



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Maximise pasture quality and intake
2	Harvest silage ASAP
3	Cease applying nitrogen
4	Continue to identify and shut up surpluses

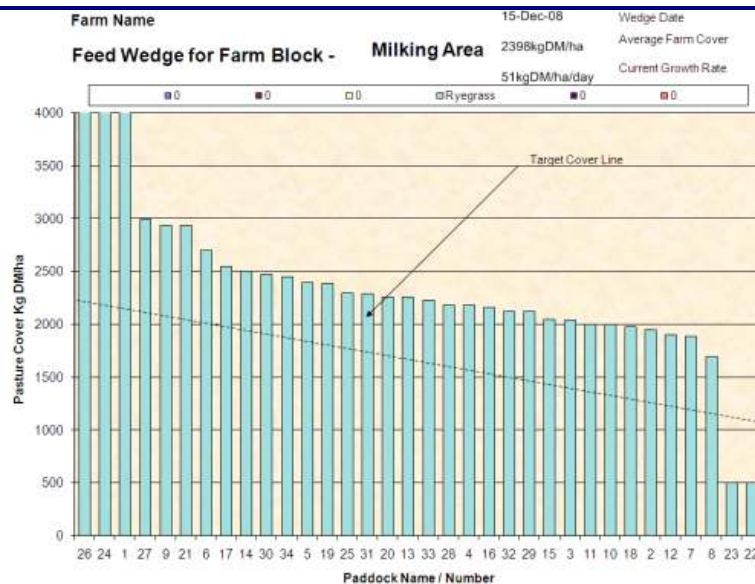


SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	10 days/leaf	Cows	770
Rotation Length	25 days	Litres/cow/day	16
Pasture Growth Rate	51 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.28 kg
Average Pasture Cover	2398 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.68 kg
Soil Temperature	14.5°C	Cow intake	15 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	22 mm	Supplement Fed	-
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$6.18	Body Condition Score	4.2

Pasture and Forage Crop Management

- Soil Temperatures continue to remain stable at 14.5°C, interestingly at the same time last season 9am soil temperatures were 16.7°C. Soil tension has decreased to 13kpa (14kpa last week), the farm received 22ml of rain over the past week.
- Pasture Growth Rates have decreased to 51kgDM/ha/day from 77kgDM/ha/day over the past week. The decline in pasture growth this week can be attributed to the silage paddocks being removed from the growth rate calculation, as they were contributing to an inflated pasture growth rate.
- Average Pasture Cover has risen to 2398kgDM/ha from 2354kgDM/ha over the past week. Not all silage paddocks got harvested last Monday due to the contractor's mower breaking down. There are still 22 hectares to be harvested for silage and 10 hectares to be cut for hay. The 10 hectares to be cut for hay was deemed unsuitable for silage as it is not good enough quality (too many seed heads).
- Rotation Length has moved to 25 days from 30 days last week. Over the last 4 weeks rotation length has been 5 – 8 days slower than the FMG would have liked because of pasture supply being well above demand. Fodder conservation continues to be the key management strategy in reducing the rotation length, as it puts extra demand on the platform. The FMG are aiming for a rotation length of 25 days which would allow the farm to graze at 2.5 leaves to keep on top of pasture quality through controlling seed head emergence.
- Since the start of November 46kgN/ha has been applied to the entire grazing platform. Nitrogen applications will cease as pasture supply continues to be well above demand.



- The feedwedge is very similar to last week. Under a 25 day rotation pre grazing pasture covers required for allocated daily intake of 16kgDM per animal are 2500kgDM/ha leaving a 1500kgDM/ha residual (2.4x16 x25 + 1500 residual).
- Pasture feedtest results from a pre grazing pasture sample taken on December 1.
 10.6 MEMJ/kg
 13.5 % Crude Protein
 18.6% Dry Matter
 49.7% NDF
 This feedtest is highlighting a very low crude protein percentage which would have had a negative impact on milk production. For the current production of 16 litres, research has shown that the 16% crude protein is required to hold milk production. Also of concern is the metabolisable energy content of the pasture, the FMG would expect an 11 – 12.5 MJME content from the paddock the sample was taken (Note: The sample was taken from a silage regrowth paddock showing very little seed head and has had very favourable growing conditions with adequate soil moisture and nutrients.).
- Last Friday the turnip paddock was sprayed for diamond back moth and received another 55kgN/ha.
- 30 hectares of the grazing platform was sprayed for thistles.

Animal & Financial Performance

- There are 770 animals being milked twice a day, with 6 lame cows being milked once-a-day. The rain during the week seems to have caused 4 new cases of lameness.
- Milk production has increased to 1.28kgMS/cow/day compared with 1.21kgMS/cow/day last week. The milk test averaged 4.60% fat and 3.42% protein; this is a slight reduction on last week.
- Bulk milk cell count continues to average 120,000.
- The first pregnancy test was completed during the week. The 6 week in calf figure was 77%; this is 9% higher than last season. The FMG are happy with this improvement.
- All bulls have left the farm.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday December 22
 TDDF Farm Management Group – Basil Doonan (Davey & Maynard), Rob La Grange (TIAR), Chris Haynes (TIAR), and Justin McGowan and Nicki Devantier (TDDF Sharefarmers).