



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Laneway maintenance
2	Hold rotation length
3	Split the herds
4	Monitor lameness



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	20 days/leaf	Cows	565 (milking herd) 203 (dry herd)
Rotation Length	60 days	Litres/cow/day	19
Pasture Growth Rate	15 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.52kg
Average Pasture Cover	1900 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.33kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	10°C	Cow intake	8 kgDM/cow/day (dry herd) 15 kgDM/cow/day (milking herd)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	33 mm	Supplement Fed	3.6 kgDM/cow/day grain mix (milking herd) 6 kgDM/cow/day hay (dry herd)
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$6.33	Body Condition Score	4.5 (milking herd) 4.8 (dry herd)

*Note the MOFC assumes a \$6/kgMS payout, with a pasture cost of 8¢/kgDM (2007/08 DBOY Figures) and a grain mix cost of 52¢/kgDM

Pasture Management

Soil Temperature

- Has remained at 10°C. Compared at the same time last year this is very similar. Significant increases in temperature did not occur till late September (keeping in mind a number of frosts occurred during this time last year). This is showing how daylight is the main driver of pasture growth during this period, as soil temperatures are quite sluggish coming out of winter.

Average Pasture Cover and Pasture Growth Rate

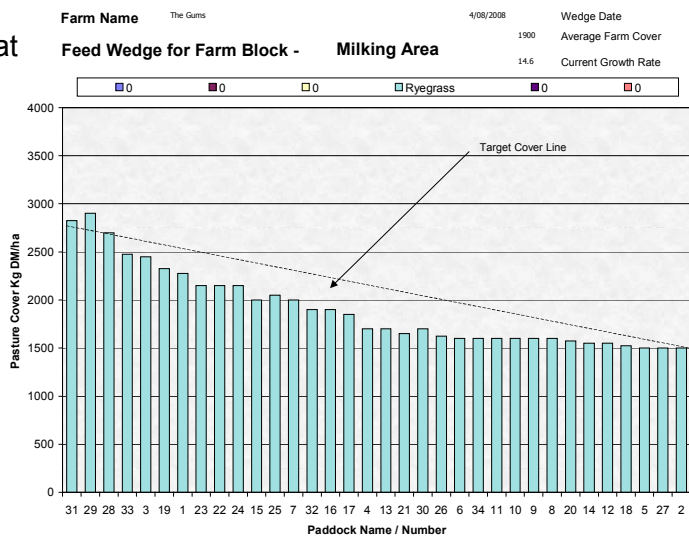
- APC has dropped as has pasture growth rate. The FMG have budgeted for APC to reduce over August and will increase the supplement fed as pre grazing covers fall. Pasture growth rate has come back slightly and is 5kgDM/ha/day below budget (20kgDM/ha/day).

Rotation Length

- Leaf emergence rate is holding at 20 days per leaf and compares similarly to the same time last year. Rotation length is subsequently at 60 days. It is important that this is maintained even though pasture cover is slowly reducing, maximising pasture production is a priority during this period. Increasing rotation length will compromise pasture growth and cover in early spring, as a wedge of feed will not exist on the platform.

Nitrogen

- Continues to be applied behind the herd at 46kgN/ha.



Animal and Financial Performance

Animals

- 650 cows has calved with 565 cows in the milking herd, 50 in the colostrums, 35 in the sick, and 203 in the dry herd.

Animal Health

- Of the 35 animals in the sick herd, the main two animal problems are mastitis and lameness (predominantly footrot secondary from damage). Note the majority of these animals will enter the milking herd over the next two days, as milk-withholding periods will have finished.

Lameness

- The adjacent picture shows the major issue the farm is dealing with at the moment. This laneway that joins the farm to the paddocks across Red Marsh Road is causing a few problems. The main issue is poor laneway drainage, turning it into a quagmire. Management around the problem is to grade it every week and hope the weather stays fine, alternate the herds that use the laneway and not to push the animals when they are tracking down it. There is about 40 hectares or 14 days of feed to be eaten across the road, so the animals do not have any other option but to go over there.



Herd Nutrition

- The milking/colostrum/sick herds are being allocated 11 – 12kgDM pasture and 3.6kgDM grain mix per cow per day. The dry herd is getting 6kgDM hay and 2kgDM pasture per cow per day.

Milk Production

- Has held at 1.52kgMS/cow/day at a 4.27% fat and 3.48% protein test. BMCC is averaging 150,000.

Pregnancy Test

- All animals suspect animals were pregnancy tested last week resulting in 37 animals coming up empty. 1 – 3 % is the industry average for animals that were showing to be pregnant that will have aborted since the second pregnancy test. This is between 10 – 27 animals for this herd (902 opening cow numbers to calve).

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday August 11 at 10:30am.

TDDF Farm Management Group – Basil Doonan (Davey & Maynard), Rob La Grange (TIAR), Chris Haynes (TIAR), and Justin McGowan and Nicki Devantier (TDDF Sharefarmers).