



CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Dry off the once-a-day milking herd
2	Continue to feed the turnip crop
3	Monitor the incidence of staggers
4	Spray turnip crop



## SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	20 days	Cows	531 (twice-a-day) 200 (once-a-day)
Rotation Length	60 days	Litres/cow/day	12.5 average
Pasture Growth Rate	16kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.01
Average Pasture Cover	1959kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.01
Soil Temperature 9AM	16°C	Cow intake	14 – 15 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	4 mm	Supplement Fed	8kgDM/cow/day
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$3.44	Body Condition Score	4.1 (milking herd)

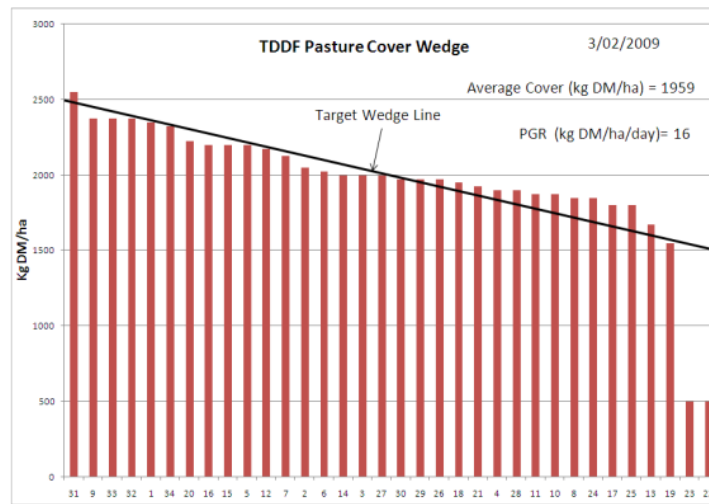
### Field Day

- The field day on Monday February 2 was an outstanding success with over 100 people attending. The day offered a range of presentations about the best management practice guidelines that have been developed. Also presented was an overview of the farm's physical performance to date which included management strategies around the lower milk price. Go to <http://www.tddf.com.au/field-days.html> to obtain a copy of the field day handout and the PowerPoint presentations.



## Pasture and Forage Crop Management

- Pasture growth rates have slightly increased to 16kgDM/ha/day from 13kgDM/ha/day last week. The 23ml rain from the week before has meant that the farm has received pasture growth in a time where nothing is expected. Soil tension has increased back up to 55kpa from 25kpa last week, this has resulted in the grazing platform going dormant which will slow pasture growth.



- Rotation length has been held at 60 days (allocating ~6ha per day); leaf emergence rate has reduced to 20 days. Pre-grazing pasture covers have held at 2500kgDM/ha, and the post grazing residuals are averaging 1500 – 1700kgDM/ha. This allocates 9kgDM/cow/day of pasture.
- The last 5 hectares of turnips were sprayed with Success<sup>2</sup> during the week to address the pest burden, namely diamond back moth. The withholding period for this spray is 3 days, so a section will be missed so the herd's diet does not change. The hot weather has put a lot of pressure on the turnips with leaf matter starting to wilt. The plan is to continue to feed these at a rate of 4kgDM/cow/day.
- Silage continues to fed at a rate of 4kgDM/cow/day to the twice-a-day herd. The once-a-day herd will be dried off over the coming weekend (see below for more information) the plan is to slowly withdraw the 7kgDM/cow/day of silage out of the ration.

## Animal and Financial Performance

- Milk production has held at 1.01kgMS/cow/day. The milk test is averaging 4.5% fat and 3.66% protein compared to 4.69% fat and 4.61% protein last week. Bulk milk cell count has risen to 180,000 from 140,000 last week.
- The once-a-day herd will be dried off over the coming weekend. The FMG have decided that it would be better to allocate the silage to the twice-a-day herd on turnips where a better economic return will be realised. It is estimated that the once-a-day herd are doing 0.5 – 0.7kgMS/cow/day which cannot not justify feeding them silage.
- The FMG are actively monitoring the herd for staggers, and at this stage only 2 animals have had an issue. With the once-a-day herd being dried off, it is planned for these animals to be run behind the main herd. It will be important to monitor these animals as they will be pushing the residual lower where the endophyte toxin is more concentrated in the plant.

**THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Tuesday February 10 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).