

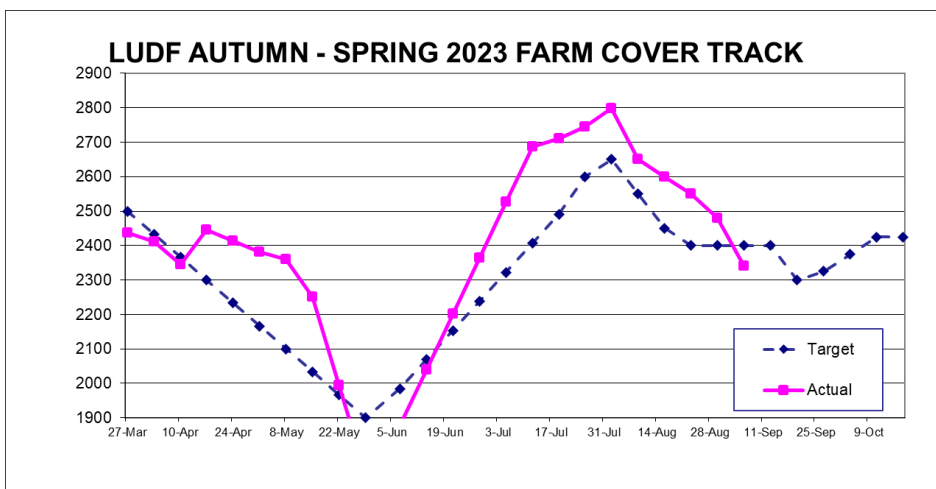
### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

#### Pasture Management

Six days into spring and things are looking good. Following the spring rotation planner, we are down to a round length is 48 days and over a third of the platform had been grazed. We have approximately 16 days left of the first round so we will be into our second round between the 20-25 September. There is still plenty of grass on farm with an average pre-grazing cover of 3173kgDM/ha which is a good target cover. Generally, the pastures are dense and in some of our longer paddocks tiller death from shading is likely to slow regrowth in the second round. However, applying 100kg/ha Ammo 31 fertilizer (30kg N/ha) will encourage tillering and regrowth.



The average pasture cover has dropped to 2340kgDM/ha (refer to graph) and is trending towards the end of September target of 2325kgDM/ha



The usual average pasture growth rate for LUDF in September is 48kg DM/ha/day, and currently 50kg DM/ha/day is required to meet the requirements of the second round. However, this week's average growth rate was 28kgDM/ha/day which is below what is needed.

#### This Week:

- Pasture Update

- BCS Results



#### Next Farm Walk

LUDF

Wednesday

13th August

@ 9am

This is not unusual at this time of year and as the soil temperatures warm and the N response kicks in, the growth rates will increase to meet that target.

The plantain paddock has a high weed burden and needs to be sprayed, but the spray has a 21-day withholding period, so we will graze it first then spray. The 10-in-7 milkers are getting 2.5ha plantain breaks daily (equivalent to 30% of their allocation), so it will take 2 weeks for the paddock to be grazed.



### Livestock Management

As of Wednesday (6 September) there were 63 cows in the once-a-day mob with the majority already transferred to the 10-in-7 mob. The current allocation per cow is 17.5 kgDM with silage still being fed out at 2.11 kgDM/cow and the rest made up with pasture of which a third is plantain.

We have not taken our eyes off the need to maintain the great progress we made in reproductive performance last year. One of our many goals is to maintain a herd with top genetics and getting as many cows in calf as possible is an important approach to do this, which means good feed management. Our learnings from last season highlighted the need to improve how we have been feeding cows immediately before and after calving. Currently a key on-farm focus is to improve rumen capacity and high intakes by focusing on transition feeding and rumination over a 10-14 day period. To encourage rumination, we are ensuring energy requirements and effective fiber is met and motivation to eat. Bailage is being fed out daily to the once-a-day mob, with each cow getting an average of 2.1kgs/ day. The aim is for each cow to spend a third of their day ruminating (approx. 450 mins/day), before transferring them from once-a-day milking to the 10-in-7 milking schedule. By increasing energy intake early in the milking season, it is hoped that this will support cows body condition score (BCS) and encourage high fertility rates. So far, this approach is working well for us with current BCS of 4.7 (see below) a drop of only 0.1 BCS compared to a drop of 0.2 BCS last year. We have also made improvements to winter management to ensure cows are in a better condition at calving (see below)

With the end of calving approaching (still 68 calves to go on Wednesday 6 September) the workload is starting to ease, which is appreciated by the team, and the calf sheds are starting to look empty.



## Post-Winter Body Condition Score (BCS)

A BCS assessment was completed on the 18 July to assess how well the different mobs wintered over. Feeding conditions were positive for 2023 winter, due to good soil conditions and effective feed utilization.

The herd was split into five mobs; heifers, light, mids, fat and home (cows that remain on LUDF over winter).

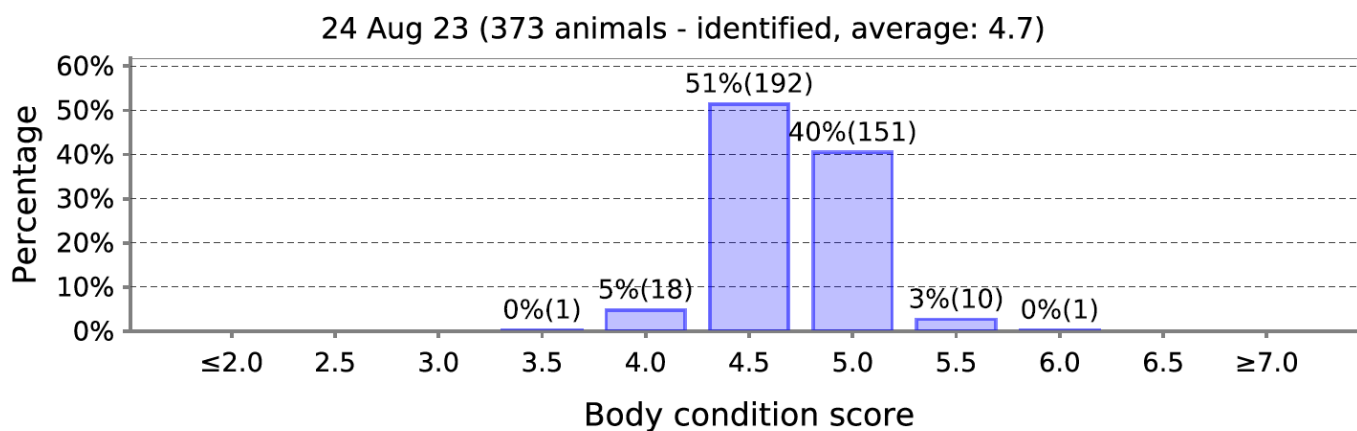
The heifers had a feed allocation of 14kgDM/day and achieved an average BCS of 5. There were 45 home cows and 34 cows of those had an average BCS of 3.5, so they were allocated preferential feeding. The remaining 11 home cows had BCS between 5.5 - 6, so were given the task of cleaning up the paddocks after the first mob went through.

The fat cows had a feed allocation of 10kgDM per cow with access to straw and kale. Through field observations of cow behavior, they were content and happy with the feed amount and type. However, in hindsight this was a bit light as they fell slightly short of the BCS target of 5. After winter, the average BCS was 4.8 which is slightly above last year's 4.6, as 2022 was a tough winter.

Mob	BCS	BCS Change	Feed Allocation
Heifers: cows	5		14 kgDM
Lights: 74 cows	4.8	+0.54	16 kgDM
Mids.: 212 cows	4.86	+0.26	14 kgDM
Heavy: 105 cows	4.75	-0.2	10 kgDM
Home: 45 cows	variable	variable	X kgDM

## Current Body Condition Score (BCS)

A BCS assessment was completed on the 24 August with 373 animals and the current average was 4.7 and we will continue to BCS monthly.



	KEY WEEKLY INFO	Last Week	This Week	1 Year Ago
		30-Aug 23	6-Sep 23	7-Sep 22
<b>Farm Area</b>	Grazing area (Ha)	160	160	160
	Re-grassing (Ha)	0	0	0
<b>Stock Numbers</b>	Cows currently milking to vat	416	473	465
	Cows currently milking NOT to vat	34	26	34
	Total cows milking	450	499	499
	Once-a-day milking cows	-	92	34
	Lame cows current	1	1	16
	Dry cows on farm	0	0	0
<b>Milk Production</b>	Current bulk milk SCC (tgt below 150) (SCC)	169	140	184
	Milk Solids per cow (kgMS/cow)	1.87	1.81	1.81
	Protein:Fat ratio (%)	0.8	0.79	0.79
<b>Feed Budget</b>	Average pasture cover (kgDM/Ha)	2480	2340	-
	Current Pasture Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	-	15.39	-
	Current Silage Fed - Milkers (kgDM/cow)	2.02	2.11	4.79
	Current Demand per cow (kgDM/cow)	-	17.5	-
	Stocking Rate - Milkers (Cows/Ha)	2.8	3.1	3.11
	Current Pasture Demand - Milkers (kgDM/Ha)	-	-	-
	Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/Ha)	9	28	-
	Pre-grazing cover (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	3200	3173	3306
	Residual (ave for week) (kgDM/Ha)	1600	1600	1550
	Round Length (Days)	40	48	47
<b>Farm Conditions</b>	Soil temp average (Aquaflex) (degree C)	7	8.32	8.21
	Rainfall (MM)	5.4	1.4	1.8
	Irrigation days this week (days)	0	0	0
<b>People</b>	Current Roster	5+2	5+2	5+2
	Health & Safety Incidences	nil	nil	nil
	Milking Routine	10 in 7	10 in 7	10 in 7