



CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Commence drilling paddocks in the pasture renovation program
2	Actively monitor pasture growth rates and leaf emergence
3	Manage the small incidence of ryegrass staggers in the herd
4	Split the herd on body condition

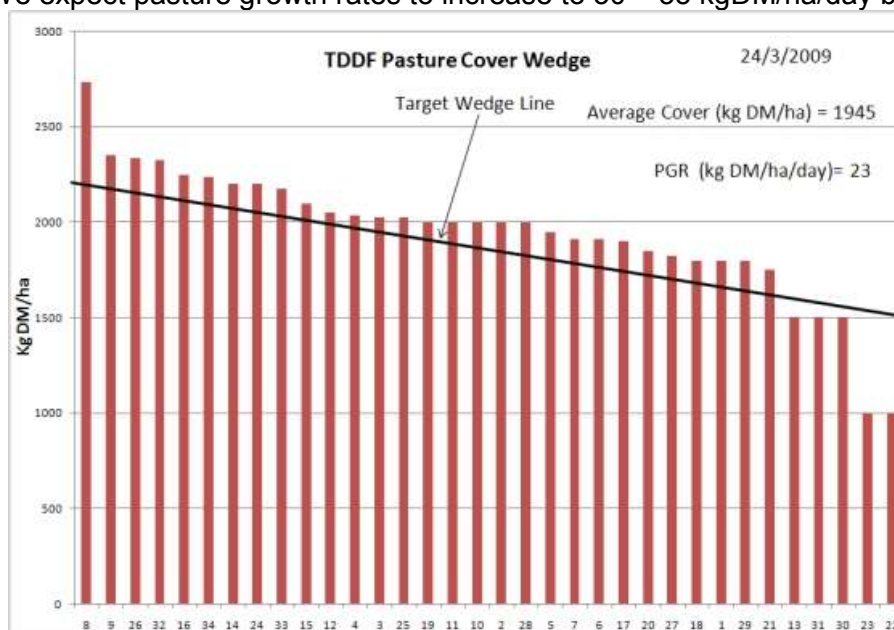


SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	15 days	Cows	668 Dry
Rotation Length	60 days	Litres/cow/day	-
Pasture Growth Rate	23 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	-
Average Pasture Cover	1945kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	-
Soil Temperature 9AM	16°C	Cow intake	8 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	2 mm	Supplement Fed	Nil
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$0.00	Body Condition Score	4.3 (dry herd)

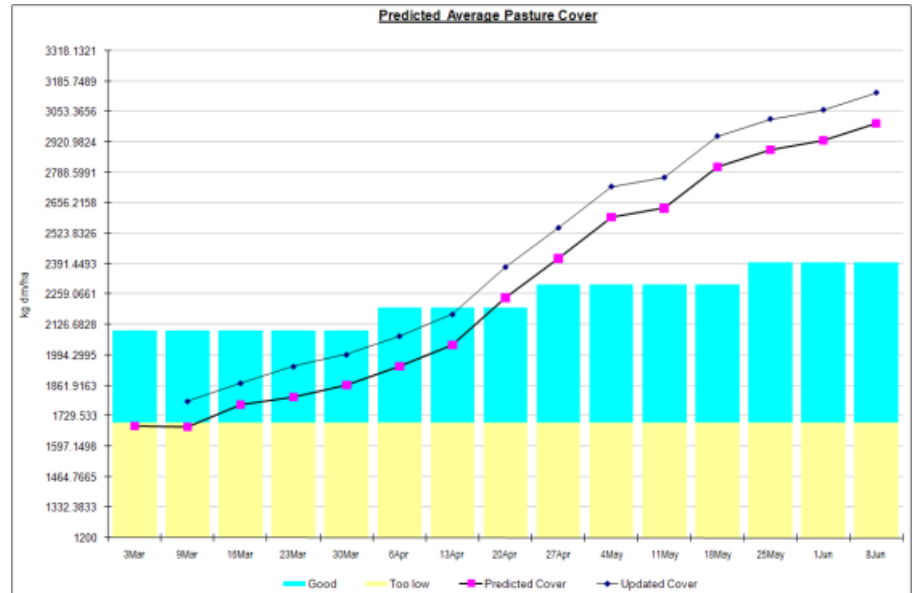
Pasture Management

- Pasture growing conditions remain excellent across the grazing platform. Soil tension and temperature are 12kpa and 16°C respectively, with only a 1 unit increase over the past week for both figures. Surprisingly pasture growth rates have held steady at 23kgDM/ha/day (22kgDM/ha/day last week), we expected a greater increase because of the favourable growing conditions associated with soil temperature, moisture and nitrogen being applied across the platform. We expect pasture growth rates to increase to 30 – 35 kgDM/ha/day by next week.



- Pre grazing pasture covers have increased to an average of 2400kgDM/ha, the paddock at the top of the feedwedge has measured at 2750kgDM/ha and was renovated last season. This paddock had a growth rate of 55kgDM/ha/day over the last week; more than double the average across the grazing platform. Post grazing residuals remain at a plate metered 1500kgDM/ha.
- The rate of leaf emergence has increased to 15 days per leaf; rotation length remains at 60 days. There is 60 hectares across the grazing platform currently in a renovation process and we are weary of speeding up during this period.

- Average pasture cover continues to increase (currently 1945kgDM/ha) as pasture supply is above demand. Current pasture demand is 14.5kgDM/ha/day = (stocking rate of 1.8 x animal demand of 8kgDM/cow/day). The adjacent figure will be a regular feature of the Walk Notes as it clearly illustrates how APC is tracking versus predicted values using our weekly feed budgeting program.



- The areas of the grazing platform to be renovated are still waiting to be drilled. The renovation plan is in place and the herd has grazed out these paddocks. It was anticipated this would have been done by this week but it looks like it will commence next week. In an ideal world we would have liked this to have been completed by now.

Animal & Financial Performance

- 668 animals continue to make up the dry herd. 3 animals were treated for lameness over the past week; all of these are expected to make a full recovery.
- Herd nutrition information
8kgDM/cow/day (80MJME/day) pasture
(2400 – 1500 = 9000kgDM/ha x 6 ha = 5400kgDM ÷ 668 cows = 8kgDM/cow/day)
TOTAL 8kgDM/cow/day (80MJME/day)
- Since we have taken silage out of the ration, the herd has had a minor increase in the incidence of ryegrass staggers. We are expecting this to decline as the platform is actively growing. From our observations, immediately post the autumn break is a hot period for the toxins to enter the animals system.
- The herd will be split on body condition once we think they can be yarded safely, this will most likely occur later next week. Overall we are extremely happy with how they are progressing in their body condition, but we still are mindful of the few animals that are lower in body condition and we need to give them every opportunity to calve down at a body condition score of 5.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Tuesday March 31 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).