



CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Continue to monitor ryegrass staggers in the herd
2	Graze and spray out paddocks to be renovated
3	Continue annual repairs and maintenance across the farm

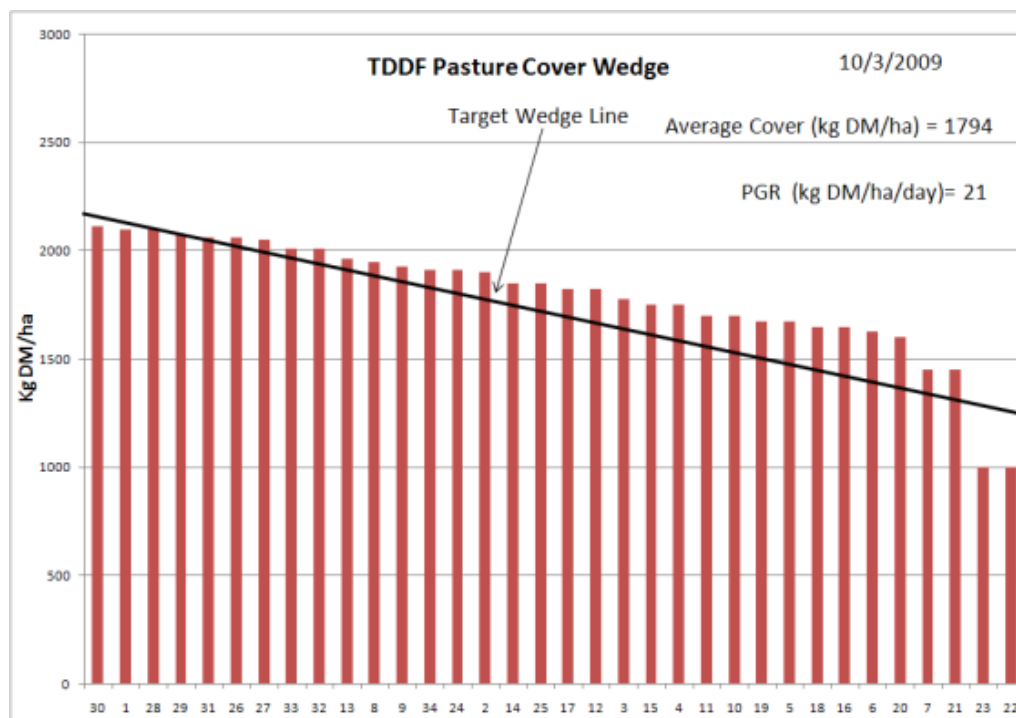


## SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	20 days	Cows	Dry
Rotation Length	60 days	Litres/cow/day	-
Pasture Growth Rate	21 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	-
Average Pasture Cover	1794kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	-
Soil Temperature 9AM	16.5°C	Cow intake	8 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	0 mm	Supplement Fed	4kgDM/cow/day
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$0.00	Body Condition Score	4.2 (dry herd)

### Pasture Management

- Over the past 7 days 25ml of rain fell, this has put a green tinge across the grazing platform. Soil tension has decreased to 58kpa from 199kpa last week. Pasture growth has increased to 21kgDM/ha/day from 3kgDM/ha/day last week. There is some plate meter error involved in this reading; nonetheless we believe the rainfall has resulted in a reasonable growth response. Average pasture cover has risen to 1794kgDM/ha from 1707kgDM/ha.



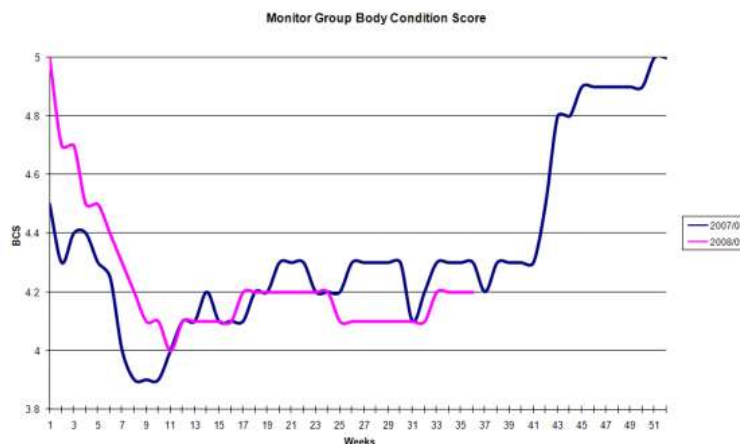
- Rotation length remains at 60 days; allocating the herd 6 hectares per day. The herd is grazing down to a plate metered residual of 1400 – 1500kgDM/ha, we are reluctant to push into residuals any harder because of a high probability of an increase in the incidence of ryegrass staggers. Furthermore, by grazing harder the rate of pasture regrowth once the autumn rains occur will be lower. Pre-grazing covers remain between 2000 – 2100kgDM/ha.
- The 22 hectares to be renovated to permanent pasture will be sprayed out this week and direct drilled next week after this weekend's forecasted rains. The 45 hectares that is to be direct drilled with annual ryegrass or annual ryegrass oats mix will be grazed hard but not sprayed out. Note: 11 hectares of the 45 hectares will be direct drilled with an annual ryegrass and forage rape mix and sprayed out with MCPA and Roundup to allow better germination of the rape.
- Silage continues to be fed at a rate of 4kgDM/cow/day, our feed budgets show that is enough of the poor quality silage to feed the dry cows till the end of March (there is approximately 50 tonnes of DM in the pit).
- The feeding of silage is reducing the incidence of ryegrass staggers across the herd. The animals seem to be walking without any issues between paddocks.

### Animal & Financial Performance

- 660 animals continue to make up the dry herd.
- Herd nutrition information  
 4.5kgDM/cow/day (41MJME/day) pasture  
 (2000 – 1500 = 500kgDM/ha x 6 ha = 3000kgDM ÷ 660 cows = 4.5kgDM/cow/day)  
 4kgDM/cow/day (37MJME/day) silage  
**TOTAL 8.5kgDM/cow/day (78MJME/day)**

This equates to approximately 18MJME being allocated to live weight gain each day (60MJME/day is required for maintenance). Since it takes 42MJME extra on top of maintenance for a dry cow put on a 1kg of live weight, the herd should be putting on 0.4 – 0.5kg of live weight per day. On average the herd will to increase body condition by 0.8 of a score by calving (July 1), which is 28kg of live weight per cow (35kg live weight is 1 body condition score for a Friesian x Jersey).

- When the autumn rains occur the FMG will split the herd on body condition. Body condition was scored at 4.2 this week. Interestingly when we removed the small number of animals that were scored below 4, this increased the condition score across the herd to 4.3. Compared to the same time last year (see graph below) herd body condition is tracking very similar.



**THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Tuesday March 17 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).