



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Increase rotation length to 30 days
2	Hold milk production
3	Apply a second spring fertiliser brew
4	Assemble a summer feeding plan

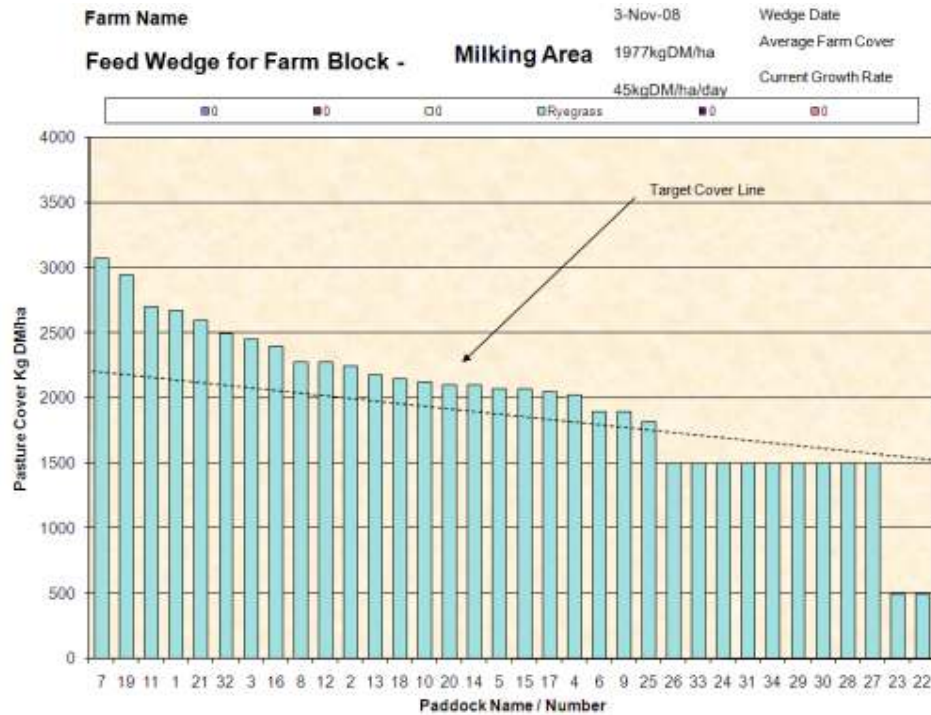


SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	9 days/leaf	Cows	780 (milking)
Rotation Length	30 days	Litres/cow/day	18
Pasture Growth Rate	45 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.35kg
Average Pasture Cover	1977 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.87kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	14°C	Cow intake	15 kgDM/cow/day (milking herd)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	6.5 mm	Supplement Fed	Nil
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$6.30	Body Condition Score	4.2 (milking herd)

Pasture Management

- Soil temperature has increased to 14°C from 13°C last week. Compared to same time last year soil temperature is 2°C higher on average.
- Soil tension has held at 14kpa; rainfall was minimal 6.5mm, again it is surprising soil tension did not change.
- Pasture growth rates have decreased 45kgDM/ha/day from 59kgDM/ha/day last week. This is not surprising as the silage paddocks were cut on Sunday, which were affecting pasture growth rates. A 45kgDM/ha/day growth rate is above pasture demand of 2.24SR x 15kgDM/cow = 34kgDM/ha. There is still no nitrogen in the system meaning that when it gets applied (this week), the earliest paddocks will not be eaten until 25 – 30 days (30 day rotation). The next rains (up to 25mm forecasted this weekend) will be pivotal in shaping this spring's growing season.
- One third of the grazing platform will get the spring fertiliser brew applied this week. The brew is a 15:4:11:5 being applied at a rate of 310kg/ha. This equates to 46kgN/ha, 13kgP/ha, 34kgK/ha and 15kgS/ha, the applications will be staggered over a third of the grazing area at a time.
- Rotation length has been increased to 30 days from 20 days last week. The silage area has been included back into the rotation meaning there is a reduced total demand on the grazing platform, as there is more grazing area available for the herd. Leaf emergence has risen to 9 days per leaf from 8 days last week.
- Silage has been harvested over the weekend; 90 hectares was put into the stack. Last season 140 hectares was cut for silage which yielded 550 tonnesDM. Next week's farm walk notes will have an approximate figure for this seasons silage yield.



- Pre-grazing pasture covers are above the targeted 2600kgDM/ha. Providing pasture growth rates hold at 45kgDM/ha/day on a 30 day rotation, reaching these pre-grazing covers should not be a problem, especially as the nitrogen enters the system. This is obviously assuming soil moisture does not become limiting.
- Pasture feed-test results

ME (MJ/kgDM)	= 10.6
NDF	= 43.2
Crude Protein %	= 18.8
Dry Matter %	= 16.1

This test highlights that pasture quality has reduced over the grazing platform and is most likely due to the ryegrass plants going reproductive. Last season in the height of spring pasture quality was 1.5MJME higher than the above figure.

- Turnips have started to strike, and with the forecasted rain this should encourage these along.

Animal Performance

- Milk production and cow numbers have held steady over the past week. 780 animals are producing 1.35kgMS/cow/day at a 4.2% fat and 3.36% protein test. The milk fat continues to fluctuate between 4.15 – 4.3%fat, the protein test is consistently around 3.34 – 3.36% protein.
- Lameness has started to reduce with only 5 animals making up the lame herd.
- The bulls are continuing to be rotated in and out of the herd each week. This is working well with only one young bull going lame and having to be treated.

“Make sure you come along to next weeks Farm Walk and BBQ as there is plenty on the agenda”

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk and BBQ will be on Monday November 10 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).