



| FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | Hold the 90 day rotation |
| 2 | Trace mineral supplementation of the herd |
| 3 | Transition cow nutrition |
| 4 | Continue to apply nitrogen to grazed paddocks |



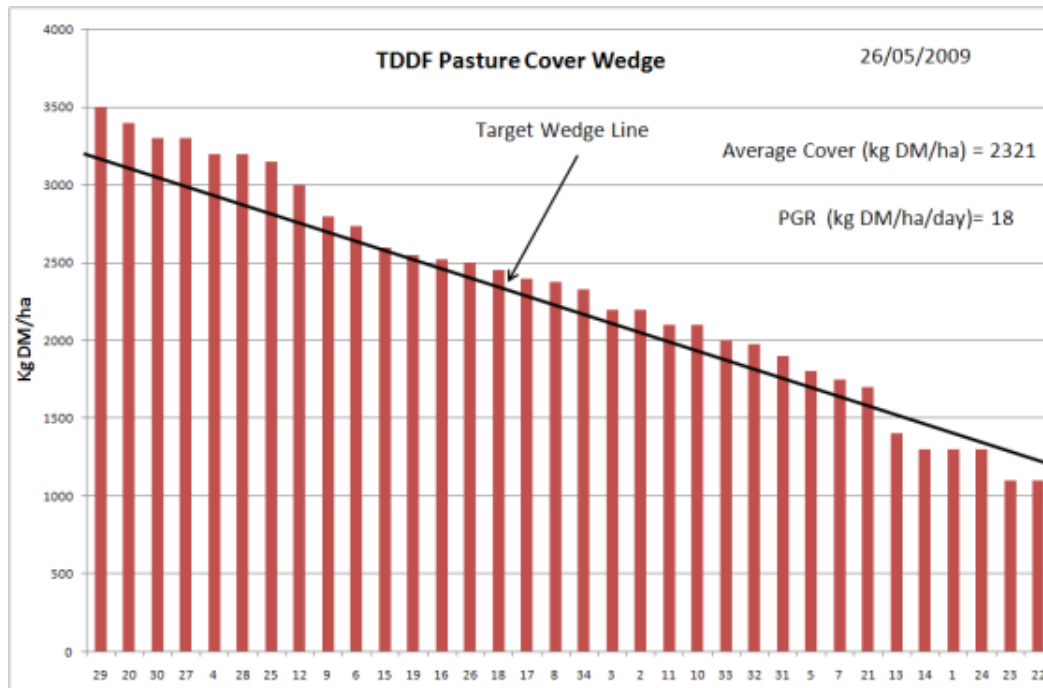
SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

| Pasture Information | | Animal Production | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| LER | 16 days/leaf | Cows | 656 (Dry) |
| Rotation Length | 90 days | Litres/cow/day | - |
| Pasture Growth Rate | 18 kgDM/ha/day | MS/cow/day | - |
| Average Pasture Cover | 2321 kgDM/ha | MS/ha/day | - |
| Soil Temperature (9am) | 12°C | Cow intake (total) | 10 kgDM/cow/day |
| Rainfall (past 7 days) | 21 mm | Supplement Fed | - |
| MOFC (\$/cow) | \$0.00 | Body Condition Score | 4.9 |

Pasture Management

- Apart from a decline in day light hours as we head into the shortest day of the year, pasture growing conditions have remained very similar to last week.
- Soil tension is 10kpa up from 7kpa last week. 9am soil temperature remains between 11 and 12°C. Leaf emergence rate has held at 16 days per leaf.
- Pasture growth rate has increased to 18kgDM/ha/day from 16kgDM/ha/day last week. This is 12kgDM/ha/day below budget. We believe this is being affected by the paddocks at the top end of the feedwedge not gaining any cover, resulting in very low numbers being used in the calculation lowering the average. Having said that the farm is on target to reach the budgeted 2500kgDM/ha average pasture cover by calving.
- Nitrogen continues to follow behind the herd at a rate of 46kgN/ha. Some areas of the farm that are at the lower end of feedwedge are starting to get a yellow tinge (i.e. showing to be nitrogen deficient). The first rotation of nitrogen was applied in mid March when the first significant autumn rain fell. All that nitrogen has been used up by the plants. It is becoming more and more apparent that applying nitrogen is crucial in sustaining budgeted growth rates. The sandy loam soil type is low in organic matter and does not mineralise as much nitrogen in the nitrogen cycle, therefore there is not as much free nitrogen getting back into the system as would otherwise be the case with a red soil. Looking forward to when the farm is growing at a rapid rate, soil nitrogen reserves will deplete very quickly so there will be a need to make sure nitrogen continues to be applied to ensure budgeted growth rate targets can be achieved. Research from Western Australia has shown on a soil type very similar to the Woolnorth environment that both growth rate and utilisation is at its peak at 1.0kgN/ha/day. So in a growing season that is 270 days, somewhere around 270kgN/ha is required to achieve the best growth and utilisation for this environment.

- Pasture feedtest results from 19/5/09: 12.2 MJ/kgDM, 23.9% CP, 14.4% Dry Matter and 43.4% NDF.
- Potassium is another trace mineral that soil testing is showing to be deficient. We will look to apply potassium with our nitrogen applications throughout this season. Potassium like nitrogen is a very mobile nutrient so in an environment like Woolnorth, it is better to apply less more frequently than more less often as leaching will be an issue over the winter period.



- Pre-grazing pasture covers have reduced from 3700kgDM/ha to 3500kgDM/ha, post grazing residuals are 1400kgDM/ha. Average pasture cover has decreased to 2321kgDM/ha from 2366kgDM/ha last week.

Animal & Financial Performance

- 656 cows make up the dry herd.
- Herd nutrition information
 $(3500 - 1400 = 1900\text{kgDM/ha} \times 3.5 \text{ ha} = 6500\text{kgDM} \div 668 \text{ cows} = 11.2\text{kgDM/cow/day}$
TOTAL 11.2kgDM/cow/day (118MJME/day).
Note at these higher covers the herd is unlikely to be able to eat this much feed, the rotation length will slow to ensure the desired post grazing residual is left.
- The herd will be supplemented for copper, selenium and vitamin B12 over the next week. They will also have the first of 2 injections of a salmonella vaccine, this needs to be done a month before calving.
- Starting in early June, CauseMag (magnesium oxide) will be dusted on the pastures. Milk fever can be an issue in all pasture based productions systems. On this farm, it was an issue last season with 8% of calved cows succumbing to the metabolic disorder. Industry best practice says that if more than 3% of the herd succumbs to milk fever there is a problem that needs addressing. The approach for this seasons calving will be to dust CauseMag at a rate of 85 grams/cow/day over the last month prior to calving (this rate includes wastage of 20%).

Official Weekly FMG farm walks are on hold until the new manager arrives. However members of the FMG continue to walk the farm on a weekly basis. The next walk will be on Tuesday June 2, 2009 at 10.30 am.

Farm Management Group – Chris Haynes, Rob La Grange (TIAR) and Basil Doonan (Davey & Maynard).