



Sporidesmin toxicity the cause of your decreased production?

It is facial eczema season and temperatures have been favourable for spore formation and therefore animals may be at risk of liver damage from sporidesmin toxicity. This can lead to photosensitivity as well as haemolysis, but subclinical damage can also cause ill-thrift and decreased production.

Spore counts can vary widely from region to region and locally from paddock to paddock depending on moisture and terrain. The risk of facial eczema assessed by doing spore counts on specific paddocks. Assessing the efficacy of facial eczema prevention program can also be done by measuring serum zinc to see if dosing is adequate and measuring serum GGT to determine if animals have evidence of biliary damage.

<https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/dairy-news/dairy-farm-health/healthy-livers-happy-cows>