



CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Deal with higher than budgeted pasture growth rates
2	Make critical decisions on bringing next season's heifers on farm earlier than expected
3	Split the herd on body condition
4	Veterinary check animals in poor condition

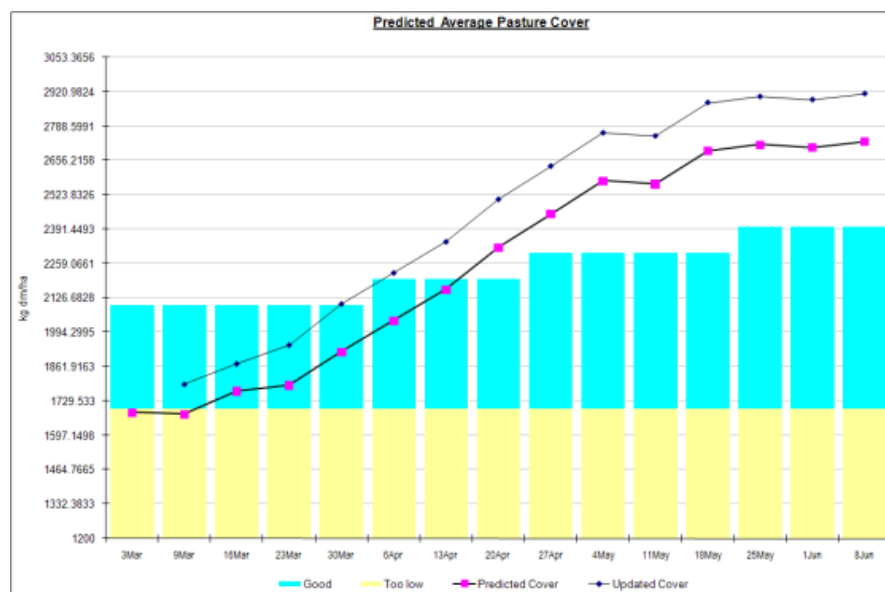


SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

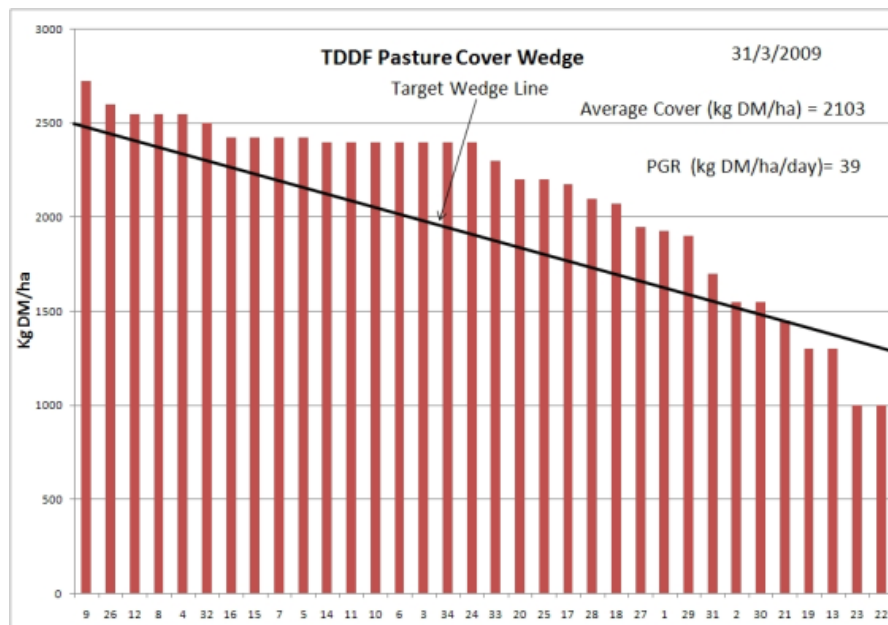
Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	13 days	Cows	668 Dry
Rotation Length	60 days	Litres/cow/day	-
Pasture Growth Rate	39 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	-
Average Pasture Cover	2103kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	-
Soil Temperature 9AM	15°C	Cow intake	8 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	6.5 mm	Supplement Fed	Nil
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$0.00	Body Condition Score	4.5 (dry herd)

Pasture Management

- As expected pasture growth rates have increased significantly to 39kgDM/ha/day from 23kgDM/ha/day last week. This is well above budgeted growth rates for this month, and has resulted in a substantial increase in average pasture cover from 1945kgDM/ha to 2103kgDM/ha.



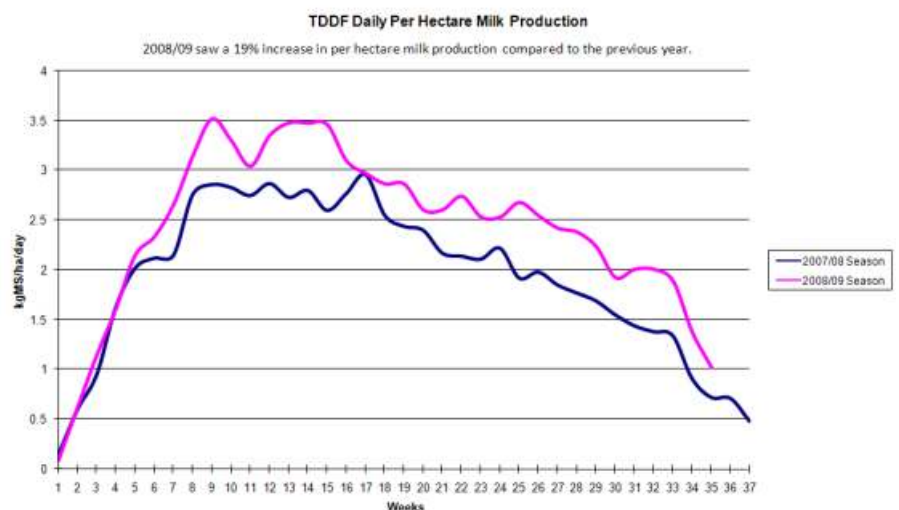
- Pasture growing conditions remain excellent with adequate soil moisture and temperature. Soil tension has increased to 17kpa from 12kpa last week, and soil temperature has reduced slightly to 15°C from 16°C last week.



- The feedwedge is clearly shows a pasture surplus across the platform. We are aiming to leave a plate metered residuals of 1300 – 1500kgDM/ha, but we have a challenging of pasture supply (39kgDM/ha/day) being well above demand (15kgDM/ha/day) which is resulting in the herd taking longer to eat their allocation and therefore slowing the rotation. We are actively feed budgeting to determine whether we can increase our stocking rate on the grazing platform by bringing back a portion of next season's 2 year old heifers now rather than at start of June. A decision will be made after next week's farm walk as this will mean we'll have another week's data to use to make the decision. Early indications are that we could easily bring back 100 – 200 animals, but there is a need to be rational with this decision as getting it wrong would have serious implications.

Animal & Financial Performance

- 668 animals continue to make up the dry herd. We have identified 20 animals in the herd that need to be inspected by the vet for a variety of animal health issues.
- Herd body condition has improved markedly to 4.5 from 4.3 (measured 2 weeks ago). We are very happy with the overall condition of the herd and are encouraged by this rate of increase. The herd will still be split on condition to give all animals the opportunity to get as close to condition score 5 at calving as possible.
- 2008/09 milk production finished 19% up on last season's total. The farm produced a total of 217856kgMS (260kgMS/cow; 820 cow peak).



THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Tuesday April 7 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).