



CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Increase silage in the ration
2	Monitor the incidence of ryegrass staggers in the dry herd
3	Hold the rotation at 60 days
4	Continue dry off low producers in the milking herd

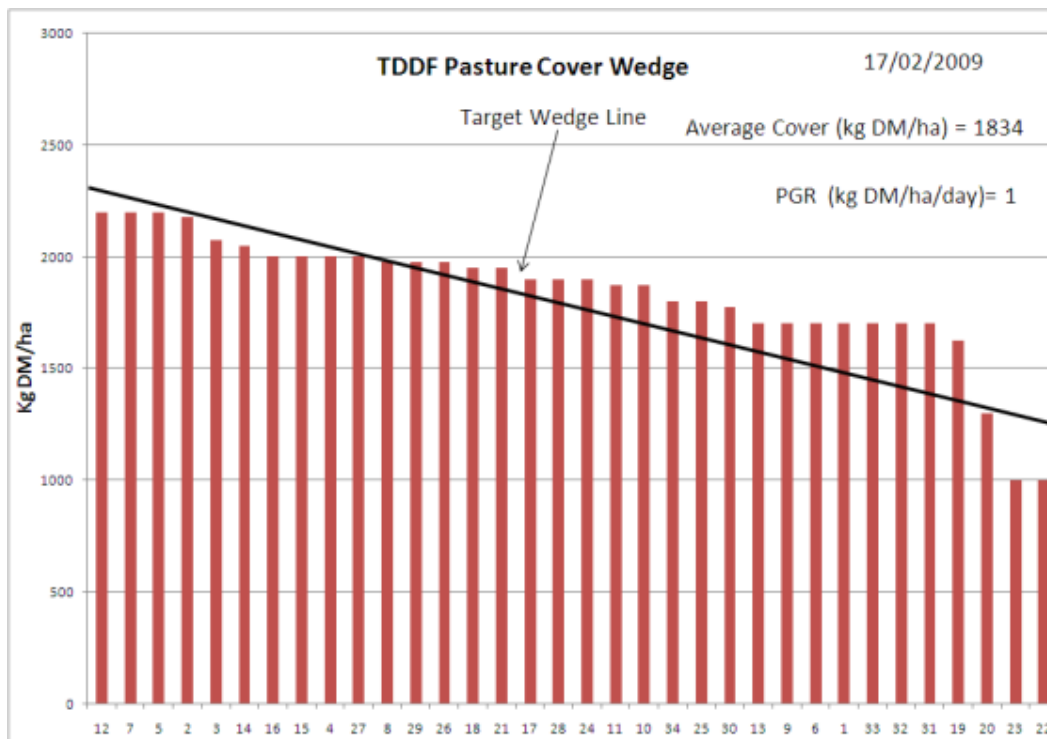


### SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	20 days	Cows	531 (twice-a-day)
Rotation Length	60 days	Litres/cow/day	11.5 average
Pasture Growth Rate	1kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	0.95kg
Average Pasture Cover	1834kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	1.37kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	16°C	Cow intake	14 – 15 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	0 mm	Supplement Fed	8kgDM/cow/day
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$1.33	Body Condition Score	4.2 (milking herd) 4.1 (dry herd)

### Pasture Management

- Pasture growth rates have decreased to 1kgDM/ha/day from 6kgDM/ha/day. Average pasture cover has also decreased to 1834kgDM/ha from 1919kgDM/ha.



- Pre-grazing pasture covers have reduced to 2300kgDM/ha. Silage in the ration will be increased to compensate for the lower amount of pasture available. The diet will consist of ~50:50 pasture and silage (7kgDM/cow/day silage and 8kgDM/cow/day pasture. As mentioned in last week's notes, the dry herd will continue to follow behind the milking herd; they have been leaving plate metered post grazing residuals of 1300 - 1400kgDM/ha.
- The FMG are currently looking into the viability of alternative winter forage options (winter cereals and annual ryegrasses) to help bridge the winter feed gap post calving. **Watch this space for more information!**

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### Animal and Financial Performance

- The entire once-a-day herd and all cull cows have been dried off. 50 cows will be dried off out of the twice-a-day herd this week because of cow condition and or low production.
- Daily ration  
 \*Milking herd (2300 – 1700) x 6 hectares = 3600kgDM ÷ 480 cows = 8kgDM/cow/day pasture plus 7kgDM silage (~76MJME/cow + ~70MJME/cow = 146MJME/day allocated)  
 \*Dry herd (1700 – 1400) x 6 hectares (grazing behind the milking herd) = 1800kgDM ÷ 183 cows = 10kgDM/cow/day pasture (~95MJ ME/cow allocated)
- The cost of drying off versus milking on  
 Last week's notes showed a table highlighting the farm's break even position for February and March on a cash flow basis. Below is a table highlighting the cost of drying off versus milking on.

Milking on through Feb and Mid-March					
	Production kg	Price kg			
	MS	MS	Income	Expenses	Operating P/L
February	14,000	\$3.45	\$53,300.00	\$42,558.00	\$10,742.00
March	5,040	\$3.44	\$17,338.00	\$46,025.00	-\$28,687.00
Combined Operating Profit/Loss (Feb - Mar)					-\$17,945.00
Stopping Milking @ end of January					
February			\$0.00	\$42,558.00	-\$37,558.00
March			\$0.00	\$43,425.00	-\$43,425.00
Combined Operating Profit/Loss (Feb - Mar)					-\$80,983.00

The table clearly indicates that the budgeted cash flow position of the business is in the negative over the next 2 months for both scenarios and the best option is to milk on rather than dry off. For February, the 480 animals had to be producing 1.1kgMS/cow/day to break even, they are currently doing 0.95kgMS/cow/day, so on a cash flow basis the farm is losing money. For more information on the farms cash flow situation for the 2008/09 season visit [www.tddf.com.au](http://www.tddf.com.au) and click on the Financials link.

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**THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk** will be on Tuesday February 24 at 10:00am.

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