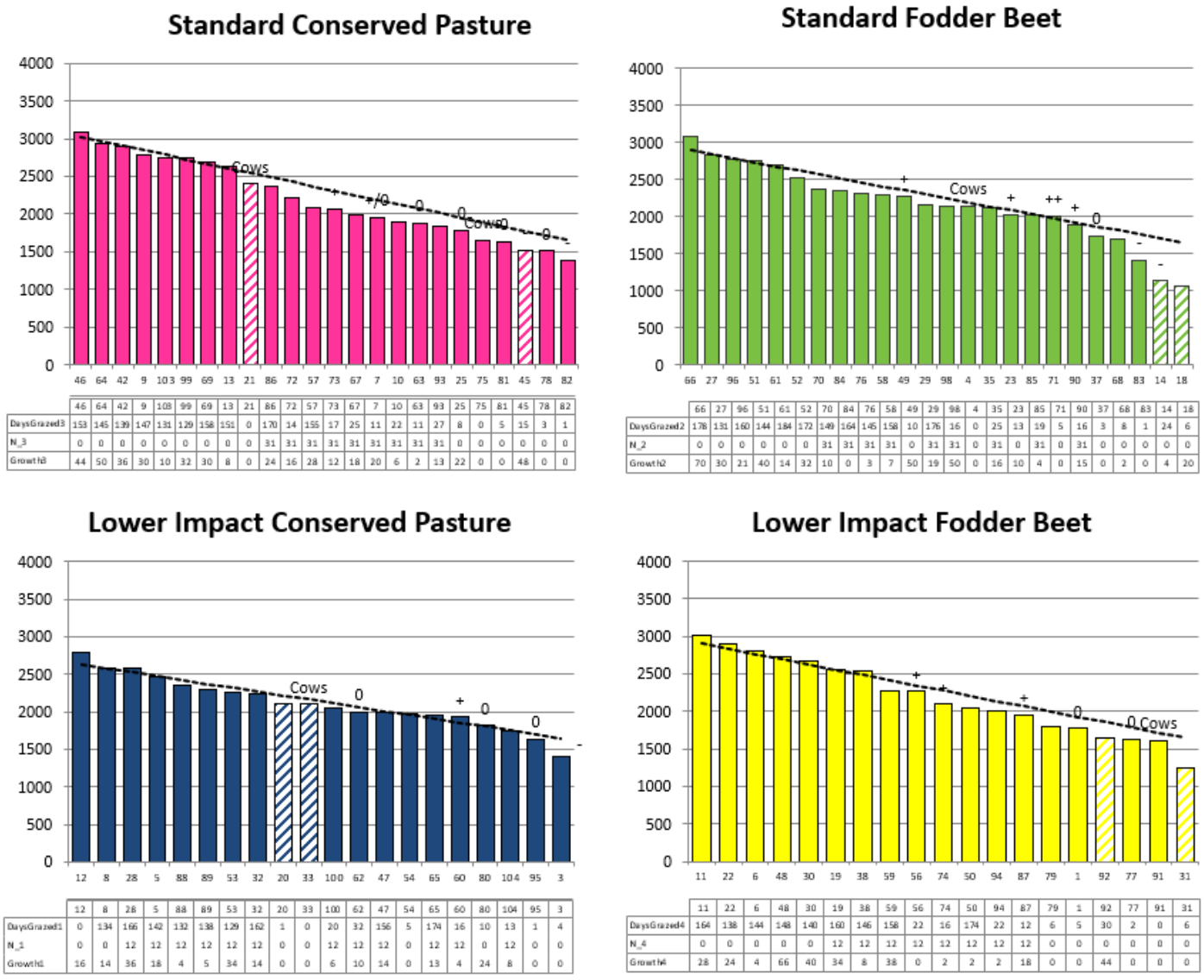


Figure 2: Feed Wedges as of 6th September 2022

Feed

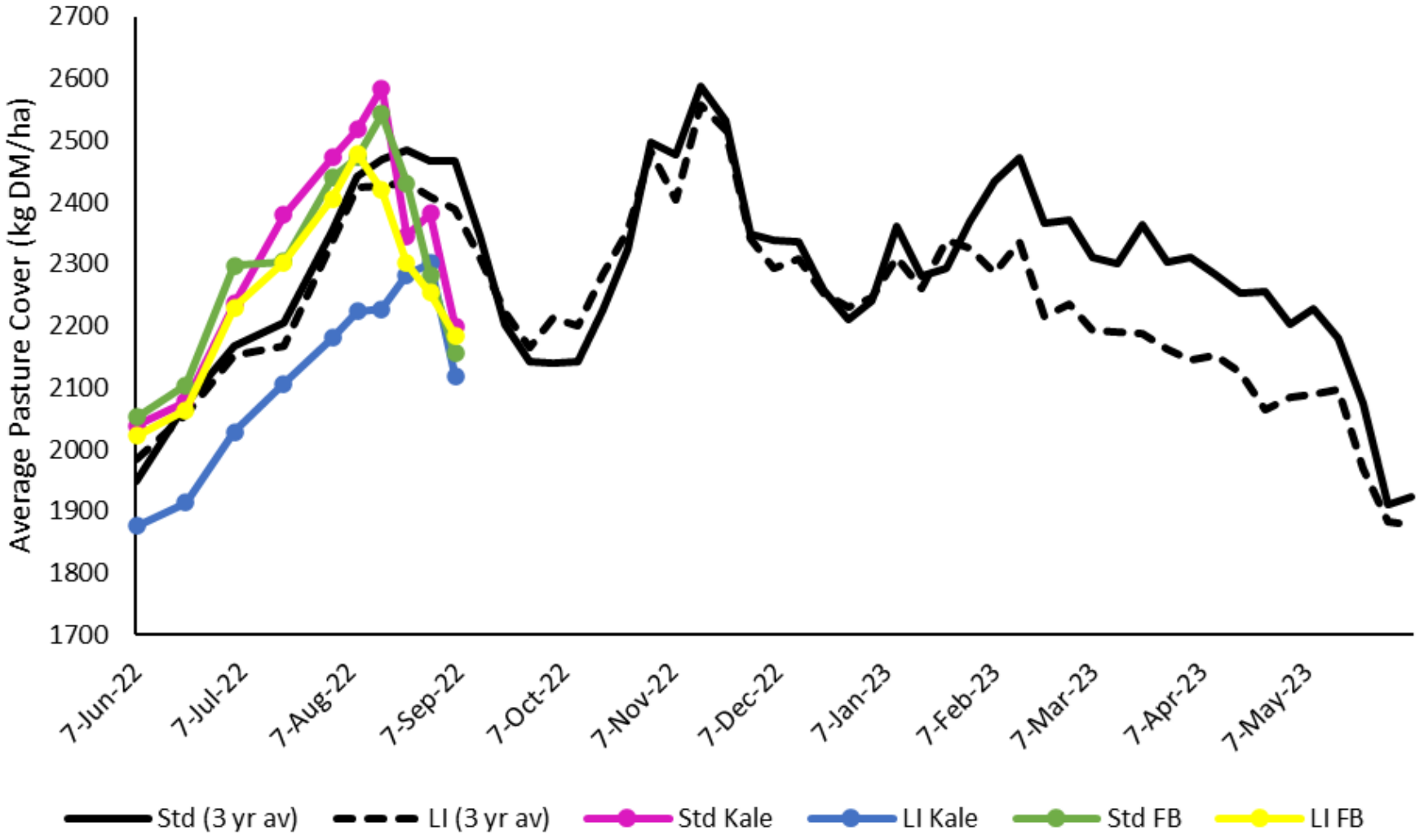
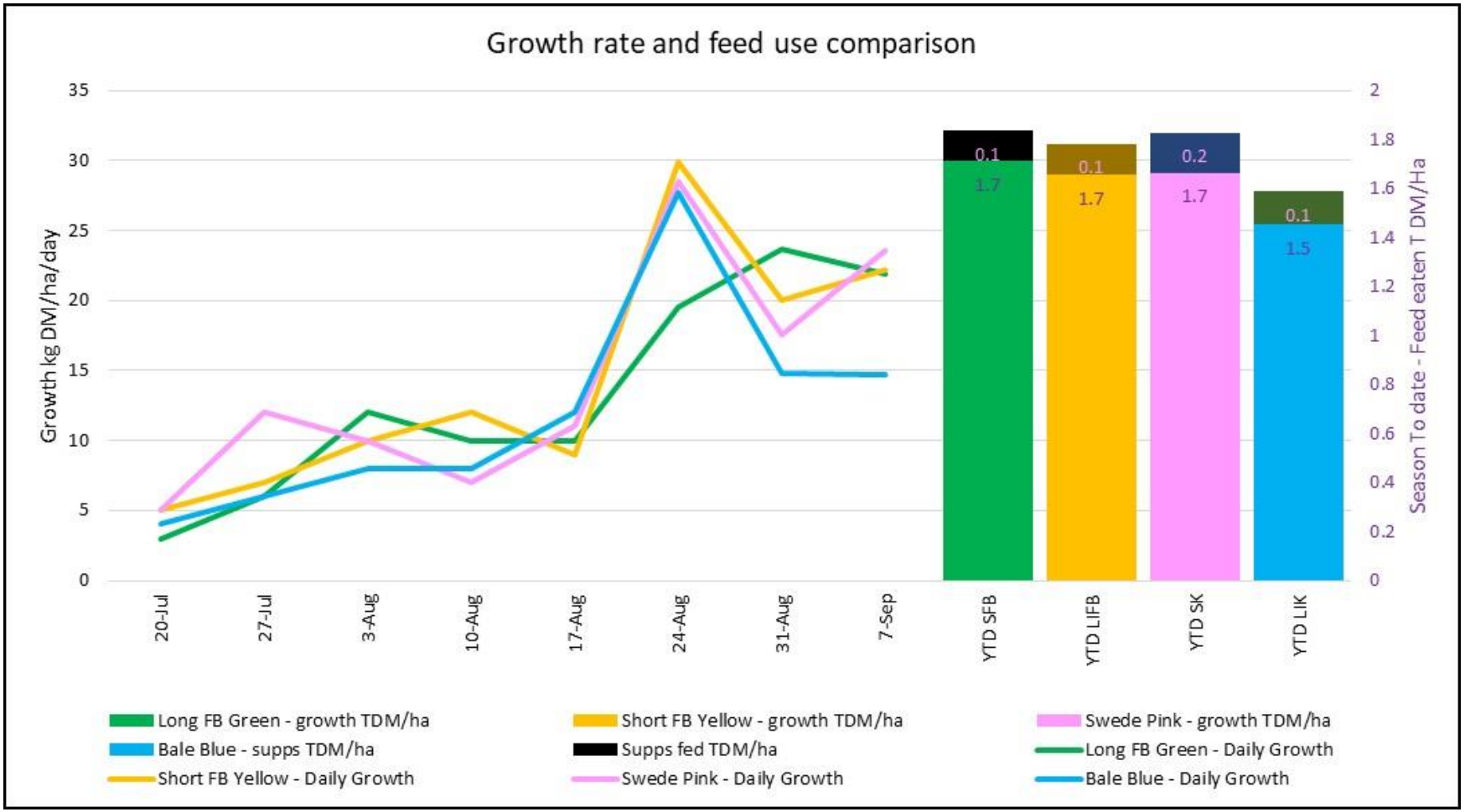


Figure 3: Farmlet APC trends for 2022-23 compared with the average of the previous three seasons

Feed


Growth rate and feed use comparison
Growth kg DM/ha/day
Season To date - Feed eaten T DM/Ha
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
2
1.8
1.6
1.4
1.2
1
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0
20-Jul
27-Jul
3-Aug
10-Aug
17-Aug
24-Aug
31-Aug
7-Sep
YTD SFB
YTD LIFB
YTD SK
YTD LIK
0.1
1.7
0.1
1.7
0.2
1.7
0.1
1.5
Long FB Green - growth TDM/ha
Short FB Yellow - growth TDM/ha
Swede Pink - growth TDM/ha
Bale Blue - supps TDM/ha
Supps fed TDM/ha
Long FB Green - Daily Growth
Short FB Yellow - Daily Growth
Swede Pink - Daily Growth
Bale Blue - Daily Growth