



CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Start to dry off the rest of the milking herd
2	Planning around next seasons changed management structure
3	60 days versus 90 days
4	Monitor the incidence of ryegrass staggers



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

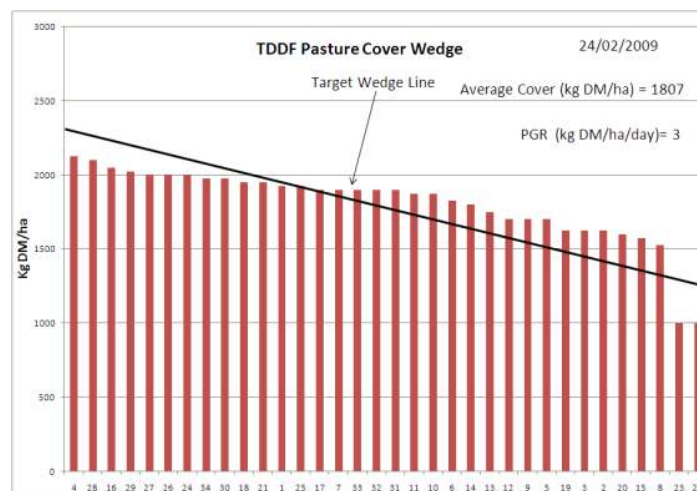
Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	20 days	Cows	500 (twice-a-day)
Rotation Length	60 days	Litres/cow/day	8.5 average
Pasture Growth Rate	3kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	0.75kg
Average Pasture Cover	1807kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	1.02kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	15°C	Cow intake	14 – 15 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	0 mm	Supplement Fed	8kgDM/cow/day
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$0.93	Body Condition Score	4.2 (milking herd) 4.1 (dry herd)

Why dry off the milking herd?

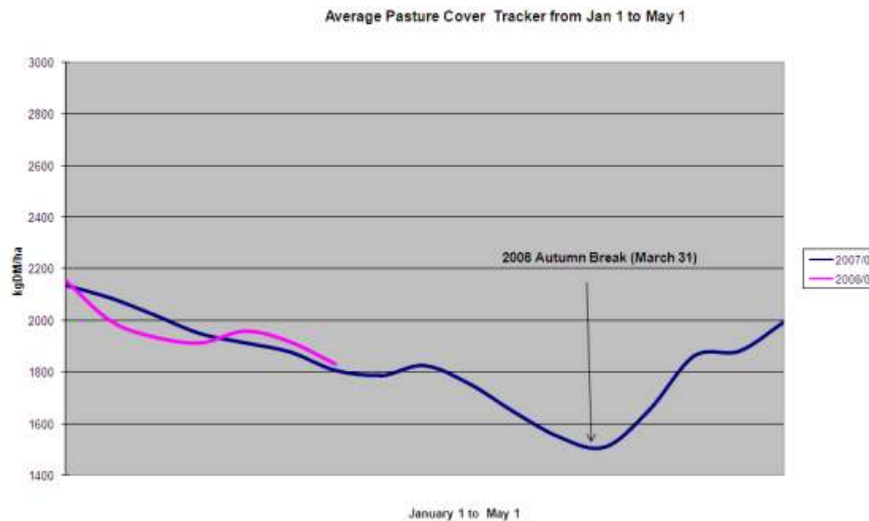
- A decision has been made to dry off the milking herd by the start of March because they continue to decline in production. The decision was based on the fact that the silage in the ration is of poor quality and we would rather start working on getting condition back on for next season rather than keeping on milking doing such little production. Furthermore, by drying the herd off this will reduce their total dry matter intake, resulting in less pasture cover being lost off the grazing platform. There is a cashflow implication that the FMG did take into consideration but they felt it was best to make sure the herd was in tip top shape for next season and not compromise their body condition.

Pasture Management

- Pasture growth remains practically dormant at 3kgDM/ha/day.



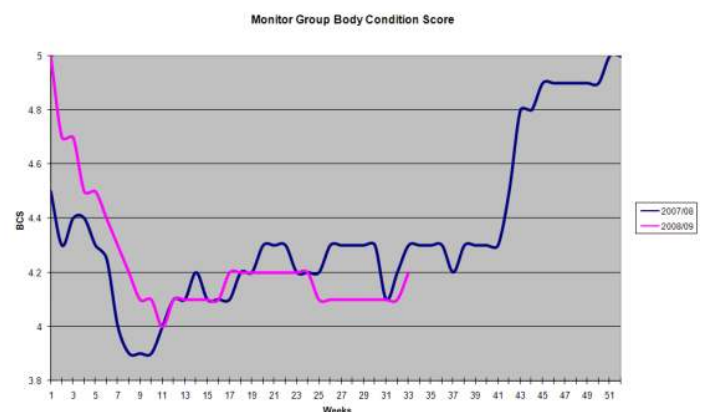
- Pre-grazing pasture covers have reduced to 2200kgDM/ha. With the herd being dried off, silage will be reduced to 2kgDM/cow/day. The plan is that the dry cows will be fed up to 2kgDM/cow/day of silage until the autumn rains occur.
- Rotation length will remain at 60 days, again the FMG debated on going out to 90 days but it was decided that the cover could not be built up and that too much supplement would have to be fed if the herd was slowed to 90 days. When the autumn rains occur the rotation will be immediately extended to 90 days to build up cover. See graph below to see how average pasture cover is tracking during the same period compared to last season.



Animal and Financial Performance

- Once the entire milking herd are dried off there will be 656 dry cows on farm.
- Daily ration

$$\text{*Dry herd (2200 - 1400) x 6 hectares (grazing behind the milking herd) = 1800kgDM} \div 656 \text{ cows} = 7\text{kgDM/cow/day pasture (}\sim 70\text{MJ ME/cow allocated) plus } 2\text{kgDM/cow/day silage (}\sim 20\text{MJ ME /cow allocated)}$$
- Current milk production has fallen to 0.75kgMS/cow/day from 0.95kgMS/cow/day last week and as expected with the decline in volume, the milk test has increased to 5.1% fat and 3.7% protein from 4.71% fat and 3.68% protein.
- Herd body condition is on a rising plane with the milking herd being scored at 4.2 last week. This is the first real incremental change since late November. See graph below.



THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Tuesday March 3 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).