



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Split lighter cows into a once a day herd
2	Strip a quarter each milking to check for mastitis
3	Backfencing
4	Monitor for lameness



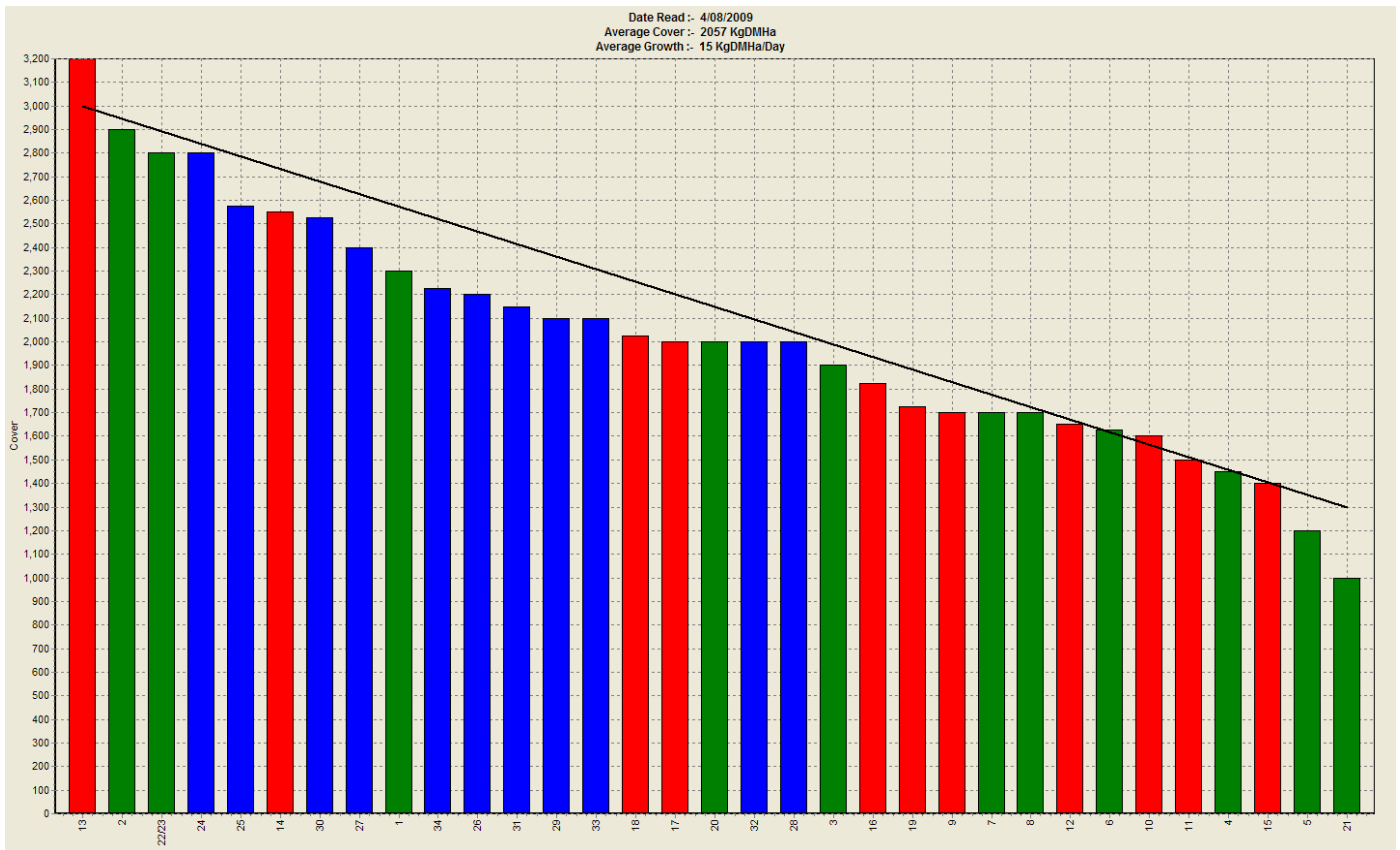
SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	20 days/leaf	Cows	973 (total) 670(milking) 150(colostrum/sick) 153(dry/springer)
Rotation Length	70 days	Litres/cow/day	13
Pasture Growth Rate	15kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.1kg
Average Pasture Cover	2057kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	1.77kg
Soil Temperature (9am)	10°C	Cow intake (as fed)	11kgDM/cow/day (dry) 18kgDM/cow/day (milkers)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	52 mm	Supplement Fed (as fed)	8kgDM/cow/day Hay (dry/springers) 4kgDM/cow/day Silage (milkers) 4kgDM/cow/day Pellets (milkers)
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$1.96	Body Condition Score	4.4 (milkers)

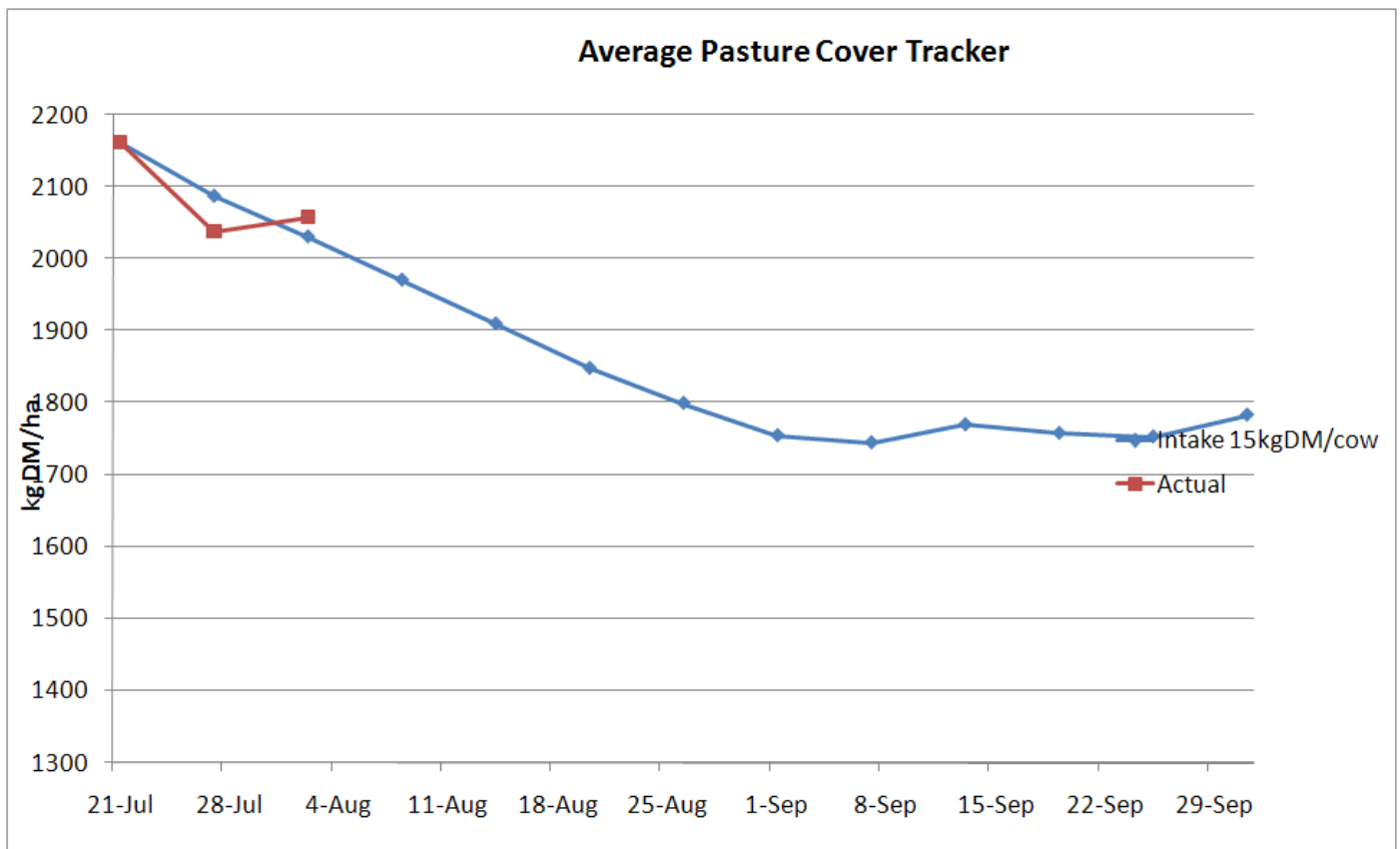
Pasture Management

1. A substantial amount of rain has fallen over the past week (52mm) making conditions still wet under foot. This is retarding pasture production in the wetter areas. Soil temperature has held at 10°C, which is still good for pasture production and nitrogen responses providing soil moisture is not limiting. Soil tension is reading 1kpa but in some areas of the farm it is saturated.
2. Pasture growth rate has increased to 15kgDM/ha/day; this is 3kgDM/ha/day behind budget for this time of the year. The dryer areas of the farm are growing between 20 – 25kgDM/ha/day, in contrast the wetter areas of the farm are ranging between 0 and 5kgDM/ha/day.
3. Average pasture cover has held at 2057kgDM/ha up from 2038kgDM/ha last week. This is very encouraging as we are supplementing the herd to try and hold the rotation so that the farm can track back in line with our target APC. It is more than likely that cover has held over the past week instead of increased with the difference being plate meter error. Last week we supplemented the herd 20kgDM/ha/day to hold the rotation. Pasture demand averaged 18kgDM/ha/day; with an average growth rate of 15kgDM/ha/day this meant APC should hold similar to last week.
4. Nitrogen will not be applied over the coming week as the farm is too wet. The drier areas of the farm will have nitrogen applied (rates yet to be discussed by the FMG) post grazing next week if weather permits. 56kgN/ha has been applied since July 1, which is 1.55kgN/ha/day.

5. Backfencing continues to be a key pasture management operation to ensure that the smaller herds do not damage paddocks and regrowth is not retarded.



6. The target wedge line is set at 3000kgDM/ha leaving an average post grazing residual of 1300kgDM/ha. The milkers are being allocated to leave post grazing residuals of 1400kgDM/ha and the dry/springers 1200kgDM/ha. Rotation length has been reduced to 70 days (5.3ha/day allocated). At this same time last year, rotation length was 60 days and APC was 1900kgDM/ha.



Animal and Financial Performance

7. Total herd numbers are at 973 cows. There have 15 culls/deaths this week (2 difficult calving, 3 calving milk fever, 1 lame heifer, 3 heifers bad calving (big calves) and 6 downer cows). To date the farm has lost 5% of its opening cow numbers. This is above budget, and with another 153 cows to calve this will most likely get to 6 -7% which is above the target of 5% herd losses through deaths and culls by peak. Note the figures quoted assumes opening cow numbers of 1026. There are some poorer producing heifers that maybe culled over the coming fortnight therefore the farm will peak between 930 – 950 cows. This is 50 below budget and adjustments will have to be made to this season's financial budget to account for this.
8. All heifers and lighter framed cows will be removed from the main herd to a separate once-a-day herd this Wednesday. As mentioned previously, we decided to milk the lighter heifers once-a-day till mating to ensure that they made it through the season. History suggests that these cows have not coped with twice-a-day milking therefore it is necessary to make adjustments so that they get through the season. The live weight of this seasons heifers averaged 405kgLW, which is significantly better than the last 2 seasons but is still 30kgLW behind the farms targets. The range between the highest and lowest heifer live weight is very significant, therefore tightening the spread is another area that needs to be improved to ensure the majority of these cows reach their potential when they enter the milking herd.
9. It is still quite difficult to get a true indication of production because of calf milk being taken out and new cows entering the herd each day; the herd averaged 1.1kgMS/cow/day at a milk test of 4.98% fat 3.68% protein.
10. Bulk milk cell count still averages 400,000; a quarter is being stripped daily to indentify the cases that are causing the problem. It is very important to get on top of this in early lactation as it can be an issue throughout the season if not addressed.

11. Nutrition information (allocated)

Milkers	Colostrums/Sick	Springers/Dry
10kgDM/cow/day Pasture	5kgDM/cow/day Pasture	3kgDM/cow/day Pasture
4kgDM/cow/day Pellets	4kgDM/cow/day Silage	8kgDM/cow/day Hay
4kgDM/cow/day Silage	4kgDM/cow/day Pellets	
Total 18kgDM/cow/day	Total 13kgDM/cow/day	Total 11kgDM/cow/day

We will allocate to achieve an actual dry matter intake of 15kgDM/cow/day when they hit peak. The main milking herd is starting to graze paddocks of better pasture quality (they have been grazing paddocks that were a past 3-leaf over the past fortnight) meaning we should see production increase. Allocations to the springers and dries are higher as we believe that they are utilising 75% of their feed allocated. All herds have been leaving the targeted post grazing residuals which assumes they are getting their daily allocation.

12. Herd body condition has reduced to 4.4; this figure is being influenced by the lightly framed heifers. Once these cows have been split we will be able to get a better indication of the body condition of each herd.
13. The once a day herd will have to walk 2km per day as they will be grazing over Red Marsh road. With the wet conditions it will be important to actively monitor these cows for any lameness and treat promptly.

The next **WEEKLY farm walk** is on Tuesday, 11th August at 10:30am.

Farm Management Group – Kevin Mills (Farm Manager), Chris Haynes (TIAR) and Adrian Neasey (VDL).