



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Shut up hay/silage paddocks
2	Apply spring brew with N on silage paddocks
3	Apply spring brew without N on remainder
4	Get N on strategically over paddocks to be grazed



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	10 days/leaf	Cows	773 (milking)
Rotation Length	30 days	Litres/cow/day	16
Pasture Growth Rate	52 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.24kg
Average Pasture Cover	2177 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.59kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	14.5°C	Cow intake	15 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	22 mm	Supplement Fed	nil
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$5.87	Body Condition Score	4.15

Pasture and Forage Crop Management

- Pasture growth rates have increased to 52kgDM/ha/day. The average covers have risen, indicating that we are pushing feed out in front.
- The 122 ha across Red marsh Road have been shut up following the silage cut for a potential second round of conservation.
- The second round of spring maintenance fertiliser (15:4:11:5) is going on this week at 310 kg/ha. We have decided that this will go on the paddocks that have been recently cut for silage. We could have gone with the brew over the whole farm but applying N over the whole farm will potentially give us too much surplus feed to deal with at a cost.
- The pasture demand for the rest of the farm is calculated as follows: $775\text{cows}/226\text{ ha} = \text{SR of } 3.43$. Allowing for 15 kg DM pasture/cow/day = a demand of $3.43 \times 15 = 52\text{ kg DM/day}$. We are skating close to growth rates with this level of pressure.
- We will monitor growth rates through the rest of November and early December and decide how much of the grazing area should receive N and how much N to keep enough feed in the grazing round. Obviously we can go back into the shut up paddocks if things get really tight.
- We will of course apply a spring brew minus N to the rest of the farm so that these paddocks are not lacking essential P, K and S. This will be a 0:6:17:7 mix applied at 210 kg/ha.
- The paddocks are looking N deficient which is not surprising given that we have not used as much N to date. The challenge of having lower milking cow numbers is that if we used N even at last season's levels, we would have grown an expensive surplus.
- The estimated silage cut from pre-covers and post cut is $(3500-1500)\text{ kg DM/ha} \times 84\text{ ha} = 168\text{ t DM}$. We will measure up the stack and hopefully get a second 'opinion'.
- The turnips are up but germination rates are not that high. However the recent rains should hopefully see an improvement in the strike rate. There are signs of cutworm damage and diamondback moth presence. The paddocks will be sprayed this week.

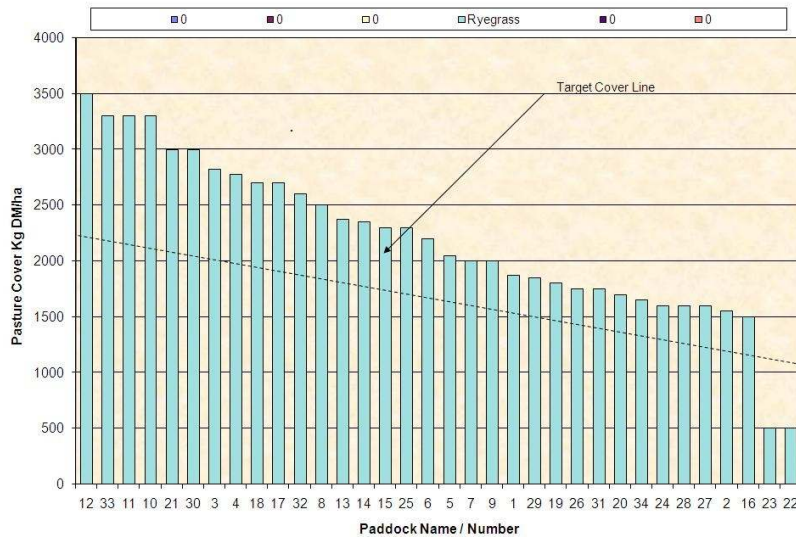
Farm Name The Gums

Wedge Date: 10th Nov 2008

Feed Wedge for Farm Block - Milking Area

Average Farm Cover 2177

Current Growth Rate 51.7



Animal Performance

- Production has fallen (1.24 kg MS/cow/day) which we put down to a combination of the cows coming back off from peak and pasture quality on offer.
- The short term objective is to keep pasture supply up to meet the milking herd demand to minimise production drop through November and December.
- The longer term objective is to feed the better producers in January and February on turnips, grain, silage and pasture. We will need to make a decision soon as to what silage we will need for summer production and what fodder requirements we need for wintering and early spring. The amount of fodder we will conserve from the second cut will give us an indication as to what we might need to buy in.
- There are four lame cows at the moment and 2 cows have been culled. Seven cows have been dried off due to lameness related issues.

Successful Monthly Farm Walk

- The FMG and TDDFC were very pleased with the farmer response to this week's monthly walk. About 40 farmers and industry representatives attended the day and a big thank you to those who made the effort to come along and support what we are trying to achieve for the industry.
- A summary of the TDDF benchmarking data and other relevant KPIs were presented to the group and good discussion followed.
- Farmers were interested in our decision not to put N on over the wet period as well as why we chose not to boost silage production using N. The economic and environmental arguments behind our N policy were defended by the FMG.
- Discussion also took place around silage generally and what farmers were doing about countering the lower than expected silage cuts experienced around the state.
- The FMG pointed out that the project was looking to have relevance with the industry through demonstrating best management practices on a large-herd farm and that we were hopeful that uptake of our BMPs would benefit other farmers across the state.
- A few farmers took up the offer of joining us on the walk and some interesting discussion was held around pasture management and use of N.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday November 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).